

# Insanity in film

(Sujet 35)

How do we set the line between sanity and insanity? Are there different levels of insanity? Can insanity help us reflect on social norms? How can we be more tolerant towards mental illnesses?

This research paper focuses on different representations of insanity in film: complex characters who offer a different perspective on life. Students will be using **sequence analysis** as a tool to address this question in relation to issues such as social and cultural constructs, otherness, stereotypes, identity, fear, or stigmatization.

## Possible films to choose from:

***Melancholia*** (by Lars Von Trier, with Kirsten Dunst, 2011)

***One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*** (by Milos Forman, with J. Nicholson, 1975)

***Girl Interrupted*** (by James Mangold, with Winona Ryder, 1999)

***A Beautiful Mind*** (by Ron Howard, with Russell Crowe, 2001)

***Shine*** (by Scott Hicks, 1996)

***Sunset Boulevard*** (by Billy Wilder, with William Holden, 1950)

***Rain Man*** (by Barry Levinson, with Dustin Hoffman and Tom Cruise, 1988)

***Black Swan*** (by Darren Aronofsky, with Natalie Portman, 2010)

***A Woman under the Influence*** (by John Cassavetes, 1974)

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**“I’VE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN NUMBERS, IN EQUATIONS, IN LOGIC AND REASON. BUT  
AFTER A LIFETIME OF SUCH PURSUITS I ASK:**

**WHAT TRUELY IS LOGIC? WHO DECIDES REASON? ”**

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(Nash in *A Beautiful Mind*, 2001)

*The subject requires good mastery of both written and spoken English as the final document of about 18 pages will be presented in English.*

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