

Module Title: Madness, Past and Present

Module Code: COM5065

Credit Value: 15

Level: 5

Pre-requisite modules:

Content Description

This course examines how madness has been constructed and represented in culture from the classical period to the twenty-first century. It looks at both medical and popular understandings and representations of madness prevailing at crucial historical moments, and analyses the ways in which madness as a theme has been explored and exploited in a wide selection of genres including autobiography, essays, novels, short stories and drama.

Module Aims

Upon completion of the course students will be able to:

- understand key issues related to the cultural history of madness
- reflect critically upon historical, social and cultural changes in attitudes towards madness and the mad
- relate cultural representations of madness to their immediate socio-historical contexts
- compare and contrast representations of the theme of madness across different literary genres
- demonstrate knowledge of, and make theoretically informed connections between, texts of different periods, genres and cultures
- construct cogent and sophisticated critical essays with evidence of individual study and initiative
- demonstrate familiarity with level appropriate research and bibliographical skills
- formulate theoretically informed arguments and express these clearly and effectively