

German

Module descriptors for Inbound Students.

Name	Writing the Modern Psyche: Literature and Pathology (1770-1840)
Code	GRU33161
Semester	1
ECTS credits	5
Pre-requisite	Minimum level: German B2
Module Co-ordinator	Michiel Rhys (rysm@tcd.ie)

Module Content

This module deals with representations of pathologies in German culture around 1800. Through an in-depth reading of a number of representative case studies, it will be examined how literature between 1770-1840 depicts mental conditions.

On the one hand, this module will look at how literature takes its own place in a wider network of different (moral, psychiatric, philosophical...) discourses and integrates other forms of knowledge about mental illness. On the other hand, attention will be go to literary questions: what function does the motif of madness obtain in literary texts? In what sense can the representation of madness be read as social criticism? What literary techniques do authors use to capture pathological conditions in different genres?

Aims

This module aims to introduce students to literary representations of pathological conditions during and after the foundational years of modern psychiatry, and to give them a clear understanding of how literature not only (critically) engages with and thematises psychological and psychiatric knowledge, but does so with medium-specific means.

The aims of this module are:

1. sharpen literary competence and text-analytical skills;
2. acquire an advanced knowledge of German literature and a variety of poetic concepts around 1800;
3. gain insight into historically changing socio-cultural constructs such as sense and madness, rationality and irrationality ('das Andere der Vernunft'), normality and abnormality

Learning Outcomes

1. read and understand selected complex primary texts in the original German
2. demonstrate a detailed critical knowledge of the primary texts studied in the course and of the relevant secondary literature



display a deeper understanding of the specific literary or linguistic topic and its cultural, historical, theoretical and/or linguistic contexts

3. present a critical analysis of the primary (literary or linguistic) material in a well-structured, correctly referenced essay in coherent English (or German, where required)

Assessment

20% presentation

80% essay