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ABSTRACT

The 48 films cited in this annotated bibliography will help college students apply psychological concepts to real life situations. Current editions of the instructor's manuals of the ten best selling introductory psychology texts (based on publishing industry information) were examined for titles of films suggested for classroom use. All were copyrighted between 1978 and 1980. From the manuals a list of 496 different films was compiled. Only those films mentioned in at least five manuals were selected for inclusion. Information provided for each film includes producer/distributor, publication date, length, color or black/white, and a brief description. (RM)

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Psychology's Greatest (Movie) Hits:  
Highly Recommended Films for the Introductory Course

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While doing the preliminary work for an experiment we were able to compile a list containing the most recommended introductory psychology films currently available. Since films are useful in conveying to students the application of concepts to real life situations we thought it would be helpful for instructors to have a concise list containing the most recommended films available to them. In addition, psychology departments wishing to build a film library would find these films highly useful even with a variety of texts chosen by individual instructors.

The instructor's manuals of ten best-selling introductory textbooks (based on publishing industry information) were examined for titles of films suggested for classroom use. Current editions of each of the instructor's manuals were used. All were copyrighted between 1978 and 1980.

From the manuals we compiled a list of 496 different films. Our criterion for inclusion as a highly recommended film was five or more mentions in the manuals; the following forty-eight films qualified.

Abnormal Behavior: A Mental Hospital (CRM/McGraw-Hill Films, 1971, 28 min., color) Using the medical model as a backdrop patient-doctor relationships in a large modern mental hospital are explored. Also shown is a session of electro-shock therapy.

Adolescence: The Winds of Change (Pennsylvania State University, Psychological Cinema Register, 1975, 30 min., color) The adolescent's changing world, personality, and body are discussed.

Aging (CRM/McGraw-Hill Films, 1973, 22 min., color) Showing the old as a diversified group, this film explores the different patterns of aging in America and focuses on the most successful ones.

Alcoholism: A Model of Drug Dependency (CRM, 1972, 20 min., color) While showing different states of intoxication the film analyzes alcoholism in our society.

Aspects of Behavior (CRM/McGraw-Hill Films, 1971, 31 min., color) Through using interviews with well-known psychologists this film introduces psychology to the beginning student. Darley and Latane's 'smoke filled room' experiment, Delgado's brain stimulation of a bull experiment, and various views on schizophrenia are all included.

A World to Perceive (Indiana University, 1963, 29 min., B&W) Visual cliff experiments are shown, exploring the phenomenon's innate nature. Richard Walk's tilting room research is shown and discussed.

Behavior Modification: Teaching Language to Psychotic Children (Appleton-Century-Crofts, University of California, EMC, 1969, 43 min., color) Specifically designed for use in introductory psychology classes this film shows the impressive results of careful and specific use of reinforcement techniques.

Behavior Theory in Practice (Pennsylvania State University, Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1966, 4 parts, 70 min., color) Detailed presentation of behavioral principles. Covered are classical and operant conditioning, schedules of reinforcement and shaping, stimulus control and reinforcement, and complex learning phenomena.

B. F. Skinner and Behavior Change (University of California, EMC, Research Press, 1978, 45 min., color) A history of behaviorism is briefly presented followed by dialogues and demonstrations by Skinner and his colleagues.

Biofeedback: Listening to Your Head (University of California, Extension Media Center, Document Associates, 1973, 19 min., color) This film shows the use, effects, and nature of biofeedback. Included are interviews with a neurophysiologist and a composer.

Business, Behaviorism and the Bottom Line (CRM/McGraw-Hill Films, 1974, 20 min., color) This film shows the use of behavior modification techniques to enhance employee morale and the profit margin.

Cognition (Harper & Row, 1975, 30 min., color) Piaget's stages of intellectual development are discussed: the sensorimotor, the preoperational, the concrete operational, and the formal operational.

Cognitive Development (CRM/McGraw-Hill Films, 1974, 30 min., color) Piaget's cognitive developmental stage approach and the cognitive behavioral (or learning based) approach are shown and contrasted.

Conformity and Independence (Harper & Row, 1975, 25 min., color) This film presents the main findings of social psychology research. Included are experiments by Asch, Sherif, Crutchfield and Milgram.

Cross-Cultural Approach to Cognition (Harper & Row Media, 1976, 22 min., color) This film stresses the universal stages of psychological development. The developmental sequences discussed are those in infancy, memory, perception, and concrete operational thinking.

Depression: A Study in Abnormal Behavior (CRM, 1973, 26 min., color) A young woman's bout with severe depression and her various treatments including chemotherapy, electroconvulsive shock and group therapy.

Development (CRM, 1971, 32 min., color) Major developmental sequences are presented from birth to adolescence along with issues in infant cognition and moral development.

Divided Brain and Consciousness (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1977, 22 min., color) Hypnosis is used to show several states of consciousness along with a discussion of hemisphericity and the effects of brain damage.

Eye of the Storm (University of California, Extension Media Center, 1970, 25 min., color) Prejudice formation is illustrated through a two day experiment in which third grade children are labeled superior or inferior solely by eye color.

Freud: The Hidden Nature of Man (Learning Corporation of America, 1970, 29 min.) Through examining Freud's background and personal life the following topics are covered: the Oedipus complex, personality structures, the power of the unconscious, and dream analysis.

Group Dynamics: Group Think (CRM/McGraw-Hill Films, 1973, 22 min., color) Irving Janis investigates what he refers to as 'groupthink' and the processes of unanimity, direct pressure on a deviant member, and mind guarding. Using several historical instances Janis shows how groupthink can be neutralized by effective leadership.

