

Doctor and Divine

Medicine, Religion, and American Literature
Texts and Contexts

ENGL 4362.001

Spring 2019 in Island Hall 268

11-12:15 pm

Dr. Kelly L. Bezio

Office: Classroom East 213C

Office Telephone: 361.825.3623

Skype Handle: kellylbezio

Email: kelly.bezio@tamucc.edu

Office Hours:

T/H 2-4; W 3-4 (Skype) & By
Appointment

Course Description

In moments of crisis, who do we turn to and why? What motivates our desire for diagnosis, divine benediction, or the beautifully-wrought word in our time of need? In this course, we will explore these questions through the works of Americans who also sought to answer them, including venerable icons such as Nathaniel Hawthorne and his classic *The Scarlet Letter* and lesser-known works by Abigail Abbott Bailey, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, and Frances Ellen Watkins Harper.

Course Objectives

- Introduce students to the works of some major American authors.
- Provide students with a working knowledge of some key American genres.
- Give students an opportunity to advance their skills in analytical writing and argumentation.

- Create a forum for critical, engaged discussion of literary works and scholarly or popular interpretations of them.
- Create a forum for critical, engaged discussion of scholarly conversations and theorizations regarding the intersection of medicine, religion, and literature.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Read early American texts more closely and analytically than at the start of the semester.
- Become a self-conscious writer, capable of recognizing one's own strengths and limitations in the field of written communication.
- Acquire an appreciation for how early American literature impacts the present and why we continue to study early texts.

How You Will Earn Your Grade

- Attendance – 20%
- Illness Narrative – 30%
- Revised Illness Narrative – 30%
- Final Exam, Comprehensive – 20%

Readings

- Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*. ISBN 978-0-142-43726-1
- Ann Taves, *Religion and Domestic Violence in Early New England: The Memoirs of Abigail Abbot Bailey*. ISBN 978-0-253-20531-5
- Frances E.W. Harper, *Iola Leroy*. ISBN 978-0-807-06519-8
- Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *The Crux*. ISBN 978-1-236-73460-0
- Readings on course website – printed and brought to class.

Assignments

Attendance: Coming to class is crucial to your learning in this course. There is no textbook; there are no Wikipedia entries for what we are learning in this course. Our course materials and lessons have been built through careful research into scholarly interpretations of the intersection of religion and medicine. As such, our course Prezi, our discussions, our in-class writing activities, our peer review sessions, and our readings all contribute to the growth of your knowledge base. Attendance will be recorded daily and at least twice in the semester you will see a score posted in BB representing your attendance. Each day is worth one point, but, more importantly, your overall attendance is worth 20% of your final grade.

Illness Narrative: In addition to studying the intersection of medicine, religion, and literature through the analysis of literary and theoretical works (that is, the readings on the syllabus), we will be thinking about how these fields speak to each other when we write about our personal experience. To that end, we will write an illness narrative that considers how a diagnosis and faith came into contact with one another in our life or the life of someone else. This assignment will be graded according to a rubric, using an A-F scale.

Revised Illness Narrative: Because revision is necessary to become an adept thinker and skillful writer, you will be revising your illness narrative and adding to it a critical analysis and self-reflective portion in the latter portion of the semester. This assignment will be graded according to a rubric, using an A-F scale.

Comprehensive Final Exam: Our course will conclude with a final exam covering our entire semester of readings. The exam will include short answer questions about texts and concepts, quotation identifications and explications, and a longer essay question.

