

Course Readings

While this list is sorely incomplete, I believe that it provides sufficient era and genre scope and diversity, while allowing room for supplemental material, such as essays, visual art, and performances, as well as allowing time for meaningful engagement with the literature via response, reflection, and role play assignments and activities.

The incompleteness of the list, especially regarding 20th-and 21st- century literature, is a testament to the substantial amount of literary texts produced and continuing to be produced that are relevant to the theme of this course—works I continue to discover during the course of each semester. As such, this reading list will be continually updated.

This list combines texts used in two levels of my Literature of Illness and Trauma course: ENGL 2300 (Ethics and Literature) and ENGL 4334/5334 (Health Humanities). Thus not all texts listed below are used in each course.

Theory and Practice: A Primer for Students of Applied Ethics, L. M. Bernhardt*

A Body of Work: An Anthology of Poetry and Medicine, Corinna Wagner and Andy Brown, eds.

Introduction to *The Decameron*, Giovanni Boccaccio

Philoctetes, Sophocles

The Rape of Lucrece, William Shakespeare

Titus Andronicus (excerpts), William Shakespeare

The Death of Ivan Ilyich, Leo Tolstoy

On Being Ill and Notes from Sick Rooms, Virginia Woolf and Julia Stephen

“The Yellow Wallpaper,” Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Illness as Metaphor, Susan Sontag

Mom’s Cancer, Brian Fies

Writings by doctors and nurses, including Rafael Campo, Dannie Abse, and Cortney Davis

*This book is the foundational text used in all of Lamar University’s ENGL 2300 courses. The theories in this textbook will provide the ethical context for our discussions of and interpretive and analytical work with the literary readings.