

COURSE DETAIL

READING MINDS: LITERATURE AND PSYCHOLOGY

Country

New Zealand

Host Institution

University of Otago

Program(s)

University of Otago

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Comparative Literature

UCEAP Course Number

153

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

READING MINDS: LITERATURE AND PSYCHOLOGY

UCEAP Transcript Title

LITERATURE & PSYCH

UCEAP Quarter Units

7.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.70

Course Description

This course examines the psychological dimensions of prominent literary texts and looks at the complex relationship between literature and psychology from a broad range of perspectives. Students will read a range of literary texts with a view to understanding—both analytically and empathetically—problems and adaptations, focusing particularly on trauma in its various manifestations. Further, instead of simply considering the resulting post-traumatic "pathologies" the property of individuals, the course adopts a psychosocial lens to emphasise the broader social dimensions underpinning maladaptive psychological formations, as well as their (frequently unconscious) transgenerational transmission. It concludes with a reflection on the little or big "madnesses" that may lie hidden within the very fabric of what is considered to be "sane" and "normal" in Western society.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

ENGL353

Host Institution Course Title

READING MINDS: LITERATURE AND PSYCHOLOGY

Host Institution Course Details

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/courses/papers?papercode=ENGL353>

Host Institution Campus

Dunedin

Host Institution Faculty

Humanities

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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