

Fall/Winter 2021-2022

AP/ EN 4181 6.0A (Y)	Studies in Contemporary Literature: Writers and Drugs
Course Director:	Name: (Fall) Dr. Ila Goody; (Winter) Prof. Marcus Boon Office: please contact us via email. e-mail: igoody@yorku.ca / mboon@yorku.ca
Time:	Asynchronous (no scheduled meeting times)
Delivery Format:	ONLINE – (asynchronous delivery) – There is no set course meeting time. Students may engage with course content/materials 24/7.
Description:	<p>All human cultures have involved relationships with psychoactive plant substances (henceforth referred to as “drugs”). In this course, we will explore the connection between drugs and writing in a variety of cultures both modern and premodern, and the intersections between religious, scientific and cultural thought and practice that go into constructing descriptions of drug experiences. In the first semester, we will study a series of basic concepts and issues that will help us to understand what a “drug” is, and what it means to write about drugs. The first term of the course (Fall, with Dr. Ila Goody) focuses primarily on predecessors to contemporary drug literature (all the way from Euripides' <i>The Bacchae</i> to Hunter S. Thompson) to explore various manifestations of drugs as addictive and consciousness-expanding, countercultural and socially-accepted, spiritual and marketable, criminal and political. The second term of the course (Winter, with Prof. Marcus Boon) will look mostly at post-1975 contemporary writing about drugs, with an emphasis on the politics of visionary states (including Jeet Thayil's <i>Narcopolis</i>, Paul Preciado's <i>Testo Junkie</i>, K Allado-McDowell's <i>Pharmako AI</i> and Ottessa Moshfegh's <i>My Year of Rest and Relaxation</i>).</p> <p>This is an asynchronous class that will be hosted on Moodle, and you can choose when you engage with course materials and content week by week.</p>
Category:	B
Historical Requirement:	N/A
Requirements:	<p>Fall Semester Assignments:</p> <p>750-1,000 word bibliographic assignment 10%</p> <p>2,000 word term essay on an assigned topic. 25%</p>

	<p>Forum Posts 15%</p> <p>Winter assignments:</p> <p>15 minute podcast/presentation on course materials 10%</p> <p>2000 word term essay on assigned topic 25%</p> <p>Forum Posts 15%</p>
Readings	<p>K Allado-McDowell, <i>Pharmako AI</i> (2021)</p> <p>William S. Burroughs, <i>Naked Lunch</i> (1959)</p> <p>Thomas De Quincey, <i>Confessions of an English Opium Eater</i> (1823)</p> <p>Euripides, <i>The Bacchae</i> (405 BC)</p> <p>Aldous Huxley, <i>The Doors of Perception</i> (1954)</p> <p>Tao Lin, <i>Trip: Psychedelics, Alienation and Change</i> (2018)</p> <p>Ann Marlowe, <i>How to Stop Time: Heroin from A - Z</i> (2000)</p> <p>Cat Marnell, "Amphetamine Logic" columns for Vice (ca. 2013)</p> <p>Gabor Maté, <i>In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts: Close Encounters with Addiction</i> (2010)</p> <p>Ottessa Moshfegh, <i>My Year of Rest and Relaxation</i> (2018)</p> <p>Paul B. Preciado, <i>Testo Junkie: Sex, Drugs and Biopolitics in the Pharmacopornographic Era</i> (2008)</p> <p>Maria Sabina, <i>The Life of Maria Sabina</i> (1977)</p> <p>Edward St. Aubyn: <i>The Patrick Melrose Novels</i> (1992 -)</p> <p>Jacqueline Susann, <i>Valley of the Dolls</i> (1966)</p> <p>Michael Taussig, <i>Shamanism, Colonialism, and the Wild Man: A Study in Terror and Healing</i> (1987)</p> <p>Jeet Thayil, <i>Narcopolis</i> (2012)</p> <p>Hunter S. Thompson, <i>Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas</i> (1972)</p> <p>Virginia Woolf, "On Being Ill" (1926)</p>
Open To:	Year 4 in Honours