

In this Course Outline (“Syllabus”) you will find:

As much as possible, teaching and learning will occur by facilitated discovery, application, and practice in class, with mini-lectures for concepts and examples followed by discussion and other forms of in-class work. In the main, we will *learn by doing* in this course, and methods of assessment will correspond to the means by which teaching and learning occur during class time. The weight and length of assignments start small: as we build knowledge of narrative theory over the term, and hone our analytical reading and writing skills through hands-on work in the classroom and feedback on out-of-class work, the weight and length of assignments will increase.

The structure of the course and individual classes will provide as much opportunity as possible for:

- reading closely to discover, identify, and explain the components of semiotics, textuality, and narrativity at work in selected short stories and two novels (one graphic, one historiographic metafiction or “postmodern”)
- applying semiotic and narrative theory in detailed analyses in in-class work and discussion

- demonstrating your knowledge and comprehension of, and ability to apply, semiotic and narratological terms in class and in out-of-class work

- applying and synthesizing components of semiotics and narrative theory in short out-of-class essays and / or for those students who wish it, in one short in-class oral presentation instead of one short out-of-class essay (see Types and Weights of Assessment below)

- evaluating your own and others’ work using guidelines provided (this activity does not determine your grades; it is designed to help everyone improve their writing and self-editing skills, through the defamiliarizing practice of studying others’ writing on the same topics)

Following on these methods for building your knowledge of and facility with concepts of how narratives work, you will have the opportunity in the final examination

- to demonstrate and synthesize your course learning on a work of literature not studied in class or analyzed in out-of-class work (or perhaps on a work of literature only partially studied in class)

Because the learning activities for this course both provide and require time for reading *and re-reading* the assigned materials, you will be given advanced notice of the work of literature to be analyzed during the final examination; that is, you will have the opportunity to study this work of literature prior to writing an analytical essay about its narrative features in the final examination time slot (scheduled by the Registrar’s office)

-mail address: tstuart9@uwo.ca for administrative communication and co-mentoring between instructor and GTA.

What Are We Going to Read for this Course?

Required Texts:

Cohan, Steven and Linda M. Shires, *Telling Stories: A Theoretical Analysis of Narrative Fiction*. London: Routledge, 1988. This text has been reprinted

For example, can you differentiate between and rank others' analyses of given passages or whole

See "Weekly Schedule" in the OWL course site (vertical menu at the left of the screen) for required readings and class preparation. The schedule will be posted as access to OWL permits, but not later than 24 hours after our first class.

Any changes to the schedule arising from unexpected contingencies or class discussion of a need for a change (for example, a unanimous decision to adjust the pace of learning), will be announced in the OWL site and an e-mail message sent to the class accordingly. (At no time will a change of schedule result in work being due sooner than currently identified in the outline or weekly schedule.)