

Summer 2017

AP/EN 1102 6.0A (SU) *Literature and Health*

Course Director: Dr. Marilou McKenna
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Delivery Format: Fully Online

Time: NA

Description: This course will introduce students to a range of health-related issues as represented in literature, including accounts of good health and bad, tales of disease, and explorations of perceptions and moods affected by varying psychological states, both as they reflect the health status of individuals, and as they comment on social and institutional sickness (eg., the pathology of war). We will explore a variety of authors and time periods as well as diverse genres (poetry, prose, fiction, and memoir). The course focuses on the intersection of literature and health, both from the perspective of literature's ongoing interest in health issues, and from the perspective of understanding these issues by appreciating their expression (and learning how to analyze it) in literature. After a general introduction, the course proceeds to examine texts within a series of thematic units, including "domestic ailments," "plagues and nightmares," "physician-writers," and "cross-cultural medicine and healing."

Category: NA

Area: NA

Period: NA

Historical Requirement: NA

Requirements: *(to be confirmed at the beginning of the course)*

1st essay (3-4 pages, double-spaced @ 20%)—Mon, May 29

Midterm test (online @ 20%)—Mon, Jun 19

2nd essay (3-4 pages, double-spaced @ 20%)—Mon, Jul 17

Final test (online @ 25%)—Mon, Jul 31

Participation in online discussion forum (15%)

Reading List:

(in approximate order of reading)

TYLER, Anne. *Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant* (Ballantine); SACKS, Oliver. *The Man Who Mistook his Wife for a Hat* (Touchstone); CHEKHOV, Anton. *Chekhov's Doctors: A Collection of Chekhov's Medical Tales* (Kent State UP); LAM, Vincent. *Bloodletting & Miraculous Cures* (Doubleday or Anchor); KING, Thomas. *Medicine River* (Penguin); FADIMAN, Anne. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux); DE KERANGAL, MAYLIS. *Mend the Living* (trans. Jessica Moore, Talonbooks)

Recommended Texts: (optional but advised)

The Broadview Pocket Glossary of Literary Terms , compiled by Laura Buzzard and Don LePan (Broadview, 2014)

The Broadview Pocket Guide to Citation and Documentation , 2nd ed., Maureen Okun and Nora Ruddock (Broadview Press, 2016)

All texts will be available through the York U Bookstore; please check their website for an official list. Additional readings (poetry, stories, novellas, articles, media files) will be available on-line through links provided on Moodle or on the Moodle course page itself.

If you prefer, the Broadview titles may be ordered as PDFs or ebooks from the publisher at www.broadviewpress.com.

Open To:

open to all majors