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 Course Details
https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/subjects/modules/catalogue/?code=CO4022&academic_y...

Host Institution Campus
University of St. Andrews

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department English
Course Last Reviewed 2022-2023

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