

TH350-30 Matters of Life and Death: Care in Times of Crisis

22/23

Department

SCAPVC - Theatre and Performance Studies

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

anna six

Credit value

30

Module duration

20 weeks

Assessment

50% coursework, 50% exam

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module explores the role and nature of care in times of crisis - from the intimacy of end of life care to the planetary scale of climate crisis. Together we will explore what it is to care for people, for places, for things. We will consider how far care is a role, an occupation, a practice, an obligation, a burden. We will also question what it means to be care-less and care-free. The module will explore six key areas: enslavement, epidemics, endings, economics, environment, extermination. The module will primarily explore twentieth and twenty first century examples of theatre, film, and literature that portray models and expressions of care in extremis. Students will also explore a range of theoretical, philosophical, historical, sociological and medical texts that attempt to theorise these contexts and care practices. Students will place these theoretical works in dynamic dialogue with creative objects. We will ask not only what is 'care', but how and why one might choose to radically reimagine it as part of a broader global project of social and climate justice.

Module aims

This module aims to offer students a rigorous introduction to the relationship between art, care, and politics. It aims to offer students a historicised understanding of care that enables them to

think critically and politically about what it means to give (and withhold care). It aims to deepen their skills in the close analysis of art works. It aims to strengthen their understanding of concepts include biopolitics and necropolitics.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Autumn Term

Weeks 1-3 Enslavement

This unit will examine the Black Atlantic and the novel *Beloved* by Toni Morrison

Weeks 4-7 Epidemics

This unit will examine the AIDS crisis in North America and the play *The Normal Heart* by Larry Kramer

Weeks 8-10 Endings

This unit will explore the end of life and the film *Amour* by Michael Haneke

Spring Term

Weeks 1-3 Economy

This unit will explore financial crisis and the film *Nomadland* by Chloé Zhao

Weeks 4-7 Environment

This unit will explore climate crisis and the novel *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy

Weeks 8-10 Extermination

This unit will explore genocide and the autobiographical work *The Drowned and The Saved* by Primo Levi

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- o Develop independent thinking and argument about questions of care and crisis through careful preparation and discussion.
- o Undertake independent research in the field of care and the creative arts.
- o Organise and structure critical ideas, research findings, and knowledge in a timed exam
- o Analyse creative and critical works in discursive and written formats
- o Shape, develop, and present research-related material in collaboration with peers on an assigned topic.
- o Present complex examples and materials as part of a team and respond to critical questions and feedback.

Indicative reading list

Benjamin Bratton, *The Revenge of the Real* (Verso, 2021)

The Care Collective, *The Care Manifesto* (Verso, 2020)

Emma Dowling, *Care Crisis* (Verso, 2021)

Saul Friedlander, *The Years of Extermination* (Harper Collins, 2007)

Paul Gilroy, *The Black Atlantic* (Harvard University Press, 1993)

Michael Hardy and Antonio Negri (Oxford University Press, 2017)

bell hooks, *All About Love* (Harper Collins, 2016)

Tim Ingold, *The Life of Lines* (Routledge, 2015)

Timothy Morton, *Dark Ecology*, (Columbia University Press, 2016)

Amanda Stuart-Fisher and James Thompson, *Performing Care* (Manchester University Press, 2020)

Research element

Students will undertake independent research both as part of their take-away exam and as part of the prep for their group presentation. There will also be optional additional reading each week.

Interdisciplinary

The module will draw upon literary and performance theory, critical theory, sociological texts, political theory, and medical theory.

International

The module will engage with work from Britain, Europe, and North America.

Subject specific skills

Students will gain skills in close reading of literary and other 'texts'. They will also gain skill in being able to historically contextualise art works and movements. They will develop essay writing and research skills.

Transferable skills

Students will gain skills in debate, presentation, investigation, argument, independent thinking, and constructive feedback.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	18 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Seminars	18 sessions of 2 hours (12%)
Tutorials	2 sessions of 1 hour (1%)
Online learning (independent)	18 sessions of 3 hours (18%)
Private study	144 hours (48%)
Assessment	46 hours (15%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

Approximately 8hrs per week reading, watching, note-taking, general research, watching lecture and completing tasks.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group C

	Weighting	Study time
Presentation	50%	26 hours
Small group presentations of 30 minutes duration on a set text and topic.		
Essay Exam	50%	20 hours
Students will have 48 hrs to write 2 x 2500 word essays		

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback and optional tutorial

[Past exam papers for TH350](#)

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 4 of UENA-QW35 Undergraduate English and Theatre Studies with Intercalated Year
- UTHA-W421 Undergraduate Theatre and Performance Studies
 - Year 3 of W421 Theatre and Performance Studies
 - Year 3 of W421 Theatre and Performance Studies

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 3 of UTHA-QW34 Undergraduate English and Theatre Studies