

Fall 2019 Course Descriptions

Instructor: Jessica Howell

Course: ENGL 292

Title: Introduction to Literature and Medicine

Description: This course introduces students to literature and medicine studies through the analysis of autobiographies, novels, short fiction, and poetry dealing with health and illness. We focus on how literature helps us imagine what 'is'—the day-to-day reality of those suffering with life-changing illness or injury— and what 'could be,' in terms of our humane treatment of one another. Students will also learn to evaluate sources from different disciplinary perspectives as a tool for critical thinking. Assigned works may include a fictionalized memoir by Louisa May Alcott; a short story by Tananarive Due; poetry by Sylvia Plath; novels by Amitav Ghosh and Tsitsi Dangarembga; and drama by Tom Kitt and Brian Yorkey. Required course components include short response essays, a midterm and a final exam. This course is a prerequisite for ENGL 395, "Topics in Literature and Medicine."

Proposed Readings: