

This syllabus has been provided as a reference tool for students considering this course. It has been modified to follow Senate regulations. Current students enrolled in any undergraduate course must obtain the most recent syllabus from their course instructor or from their course website. This is not the latest version.



Department of English & Writing Studies

The Storyteller's Art 1: Introduction to Narrative English 1027F (001) Fall 2013

Instructor: Dr. Tim DeJong

Date/Time: Tuesday & Thursday
9:30am-10:30am, plus one hour tutorial

Location: University College 30

Prerequisites

Prerequisite(s): Grade 12U English or permission of the Department. For part time students who have been admitted without the OSSD, this permission will be granted as a matter of course.

Antirequisite(s): English 1024E, 1036E.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

The telling of stories has been a fundamental part of human culture since its very beginning. In this course, by reading and studying a selection of narratives from a wide range of genres and historical periods, we will explore the dimensions and functions of storytelling - how and why stories work, and who and what they work for. We will examine stories in various genres, from epic poetry to graphic novel, in order to assess the different forms storytelling can take, as well as the surprising similarities that can inhere across those different forms. This course will place a very strong emphasis on the multiform importance of *reading closely* and *writing critically* - two skills that develop in tandem with one another. In developing these skills, our shared goal will be not simply to acquire knowledge about the course texts, but to acquire and refine a way of thinking, talking, and writing about literature that can be applied to any story one might encounter.

Objectives:

Successful students who complete the course will be better able to:

- Identify and explain a wide variety of storytelling techniques and forms in various cultures and eras;
- Understand some of the complex forms of interconnection between stories, the societies they originate in, and the readers that encounter them;
- Perform critically informed close readings of narratives in several genres;
- Outline, write, and revise a critical essay on a literary text using the approved MLA style.

Course Materials

Homer, *The Odyssey*
Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*
Edgar Allan Poe, "The Purloined Letter"
Christina Rossetti, "Goblin Market"
Bram Stoker, *Dracula*
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, "A Scandal in Bohemia"
Mark Haddon, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*
Martin Amis, *Time's Arrow*
Art Spiegelman, *Maus*
Paul Headrick, *A Method for Writing Essays about Literature*

Methods of Evaluation

Essay #1 – First version (1000 words)	10%
Essay #1 – Revised version (1000 words)	10%
Essay #2 (1500 words)	25%
In-Class Test	10%
Tutorial Participation	10%
Final Exam	35%

A student must receive a passing grade for both term work and the final examination in order to receive a passing grade for the course. This applies to all courses in all programs offered by the department. Students whose term and final exam grades average 50% or above, even though one of the two is a failure, shall receive a default grade of 48%. **Please note:** The department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/info%20for%20students.html#grade>.

Policy Regarding Technology in the Classroom

The use of smartphones and other mobile devices in the classroom is not permitted. I will reluctantly - allow the use of laptops. However, laptops are to be used for note-taking only: both for your own sake and to avoid distracting those around you, please refrain from accessing the internet while in class.

Policies Regarding Essays

Essays must be typed, double-spaced, and stapled in the upper left hand corner. If you hand in an essay without stapling it, your TAs will not be held responsible for any pages that go missing. Avoid using binders or protective covers of any kind. Essays must follow current MLA format and must include 21 Works Cited page. It is advisable to retain at least one hard copy of the essay in case of loss or damage to the original.

Essays not handed in at the beginning of class must be dropped in the English Department Essay Drop-Off Box, next to UC 173. Do not slide essays under office doors. Essays may **not** be emailed as attachments; a hard copy is required.

Essays will be penalized for lateness at a rate of 2% per day, weekends included, to a maximum of 14 days. Late essays may also receive minimal comments and will be returned at the leisure of the TA or instructor.

Timetable:

WEEK ONE

Tuesday, Sept 10: Introduction

Thursday, Sept 12: Homer, *The Odyssey*

WEEK TWO

Tuesday, Sept 17 - Homer, *The Odyssey*

Thursday, Sept 19 - Essay-writing workshop

WEEK THREE

Tuesday, Sept 24 - Homer, *The Odyssey*

Thursday, Sept 26 - Essay #1 Due; Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*

WEEK FOUR

Tuesday, Oct 1 - Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*

Thursday, Oct 3 ~ Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*

WEEK FIVE

Tuesday, Oct 8 - Edgar Allan Poe, "The Purloined Letter"

Thursday, Oct 10 - Christina Rossetti, "Goblin Market"

WEEK SIX

Tuesday, Oct 15 - Bram Stoker, *Dracula*

Thursday, Oct 17 - Stoker, *Dracula*

WEEK SEVEN

Tuesday, Oct 22 - Stoker, *Dracula*

Thursday, Oct 24 - **Revised Essay #1 Due**; Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, "A Scandal in Bohemia"

WEEK EIGHT

Tuesday, Oct 29 ~ Doyle, "A Scandal in Bohemia"

Thursday, Oct 31 - Fall Study Break; No Class

WEEK NINE

Tuesday, Nov 5 - **In-class Test**

Thursday, Nov 7- Mark Haddon, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*

***Nov 5 is the last day to drop a first-term half course or a first-term full course (2013-14 Fall/ Winter term) without academic penalty.**

WEEK TEN

Tuesday, Nov 12 - Haddon, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*

Thursday, Nov 14 - Haddon, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*

WEEK ELEVEN

Tuesday, Nov 19 - **Essay #2 Due**; Martin Amis, *Time's Arrow*

Thursday, Nov 21 - Amis, *Time's Arrow*

WEEK TWELVE

Tuesday, NOV 26 - Art Spiegelman, *Maus*

Thursday, Nov 28 - Spiegelman, *Maus*

WEEK THIRTEEN

Tuesday, Dec 3 - Spiegelman, *Maus*

Thursday, Dec 5 - Conclusion and Review

Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.