

## *Summer 2018*

### **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 finalized in the first 2 weeks of the course)

Reading test (online, timed @ 20%)

Written assignment (5-6 pages, double-spaced @ 25%)

Final test (online, timed @ 40%)

Participation in online discussion forum (15%)

**Reading List:**

(in order of reading)

GILMAN, Charlotte Perkins. *The Yellow Wallpaper* (Bedford/St. Martin's)  
(Bedford Cultural Editions—this specific edition is required)

TYLER, Anne. *Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant* (Ballantine)

SACKS, Oliver. *The Man Who Mistook his Wife for a Hat* (Touchstone)

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)

All texts will be available through the York U Bookstore. Additional required readings (eg., poetry, stories, articles, media files) will be available online through the course website.

**Open To:**

All Year Levels