

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Locating Madness
Status: Definitive
Code: **6053ENGLIS** (120175)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2018

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

| Team | Leader |
|-----------------|--------|
| James Whitehead | Y |
| Elspeth Graham | |
| Joanna Croft | |
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Academic Level: FHEQ6 **Credit Value:** 24 **Total Delivered Hours:** 53
Total Learning Hours: 240 **Private Study:** 187

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

| Component | Contact Hours |
|-----------|---------------|
| Lecture | 13 |
| Online | 12 |
| Seminar | 24 |
| Tutorial | 2 |
| Workshop | 2 |

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

| Category | Short Description | Description | Weighting (%) | Exam Duration |
|------------|-------------------|---|---------------|---------------|
| Reflection | Reflection | Seminar Journal (including Textual Analysis) (1500 words) | 30 | |
| Essay | Essay | Researched Essay (3000 words) | 70 | |

Aims

1. To interrogate western discourses of madness through analysis of a range of texts.
2. To extend students' understanding of theoretical constructions of 'self' and 'other', with particular reference to gender/sexuality/race/class/age/spatiality.
3. To explore possible links between psychic and linguistic instability as represented in literary texts.
4. To problematize literary and other modes of representing psychic instability in contemporary culture.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Critically review a range of theoretical discourses surrounding the category of 'Madness', and utilise highly specialised skills to consider its continuing cultural significance.
- 2 Transfer and apply creative skills to analyse representations of psychic instability in a range of sources, especially literary texts.
- 3 Critically evaluate the problematic status of the term 'madness', and integrate new concepts and evidence from a range of sources to relate this to other discursive (e. g. linguistic, sexual, spatial, historical, medical) debates.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

| | | |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Seminar Journal | 2 | |
| Essay | 1 | 3 |

Outline Syllabus

*The key primary texts studied may vary each year subject to availability and the expertise of staff teaching on the module, but an example of a core syllabus would be: Gogol, Nikolai (1836) *The Diary of A Madman and Other Stories*; Hill, Selima (2004) *Lou Lou*; Beckett, Samuel (1953) *Waiting for Godot*; Ken Kesey, (1962) *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*; McCabe, Patrick (1992) *The Butcher Boy* (1992); Plath, Sylvia (1963) *The Bell Jar*.*

Learning Activities

Lectures, Seminars, Workshops, Written Work.

Notes

This module explores the cultural, political and aesthetic functions of the category of 'madness'. Topics will include: the discursive dynamics of 'madness' and 'sanity' in

western culture; theories of the construction of subjectivity and identity; psychic investments in writing; theories of the carnivalesque, melancholia, abjection and phobia; the relationship between psychoanalytic theory and literary writing; the spatial inscription of psychopathologies and mental distress; neuroscientific narratives of mind and body.