

## *Summer 2019*

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

**Course Director:** Marilou McKenna  
Email: mckenna@yorku.ca

**Delivery Format:** Fully Online

**Time:** NA

**Description:** This course will introduce students to a range of health-related issues in representative literary texts of various authors and genres, 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. 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. Although the focus of the course may vary from year to year in accordance with the selected texts, it is typically organized around a series of thematic units such as "domestic ailments," "plagues and nightmares," "physician-writers," and "cross-cultural medicine and healing." This year's iteration of the course will have a particular emphasis on non-fiction autobiographical works (memoirs).

**Category:** N/A

**Historical Requirement:** N/A

**Requirements:** Midterm Test (online, timed @ 25%)—June 10  
Short Essay (4-5 double-spaced pages @ 25%)—July 8  
Final test (online, timed @ 30%)—July 29  
Participation in online discussion forum (20%)

**Reading List:**

DE KERANGAL, MAYLIS. *Mend the Living*. Trans. Jessica Moore (Talonbooks)  
FADIMAN, Anne. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)  
KALANITHI, PAUL. *When Breath Becomes Air*. (Random House) \*\*Hardcover  
KING, Thomas. *Medicine River* (Penguin Modern Classics)  
LAM, Vincent. *Bloodletting & Miraculous Cures* (Anchor)  
MARSH, HENRY. *Do No Harm: Stories of Life, Death, and Brain Surgery*. (Picador)  
MARTINI, CLEM & OLIVIER MARTINI. *The Unravelling*. (Freehand)  
OKUN, MAUREEN AND NORA RUDDOCK. *The Broadview Pocket Guide to Citation and Documentation* . 2nd ed.  
RIGGS, NINA. *The Bright Hour: A Memoir of Living and Dying*. (Simon & Schuster)  
SACKS, Oliver. *The Man Who Mistook his Wife for a Hat* (Touchstone)  
TYLER, Anne. *Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant* (Ballantine)

All texts will be available through the York U Bookstore. Students are welcome to explore alternative formats such as ebooks and/or audiobooks. Additional required readings will be available online through the course website.

Students are strongly encouraged to complete some reading before the course start date as most of the texts are at least a couple of hundred pages in length. (Suggestion: begin with King, Lam, Tyler, De Kerangal, and Fadiman.)

**Open To:**

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