

HENDRIX

PROPOSED COURSE ADDITION OR REVISION

Deadline for Area approval: 21 October 2011

Proposer: Dorian Stuber

Department/Program: English

Check appropriate boxes:

☒ New permanent course

☐ Replaces existing course:

☐ Change to existing course:

Date: 21 September 2011

Area: Humanities

☐ New temporary course

☐ Make temporary course permanent

☐ Eliminate a course

Proposal – one sentence summary:

This course examines responses to illness in literary, cinematic, and theoretical texts from the late 19th century to the present.

Proposed subject code(s) (indicate both if cross-listing): ENGL

Proposed course # or level: ~~2x~~ 249

Proposed course title: Literature and/as Illness

Proposed course catalog copy:

The course examines responses to illness in literary, cinematic, and theoretical texts from the late 19th century to the present. Is illness an aberration that should be ameliorated in any way possible? Or is it an alternative to a painful, unhealthy normativity? Our ultimate questions will be about the relation of diagnosis to interpretation. Do we read the body as we read a text? Are doctors like critics? How do we do justice to the illnesses/aberrations that characterize bodies and texts alike and still diagnose or interpret them?

Prerequisites/co-requisites and/or recommended prior courses, as listed in catalog copy:
none

How will the proposed revision affect any catalog lists of options for majors or minors?

It will offer another 200-level W1, LS course for non-majors; it will offer another post-1900 course for English majors and minors; it will contribute to the proposed Medical Humanities minor.

Rationale for course within departmental and collegiate context and based on assessment results:

Although I hope that prospective English majors and minors will take interest in and benefit from the course, its primary audience is intended to be those students, often in non-Humanities majors, who are intending careers in medicine or related fields. The course might thus help respond to recent moves by the MCAT to include more interpretive writing and reading exercises and by Medical Schools to desire or even require that their students have a wider range of intellectual experiences. In sum, the course responds to the same imperatives discussed in the Medical Humanities minor. Moreover, for the academic year 2012-13 at least, the course would connect directly to the Murphy Foundations annual theme.

Proposed general education code(s) (check all that apply):

☐ EA ☐ HP ☒ LS ☐ NS ☐ NS-L ☐ SB ☐ VA ☐ QS ☒ W1 ☐ FL [Curriculum Committee]

☐ CW [CW Committee]

☐ W2 [Writing Across the Curriculum Committee]

Proposed Odyssey code(s) (check all that apply):

☐ AC ☐ GA ☐ PL ☐ SW ☐ UR ☐ SP [CEL Committee/Curriculum Committee]

For each of the checked general education or Odyssey codes, describe how the course fulfills the published criteria (see the Catalog, pages 18-23 or the Odyssey Program Guide, pages 10-16):

The course texts will be literary, cinematic, and theoretical texts; the emphasis of the course will be on determining the ways the texts generate meaning, with particular attention to the skills of close reading, critical thinking and persuasive academic writing.

Justification for cross-listing:

How often will the course be offered? every other year

Who will teach the course? Stuber

Equipment, supply, and bibliographic requirements (items and cost): none
Will the above items be covered by a present budget? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Approval Chain (type name and date of approval)

Department chair: Carol West 9/22/11

Area chair:   10-11-11