Memoirs of Illness & Addiction

Dr. Montana Miller
POPC 4600 102W (42598) combined with ACS 3000 103W (41110)
Second Summer Session (Online) 07/12/2021 - 08/20/2021

Course Description: Popular memoirs written by people who have experienced illness and addiction can be powerful and eye opening. In this online summer course taught by Dr. Montana Miller (Dep’t of Popular Culture), you will choose several memoirs to read and reflect on. Through online class discussion and short personal essays, you can gain new insights into how people cope with overwhelming life challenges, as they shape and express their life stories. We will look at cultural attitudes toward illness and addiction through the medium of popular memoirs (celebrity and otherwise). How do these autobiographical accounts influence audiences’ perceptions and understandings of various afflictions, both physical and psychological? Often confessional, often uplifting, memoirs reveal previously misunderstood or stigmatized experiences and behaviors. This course provides an overview of the depth and breadth of this growing genre, with guidance and an extensive suggested reading list for those interested in exploring it further.
Contact Dr. Miller at montanm@bgsu.edu for more information.