Course Schedule

Week	Reading Assignment (To Be Completed by the Date Listed Next to it on the Schedule)	Writing Assignment (Due Dates Vary)
Week 1	Course Introduction: Why Medicine, Religion, and Literature?	Submit Personal Information by end of day (BB)
	<p>Unit 1: Theorizing Religion, Medicine, and Literature & the Role of the Illness Narrative</p> <p>Lecture: What is the Secularization Thesis?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max Weber, <i>The Protestant Ethic and the "Spirit" of Capitalism</i> (selections) • Sigmund Freud, <i>The Future of an Illusion</i> (selections) 	
Week 2	<p>New Concepts for Thinking Beyond Secularization – the Foucault Files</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michel Foucault, “A Preface to Transgression” 	
	<p>What’s an illness narrative? What would it mean to craft a medico-religious narrative about being sick?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arthur Kleinman, <i>The Illness Narratives</i> (selections) <p>In-Class Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel Shapiro, “Perspective Shift” • Audre Lorde, <i>A Burst of Light</i> (selections) • Allie Brosh “Adventures in Depression” and “Depression: Part 2” <p>http://hyperboleandahalf.blogspot.com/2011/10/adventures-in-depression.html</p>	Assign Illness Narrative

	http://hyperboleandahalf.blogspot.com/2013/05/depression-part-two.html	
Week 3	<p>Lecture: Beyond the Typical Readings of Hawthorne’s Novel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nathaniel Hawthorne, <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> (5-79 or Preface – Chapter 5) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nathaniel Hawthorne, <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> (80-112 or Chapter 6 – 9) 	
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nathaniel Hawthorne, <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> (113-204 or Chapter 10 – 21) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nathaniel Hawthorne, <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> (205-228 or Chapter 22 – 24) 	
Week 5	Writing Workshop & Peer Review: Illness Narrative	Draft of Illness Narrative Due
	<p>Unit 2: Interrogating the Secularization Thesis – The Case of Abigail Abbott Bailey’s Memoirs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ann Taves, <i>Religion and Domestic Violence in Early New England: The Memoirs of Abigail Abbot Bailey</i> (51-90) <p>In-Class Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible, selections on God as Physician 	
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ann Taves, <i>Religion and Domestic Violence in Early New England: The Memoirs of Abigail Abbot Bailey</i> (90-110) 	
		Final Illness Narrative Due

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ann Taves, <i>Religion and Domestic Violence in Early New England: The Memoirs of Abigail Abbot Bailey</i> (110-160) 	
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ann Taves, <i>Religion and Domestic Violence in Early New England: The Memoirs of Abigail Abbot Bailey</i> (160-178) 	
	<p>Unit 3: Biopower – The Case of Iola Leroy</p> <p>Lecture: What is Biopower?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michel Foucault, Lecture One, <i>Security, Territory, Population: Lectures at the Collège de France 1977—1978</i> 	
Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michel Foucault, “Right of Death and Power over Life” 	
	<p>Writing Workshop: How to Revise Your Illness Narrative</p>	<p>Assign Illness Narrative Revision Assignment</p>
	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES	
Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frances E. W. Harper, <i>Iola Leroy</i> (1-31 or Introduction - Chapter 3) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frances E. W. Harper, <i>Iola Leroy</i> (32-143 or Chapter 4 – 16) 	
Week 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frances E. W. Harper, <i>Iola Leroy</i> (144-187 or Chapter 17 – 20) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frances E. W. Harper, <i>Iola Leroy</i> (188-282 or Chapter 21 – Note) 	
Week 11	<p>Writing Workshop & Peer Review: Revised Illness Narrative</p>	<p>Draft of Revised Illness Narrative Due</p>

	<p>Unit 4: Pastoral Power – The Case of <i>The Crux</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michel Foucault, “Pastoral Power and Political Reason” 	
Week 12	<p>Lecture: Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s Fraught History with Pastoral Power</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper” 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charlotte Perkins Gilman, <i>The Crux</i> 	Final Revised Illness Narrative Due
Week 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charlotte Perkins Gilman, <i>The Crux</i> 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charlotte Perkins Gilman, <i>The Crux</i> 	
Week 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charlotte Perkins Gilman, <i>The Crux</i> 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dena Landon, “What My Divorce Taught Me...” https://bust.com/feminism/16775-what-my-divorce-taught-me-about-latent-sexism-in-the-financial-system.html 	
Week 15	Course Wrap-up and Exam Review	
	Final Exam @ 11:00 – 1:30 pm on May 7	In-Class, Written, During Scheduled Examination Slot