

Course number and section: WRLD 399J

Course Topic: Special Topics in World Literatures: Mosquitos and Morphine: A Seminar in Global Medical Humanities

Credits: 3

Term: 2022W2

Instructor: Nikhita Obeegadoo

Mosquitos and Morphine: A Seminar in Global Medical Humanities: "Mosquitos and Morphine" explores sickness, healing and well-being through contemporary stories and poetry from across the world. What does it mean to be (un)well? What are the social, physical, emotional, mental and cultural dimensions of health and well-being? What are the (dis)junctions that may exist between scientific diagnoses and lived experiences, for sick parties as much as for family members and other care-takers? Ultimately, how can literature help us (re)articulate those notions for ourselves, as well as nourish public ideas and debate? As we trace the complex global cartographies of health and disease, we will be particularly sensitive to questions of race, gender and language, as well as to the impacts of colonisation, poverty, systemic inequality and environmental degradation. Examples of readings include Chinese author Fang Fangs Wuhan Diary (about COVID-19), Ivorian Véronique Tadjos In the Company of Men (about Ebola), and Canadian Mona Awads Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Fat Girl (about obesity and eating disorders).