

Fall/Winter 2020-2021

AP/EN 1102 6.0A (Y)	<i>Literature and Health</i>
Course Director:	Name: Elena Basile Office: 626 Atkinson Ext. e-mail: ebasile@yorku.ca other information: Office Hours by appointment via Zoom
Time:	Lecture: Mondays 10:30am-12:30pm Tutorial 1: Mondays 12:30pm – 1:30pm Tutorial 2: Mondays 12:30pm – 1:30pm Tutorial 3: Mondays 2:30pm – 3:30pm
Delivery Format:	REMOTE – (synchronous delivery) – There are scheduled meeting times for this course (see above). Students should plan to be available for course-related activities during the appointed times. For more information, see the Description and/or Requirements below.
Description:	<p>This course examines the relation between literature and medicine, particularly exploring how health and disease are conceptualized in Western culture and how contemporary writers address the ailments of individuals, communities and societies via poetry, storytelling, literary non-fiction and graphic novels. Among the issues we will tackle are the following: (a) What do myths, stories and different practices of storytelling tell us about a culture's attitude towards the body, community and its relation to the environment? (b) Are there diseases that mark certain moments in history and do works of fiction help us shed light on how societies respond them? Is the COVID-19 pandemic one such disease and how do we go about understanding its impact? (c) What are the ethics of care and caregiving in both institutional hospital settings and among non-professional caregivers? (d) How do contemporary writers deal with trauma, loss and their manifold (historical, social, personal) dimensions? (e) What is the significance of ritual in healing, and how does writing become a practice of healing?</p> <p>Throughout the course we will pay attention to how different narratives of illness bear witness to the historical and political dimensions of medical practices, specifically as they relate to the physical, social and cultural environments within which they operate.</p>
Category:	NA
Historical Requirement:	NA

Requirements:	<p>2 Reading Exercises (10% each, Sept-Oct) 20%</p> <p>1 Short Essay (End of Fall Term) 20%</p> <p>Essay Outline (SOI, AB and Outline due in February) 10%</p> <p>Research Essay (1800 words, due in March) 20%</p> <p>Final Take Home Exam 20%</p> <p>Discussion Forums (text or audio) 10%</p>
Reading List:	<p>Wade Davis <i>The Wayfinders</i>; Anne Fadiman <i>The Spirit Catches You</i>; Bayo Akomolafe <i>I CoronaVirus. Mother, Monster, Activist</i>; Marge Piercy <i>Woman on the Edge of Time</i>; Rebecca Brown <i>The Gifts of the Body</i>; Jamaica Kincaid <i>My Brother</i>; Shani Mootoo <i>Cereus Blooms at Night</i>; Alison Bechdel, <i>Are you My Mother?</i>; Maylis de Kerangal <i>Mending the Living</i>; Kazuo Ishiguro <i>Never Let Me Go</i>.</p> <p>Please note: There may be substitutions in case titles are not available as e- or audio-books.</p>
Open To:	All year levels