

# COURSE DETAIL

## ILLNESS AND LITERATURE

**Country**

United Kingdom - Scotland

**Host Institution**

University of St Andrews

**Program(s)**

University of St Andrews

**UCEAP Course Level**

Upper Division

**UCEAP Subject Area(s)**

Comparative Literature

**UCEAP Course Number**

105

**UCEAP Course Suffix****UCEAP Official Title**

ILLNESS AND LITERATURE

**UCEAP Transcript Title**

ILLNESS&LITERATURE

**UCEAP Quarter Units**

6.00

**UCEAP Semester Units**

4.00

## Course Description

This course explores the wide range of functions and representations of illness and disease in a variety of European literary and theoretical texts, primarily from the 20th and 21st centuries, but drawing on works from earlier periods for contextual framing. It considers how the metaphorical employment of illness can reflect changing beliefs related to individual identity, socio-cultural codes, narrative construction, and the possibilities and limitations of language itself. Students start with a series of approaches to illness and literature, including a brief theoretical overview of modern canonical writings on illness by Virginia Woolf, Susan Sontag and Elaine Scarry, which provide an introduction to common tropes of mythologizing and metaphorizing illness as well as the linguistic challenges to its representation; the field of disability studies; and the representation of plague through time. They then move on to focused thematic explorations of disease via close comparative readings of texts, considering both what literature can tell us about illness, and what the use and representation of illness can tell us about literature.

### Language(s) of Instruction

English

### Host Institution Course Number

CO4022

### Host Institution Course Title

ILLNESS AND LITERATURE

### Host Institution Campus

University of St. Andrews

### Host Institution Faculty

### Host Institution Degree

### Host Institution Department

English

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