**Special Topics in Psychology: Psychology through Documentary Film (Cr.3)**  
50:830:464:Sec.W3:98291 **ATG 101**  
Thursday, 12/23/10 1:00pm-4:40pm, and 1/3/11-1/14/11 M,Tu,W,Th,F 1:00pm-4:40pm  
**Instructors: Sean Duffy, Ph.D. (Office: ARM 343), Dr. Matthew Desiderio**  
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In this course, we will explore psychological topics through the medium of documentary film. In the class, we will watch various documentaries and evaluate supplementary readings that provide a context for understanding both the art and science of documenting psychological issues. Some of the films we will explore include Errol Morris' *Fast, Cheap, and Out of Control*, to illustrate the psychology of agency; Reggio's *Koyaanisquatsi*, to address the interaction between nature and humanity; Balmes' *Babies*, to illustrate the role of culture in development; and Steele's *The Bridge*, to discuss the social impact of suicide.

Requirements:

1. Netflix subscription (Costs ~$10 per month, with a one month free trial.)
2. Watching films on your own time to discuss in class.
3. Reaction papers (~2-3 pages each)
4. 7-9 page paper on a documentary film and psychology topic

**Class 1: 12/23/10: Introduction to the course**

Watch film Fast, Cheap and out of Control

Readings: topiary, fast-cheap, naked mole rat, behaviorism.

**Class 2: 1/3/11: Silence and Darkness: The experience of disability**

Please watch BEFORE class: *Sound and Fury* (Netflix); *Through Deaf Eyes* (Netflix);

Readings: Kingsley, Justforoneday, Levy2002, Sparrow2005, Anstey2002

We will watch in class: *Land of Silence and Darkness* (Netflix)

**Class 3: 1/4/11: Varieties of Madness**

Please watch BEFORE class: Brothers Keeper (Netflix)

Readings TBA shortly…

We will watch in class: *Unlisted: A story about Schizophrenia*

**Class 4: 1/5/11:**

Please watch BEFORE class: *Idi Amin Dada* (hulu)

Read before class: CargoCult; Rosnow

We will watch in class: *Mr. Death*

**Dr. Desiderio: Realism, subjectivity, and perception**

**Class 6: 1/6/11:**

Please watch BEFORE class: *Man with the Movie Camera* (Netflix) Dziga Vertov

We will watch in class: “Anamorphosis” and clips from other films.

Read before class: Descartes, Discourse on Method, part IV; Martin Jay, “Scopic Regimes of Modernity”;

**Class 7: 1/7/11:**

Please watch BEFORE class: *The Gleaners and I* (Netflix) Agnes Varda

We will watch in class: Clips from various films.

Read before class: Alva Noë, “The Enactive Approach to Pereption: An Introduction.”

**Class 8: 1/10/11: The design of things mundane and amazing**

Please watch BEFORE class: *Objectified (Netflix); The linguists* (Netflix); Camden 28 (Netflix)

Please READ before class: Don Norman

We will watch in class: *The White Diamond*

**Class 9: 1/11/11: Decisions in conflict**

Please watch BEFORE class: American Experience: My Lai

Please READ before class: McNamara, Mutual Deterence McNamara, Essay on My Lai,

We will watch in class: Fog of War

**Class 10: 1/12/11: Obedience and Authority**

Please watch BEFORE class: *Science of Evil* (Netflix)

Please READ before class: Zimbardo; Zimbardo2; Milgram, Milgram\_Obedience(1974)

We will watch in class: *Standard Operating Procedure*

**Class 11: 1/13/11: Isolation**

Please watch BEFORE class: Powwaqatsi: Life in Transformation

Please READ before class: Death of languages; Shackelton; Frontier Spirit

We will watch in class: *Encounters at the End of the World (Netflix)*

**Class 12: 1/14/11: Endings**

Please watch BEFORE class: *Flight from Death* (on hulu); time indefinite (Netflix)?

Please READ before class: Greenberg, Becker

We will watch in class: *Suicide Tourist (Frontline; Netflix); The Bridge (hulu)*