

Discussion Questions for Titicut Follies

Since we are missing a class session to allow for students to work on their films, these discussion questions will make up for the class we had scheduled for Thursday, March 26. The syllabus lists four responses to films as counting for 20% of your grade, or 5% for each one. This counts as one of your film responses.

What this means is that your response on this question should be serious and thoughtful, written as though it were a midterm exam. In other classes the target length is about 1.5 pp single spaced but you can write more or less if you can make your points well in that space.

1. Should it have been allowed for *Titicut Follies* to be filmed?

***Titicut Follies* was filmed before the protection of human subjects research review process called the Institutional Review Board (IRB) was created. Today it is almost certain that permission for this film would not have been granted. In fact, it was banned shortly after it was released and could not be shown openly for nearly 20 years. Review the readings by Szasz and Wiseman and also the philosophical principles taught in the CITI protection of human subjects certification course that all Bucknellians are required to take before they can be approved for research that involves human subjects**

2. Does *Titicut Follies* have a sociological argument and if so what is it?

You have to address two concerns here. One is whether a film that has no narrative can have an argument. The other is how the non-linear arrangement of scenes works as a style of narrative to give a sense of advocacy and assertion.