

English 1027F (001): The Storyteller's Art I: Introduction to Narrative

Department of English

University of Western Ontario

Fall 2014

Lectures: UC 142 ~ Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-10:30

<https://owl.uwo.ca/>

Instructor

Dr. Christopher Keep

Room 3G24, Arts & Humanities

Email: ckeepp@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday 10:30-11:30 and Thursday 1:30-2:30 (or by app't)

Tutorial Leaders

Farrah Nakhaie

Tutorial 003: Thursday 12:30, UC 274

Tutorial 006: Monday 1:30, UC 274

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Office Hours: Monday 2:30-4:30, Arts & Humanities 3B11

Cameron Fediuk

Tutorial 004: Thursday 11:30, UC 274

Tutorial 005: Thursday 10:30-11:30, UC 282

Email:

Office Hours: Thu 3:30-4:30, Arts & Humanities ON15

Paul Zinaka

Tutorial 007: Wednesday 12:30, UC 274

Tutorial 008: Monday 3:30, UC 274

Email: pzinaka@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Monday 12:00-2:00, Arts & Humanities 3B11.

Jonathan Doering

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written form, to Sophocles' tragedy of Oedipus, and from Sylvia Plath's classic tale of coming of age, *The Bell Jar*, to Daniel Clowes's celebrated graphic novel, *Ghost World*, we will study some of the major genres of storytelling: epic, myth, tragedy, allegory, and romance. What are the formal elements that make for a great story? How do character, theme, plot, perspective, and style contribute to our understanding of the text? How does a story's medium, as an oral, visual, or print-based text, change or alter our sense of its place and importance in our society? And what of the cultural work of storytelling? What hopes and desires, needs and anxieties, does it answer to? How do the representations of gender, sexuality, race, and class inform the art and practice of story-telling?

The weekly course schedule consists of two hours of lecture and a third hour of tutorial discussion facilitated by a teaching assistant. In addition to providing opportunities for the discussio

Sophocles. *The Three Theban Plays* (Penguin)

Assignments and Grade Distributions

Four Quizzes: The Best Three (5% each): 15%

Passage Analysis (1000 words): 15%

Essay (2500 words): 25%

Tutorial Group Participation: 10%

Final Exam: 35%

Note: Students must pass both term work and the final examination in order to pass the course. Students who fail the final examination (regardless of their term mark) automatically fail the course.

Quizzes

Four short quizzes will be conducted during the lecture hours on randomly selected dates. Each quiz will be made up of five questions testing your comprehension of the assigned texts and recent lecture materials. Of these four quizzes, we will choose the best three (each worth 5%), to count toward your final grade, for a total of 15%.

Passage Analysis

A Passage Analysis is an assignment in which students get to develop their close reading and interpretation

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All bibliographic notation will employ the MLA method of parenthetical notation and a works cited page. Please consult a standard style guide such as that found in the Little Brown Compact Handbook or the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, which is available in the reference shelves of the D.B. Weldon Library.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken in each class. Chronic absences may result in a formal request to be debarred from taking the final exam, as set out in the [Western Academic Calendar](#): “Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class . . . will be reported to the Dean (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination.” Students, of course, who are debarred from taking the exam, automatically fail the course. If circumstances prevent you from attending class regularly for a period, please do let me know so that we can work out some alternative arrangement.

Writing Skills

English 1027F is a course in the academic study of literature. Though it provides instruction in essay style and research methods, it does not offer instruction in grammar and composition. Students who require such instruction are encouraged to visit the Writing Support Centre at the Student Development Centre. Details of their services can be found at: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing>.

Email

Questions and concerns about the course should, in the first instance, be directed to your Teaching Assistant. If you have a question that you feel is best addressed to the instructor, please do feel free to get in touch. I will try to respond within one business day; email over the weekend will be returned the following Monday. Please note, however, that email is not the most ideal medium for the discussion of difficult conceptual material, such as is often the focus of queries regarding an English course. If you miss a class and would like to catch up, or are having difficulties with an assignment, please do consider seeing me during my office hours, or, if those times are not convenient, making an appointment to meet at some alternative time.

Electronic Devices

Please switch off cell phones and remove headphones during class. Laptop computers and tablets may be used for taking notes but not for web surfing, email, social networking or any other non-course related activity. Students who are found to be using their laptops or tablets for any purpose other than note taking will be asked to leave the class.

Lecture and Reading Schedule

N.B. All selections marked *NASF* refer to Bausch, Richard, and J.V. Cassill (eds.), *The Norton Anthology of Short Fiction*. Shorter Seventh Ed.

September	4	Introduction
	9	Fundamentals Poe, "The Fall of the House of Usher" (<i>NASF</i> 661-74)
	11	Fundamentals Poe, "The Fall of the House of Usher" (<i>NASF</i> 661-74)
	16	Fundamentals Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants" (<i>NASF</i> 335-39)
	18	Fundamentals

21	Tragedy Sophocles, <i>Oedipus the King</i>
23	
28	Bildungsroman Plath, <i>The Bell Jar</i>
30	Fall Study Break