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Professor Kozek
Math 5: *Pi* Discussion

Topics of Discussion

- The interplay of the organic and the synthetic: the ability of Cohen's computer and the "Ming Mecca" chip to produce symbols and patterns as they appear in nature.
- The relationship of mathematics and religion: how quantum theory and religion ultimately hope to provide a sense of order to the universe.
- Mathematics and insanity: how *Pi* maintains or pivots from the other depictions of mentally unstable mathematicians about which we have seen and read.

Question for the Class

How do the final moments of the film portray the pursuit of enlightenment, particularly via mathematics and the patterns it supposedly illuminates? In other words, do you think the film endorses the term "ignorance is bliss?"

Bibliography

- *Gematria* by Jerome Rothenberg
- *The Universe in Zero Words: The Story of Mathematics as Told Through Equations* by Dana Mackenzie
- *The Mathematical Language of Quantum Theory: From Uncertainty to Entanglement* by Teiko Heinosaari
- *Chaos Theory and James Joyce's Everyman* by Peter Francis Mackey
- *Chaos Theory in Financial Markets* by Dimitris Chorafas
- *Chaos Theory in the Social Sciences* by Douglas Kiel

Mathematical Concepts in *Pi*

- Number Theory
- Euclid (The Name of Cohen's Computer)
- Gematria (Assignment of Numbers to Hebrew Letters)
- Fibonacci Sequence
- Golden Rectangle
- Golden Spiral

- Pi
- Quantum Theory/Chaos Theory
- Leonardo Da Vinci