

Module Title: Medicine and Ethics in Contemporary Global Literature

Module Code: COM6066

Credit Value: 15

Level: 6

Pre-requisite modules:

Content Description

This module discusses contemporary literature from around the globe that invites us to think critically about how human lives and relationships have been changed by medical and technological developments and the complex ethical questions that arise in their wake. While biomedical developments dazzle us with their achievements and possibilities, they also raise difficult questions about ethical decision-making and about where the limits of scientific and medical progress should lie.

Our readings will explore the limits, limitations, goals and responses of medical treatment, and will be framed around three major blocks:

- 1) Humanitarian Healthcare
- 2) Indigenous Communities and Healthcare
- 3) Doctor and Patient Relationships

In each block we will read one long piece of literature (a novel or a piece of literary nonfiction) as well as shorter literary works (short stories, poems, extracts of literary journalism) and critical scholarship from a range of disciplines. Throughout the module, we will reflect on issues of distribution, cultural situatedness and on competing definitions of (medical) care.