Human Aggression (Harper & Row Media, 1976, 22 min., color) The theories of Walter, Milgram, and Bandura are presented while human aggression is strikingly portrayed by following an adolescent gang.

Human Memory (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1978, 25 min., color) A graphic demonstration of the processes of memory, mnemonics, and cognitive distortions. Also presented are short and long term memory, retrieval cues, and techniques for memorizing information.

Imprinting (Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1968, 37 min., color) The imprinting process is shown in experiments using ducks, chicks, and other fowl.

Information Processing (CRM/McGraw-Hill Films, 1971, 29 min., color) In the setting of a cocktail party information processing, storage, and retrieval are shown.

Invitation to Social Psychology (Harper & Row, 1975, 25 min., color) Shown are the topics of affiliation, conformity, aggression, and bystander intervention. The major questions of subject matter, methods of investigation, and the findings of social psychology are dealt with.

IQ Myth (Carousel Films, 1975, 51 min., color) This film questions the uses and abuses of the concept of IQ.

Language Development (CRM/McGraw-Hill Films, 1974, 30 min., color) The acquisition of language from babbling to sentence formation is presented.

Language Development (Harper & Row, 1975, 24 min., color) This film watches a child through the first four years acquiring language beginning with the development of phonemes, syntax, and semantics.

Learning (CRM/McGraw-Hill Films, 1971, 30 min., color) Investigating a variety of learning phenomenon this film touches on imprinting behavior, infant learning, and shaping techniques. The shaping techniques are illustrated through teaching language to a mentally retarded child.

Learning About Learning (University of California, EMC, 1963, 29 min.) Exploring the works of Tracy Kendler, Kenneth Spence, Harry Harlow, and B. F. Skinner, various concepts of human learning are explored.

Maslow and Self-Actualization, Numbers 1 and 2 (Psychological Film Producer, 1968, 30 min. each, color) The themes of honesty, awareness, freedom and trust are discussed by Maslow.

Mental Health: New Frontiers of Sanity (University of California, EMC, 1971, 22 min., color) This film depicts two divergent theories concerning mental health problems in North America. One theory focuses on society as a cause of mental illness and the other on brain chemistry which emphasizes drugs in therapy.

Methodology: The Psychologist and the Experiment (CRM/McGraw-Hill Films, 1975, 31 min., color) Various aspects of what makes an experiment are explained in this film through the use of an experiment from social psychology and an experiment from physiological psychology. The use of statistics, random assignment, control groups, and independent and dependent variables are clarified.

Mind of Man (University of California, EMC, 1971, 119 min., color) A thorough and comprehensive documentary on the intricacies of the mind. The development of the mind in the fetus and infant, human control of oxygen needs and blood pressure functions, how the mind is affected by drugs and the enigma of sleeping and dreaming are among the topics discussed.

Moral Development (CRM/McGraw-Hill Films, 1973, 28 min., color) Kolberg's stages of moral development are used as a backdrop during recreations of Milgram's famous shock studies.

Neurotic Behavior: A Psychodynamic View (CRM/McGraw-Hill Films, 1973, 20 min., color) A case history of a neurotic 19 year old male. The film shows (through the use of flash-backs and animation) how his neurotic behavior is linked to anxiety and childhood memories.

One Step at a Time: An Introduction to Behavior Modification (CRM/McGraw-Hill Films, 1969, 32 min., color) Behavior modification principles are shown in a variety of settings: schools, mental hospitals, and programs for the retarded.

Personality (CRM, 1971, 30 min., color) An inquiry into the personality of a college senior. A gamut of tests are done by a psychologist and in-depth interviews of people related to the young man are done showing the complexity of personality development.

Rock-A-Bye Baby (Time-Life, University of California, Extension Media Center, 1972, 30 min., color) The effects of early experiences on infant development are shown through the work of Spitz and others.

Social Psychology (CRM/McGraw-Hill Films, 1971, 33 min., color) Attitude formation and change are explained in this film. The busing of school children is used to show the causes of racial prejudice. Also described in the film is the social comparison theory.

Split-Brain Operation (Pennsylvania State University, Psychological Cinema Register, 1967, 13 min., B&W) Monkeys are experimentally operated upon showing the effects of a split brain. Aspects of a split brain in humans are also highlighted.

The Brain: Creating a Mental Elite (University of California, Extension Media Center, 1972, 22 min., color) Focusing on chemical stimulation and electrical stimulation, various areas of brain research are discussed.

The Conscience of a Child (Indiana University, NET, 1963, 29 min., B&W) Follows a research team exploring key variables leading to development of conscience in children, focusing especially on how children's personalities are affected by imitation and identification.

The Sensory World (CRM/McGraw-Hill Films, 1971, 33 min., color) This film illustrates how sensory information reaches the brain. The ending is a spectacular display of visual illusions.

Three Approaches to Psychotherapy, Parts 1 & 2 & 3 (Psychological Film Producer, 1964, 50 min. each, B&W) Each part deals with a different psychologist's view of therapy. Part 1: Carl Rogers' Client Centered Therapy. Part 2: Frederick Perls' Gestalt Therapy. Part 3: Albert Ellis' Rational Emotive Therapy.

Token Economy: Behaviorism Applied (CRM, 1972, 20 min., color) This film includes an interview with B. F. Skinner and illustrations of the uses of behaviorism with delinquent adolescents and the mentally retarded.

When Will People Help? The Social Psychology of Bystander Intervention (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1976, 25 min., color) Narrated by Daryl Bem, this film uses the Kitty Genovese incident as a starting point to discuss bystander apathy and what can be done to help assuage it.