COURSE DETAIL

LITERATURE AND THE MEANING OF LIFE
Country Netherlands
Host Institution Utrecht University – University College Utrecht
Program(s) University College Utrecht
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Comparative Literature
UCEAP Course Number 130
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title LITERATURE AND THE MEANING OF LIFE
UCEAP Transcript Title LIFE MEANING & LIT
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description

This course studies excerpts of literary texts from the late 19th century to the present day, that propose a variety of crucial different meaning-of-life insights and meaning-in-life potentialities, all of which resonate to some extent with ideas from meaning-providing wisdom traditions (e.g., Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Sufism) and philosophical movements (e.g., existentialism and perennialism). Each work is furthermore explored in conjunction with thought-provoking intertexts. For example, Etty Hillesum is read alongside Rainer Maria Rilke and Martin Buber. The course all engages with *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* in conjunction with interviews with Maya Angelou and speeches by James Baldwin. Previous coursework in LIterature and English writing are required.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
UCHUMLIT39

Host Institution Course Title
LITERATURE AND THE MEANING OF LIFE

Host Institution Course Details
https://cursusplanner.uu.nl/Curriculum

Host Institution Campus
University College Utrecht

Host Institution Faculty
Humanities

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Literature

Course Last Reviewed

2024-2025

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