Visiting Professors
Academic year 2018/2019

2nd term

COURSE TITLE
Storytelling and mental disorders

Scientific area
Pedagogical and psychological sciences

Department of Philosophy and Education Science

Language used to teach
English

Teaching Commitment: 36 hours

Course summary
The course begins with a historical overview of the representation of madness and mental disorders in literature and the visual arts. It introduces the main literary and visual tropes on mental disorders, studying for instance the impact of physiognomics and phrenology on the early representation of madness in literature, painting and photography. Having introduced the way in which mental disorders have been the object of representation in the third person, the course studies the emergence of a first person narrative of mental disorders in the XX and XXI centuries. The course thus explores the way in which written, oral and visual storytelling can contribute to the therapeutic, social and educational aspects of dealing with mental disorder.

Learning objectives
By successfully completing this course the students will have:
- Learnt the history of the representation of madness, from the modern to the contemporary age, in literature, painting and other visual arts;
- Acquired knowledge of the main tropes of this representation and their relationship with the sciences, medicine, society, culture and politics;
- Understood the reciprocal influence of society, sciences and representation in the context of mental disorders and the medical sciences devoted to their treatment;
- Understood the historical emergence of narrative techniques (storytelling) as a potential therapeutic and educational tool in the context of mental disorders;
- Acquired knowledge of the use of storytelling in the treatment of mental disorders.

Other activities besides the course: i.e. seminars and conferences addressed to PhD students and research fellows, dissemination conferences
Scuola di Dottorato in Scienze psicologiche, antropologiche e dell’educazione - Lecture: Before and after “Basaglia’s law”: the representation of madness in literature, society and health care.

Visiting Professor Profile
The ideal visiting professor for this course is a high profile scholar who has conducted specific research in the field of representation, both linguistic and iconic, of mental disorders and of patients with
mental disorders. S/he will have to associate the skills of the researcher, to teaching skills deriving from a consistent experience as a university lecturer. From a linguistic point of view, the visiting professor must have fluently to teach in English (language in which the course will be held), but will also have to be able to provide details in Italian if this is required by students who are less prepared in English.

Contact person at the Department
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