

Course Description

Course Unit

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

UC Code

MOD5. 922068

ECTS Credits

12 ECTS

Work Hours

336H (12 ECTS)

Level

MA

Academic year and Semester

2024/2025, S2

Faculty

Teresa Casal/Cecilia Beecher Martins

Class

TP 1

Language of instruction

English

Class Description

Which are the formal features of narrative representation in literature, cinema and TV? How does the reader/viewer engage with each narrative medium? Focusing on literary, film and television works from the United States and Canada, this seminar draws on the methodology developed by narrative medicine (close reading and reflective writing) to develop students' ability to analyze different narrative media. It is taught in English.

The seminar comprehends two modules: literature; and film and TV series. After an introduction to the aims and methodologies of narrative medicine, each module develops the students' ability to

appreciate and analyze the specific forms of representation found in literary, cinema and television narratives.

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 (700-900 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: 3000-3500 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