

Course Description

Course Unit

Topics in North American Studies: Narrative Medicine in Literature, Cinema and TV in USA and Canada

UC Code

MOD8.922069

ECTS Credits

12 ECTS

Work Hours

336H (12 ECTS)

Level

PHD

Academic year and Semester

2024/2025, S2

Faculty

Teresa Casal/Cecilia Beecher Martins

Class

TP 1

Language of instruction

English

Class Description

This curricular unit provides training in the advanced study of literary, film and television narratives with a view to developing students' ability to analyze how (inter)subjectivity and (non-)verbal communication are represented in the North American socio-cultural context. Aimed at both Humanities and Health students, this course applies the methodology developed by Narrative Medicine – namely close reading and reflective/creative writing – to deepen and personalize students' engagement with literary, cinematographic and television texts from the United States and Canada. It is taught in English and comprehends two modules: literature; cinema and TV series.

Contents:

1. Introducing theory and methodology
 - 1.1. Inter-personal relation, subjectivity and narrative
 - 1.2. Narrative Medicine: aims and methods
2. Narrative representation in literature
3. Narrative representation in cinema and fictional television series

Grading and Assessment

At the end of this course students should demonstrate: a systematic understanding of the aims and methods of narrative medicine; the ability to analyze and reflect on literary, cinematographic and televised narrative representations; the ability to conceive and carry out autonomous, significant and meticulous research; the capacity to perform critical analysis and synthesis of new and complex ideas; the ability to convey these in appropriate language that gives an account of the results achieved.

The assessment will emphasize the ability to articulate a narrative with a conceptual dimension and includes the following elements:

- a short-written exercise (1200-1400 words) presented at the end of each module on the contents taught (10%+10%);
- participation in seminars based on prior reading or viewing of set materials and their discussion in class (10%+10%);
- a final essay on one or both modules (60%). Length: ca. 5,000 words; abstract submitted before end of seminar.

Bibliography

Primary

- Kaysen, S. (1995; 2000). *Girl, Interrupted*. Virago
- Otsuka, J. (2022). *The Swimmers*. Fig Tree
- Mangold, J. (1999) *Girl Interrupted*. Columbia Pictures
- Polley, S. (2006) *Away from Her*. Lionsgate Films
- Sommerville, P. (2020-2021) *Station Eleven*. HBOMax

Secondary

- BORDWELL, D. & Thompson, K. (2008). *Film Art: An Introduction*. 8th ed. McGraw-Hill Higher Education.

CASAL, T. & Cabral, M.J. (Eds.) (2023). Global Perspectives on Probing Narratives in Healthcare. IGI Global.

CHARON, R. et al. (Eds.) (2017). The Principles and Practice of Narrative Medicine. OUP.

COOK, D. (2016). A History of Narrative Film. 5th ed. W.W. Norton & Co.

CRAWFORD, P. et al. (Eds.) (2020). The Routledge Companion to Health Humanities.

FELSKI, R. (2020). Hooked: Art and Attachment. U Chicago Press.

FRANK, A.W. (2022). King Lear: Shakespeare's Dark Consolations. OUP.

KLUGMAN, C. M. & LAMB, E.G. (Eds.) (2019). Research Methods in Health Humanities. OUP.

WIJDICKS, E. F. (2020). Cinema, MD: A History of Medicine on Screen. OUP.

Prerequisites (if applicable)

English B2