

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

Department of English & Writing Studies

Western University

Fall 2020

Online Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday 12:30-1:30

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

Instructor

Dr. Christopher Keep

UC 2417

Email: ckeepp@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30-3:30 and Thursday 2:30-3:30 (or by app't)

Tutorial Leaders

xx

Tutorial 003 (in person): Thursday 2:30, UCC 56

Email:

Office Hours:

xx

Tutorial 004 (in person): Thursday 11:30, UCC 56

Email:

Office Hours:

xx

Tutorial 005 (online): Thursday 10:30

Email:

Office Hours:

xx

Tutorial 006 (online): Monday 1:30

Email:

Office Hours:

Course Description

Storytelling is a central feature of every aspect of our lives. We use stories to entertain and educate, to argue and debate, to share and understand. This course studies the rich variety of stories we tell, and the ways we tell them. From *Gilgamesh*, the first narrative to be recorded in written form, to Sally Rooney's award-winning 2018 novel *Normal People*, we will study some of the major genres of storytelling: epic, tragedy, romance, and novel. 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 discussion of reading and lecture materials, tutorials will also provide substantial instruction in effective essay writing and research methods.

English 1027F is a course in its own right. It need not be taken in combination with any other course. Students who subsequently take English 1028G (The Storyteller's Art II), will have the equivalent of a 1.0 "essay" course for their breadth requirements, and completed the 1.0 credits in first-year English necessary to take senior-level courses in English.

Course Delivery

English 1027F will be a "hybrid" course for the 2020-21 academic year: the lectures will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30-1:30 pm on Zoom. To attend a lecture, logon on to Owl shortly before the day and time listed in your sechedule, click on Zoom in the menu on the left hand of the screen, and then click the link for that day's lecture.

There are four tutorials in this course: two will be offered online, and two will occur in person. If your tutorial is online, logon on to Owl shortly before the day and time listed in your schedule, click on Zoom in the menu on the left hand of the screen, and then click the link for your tutorial for that day and time.

If your tutorial is in person, the tutorial will take place at the place and time listed in your schedule. In person tutorials are not recorded.

Zoom App

Please download the app and login using your Western id. Instructions can be found here: <https://wts.uwo.ca/zoom/index.html>

If you have problems with the app, it is fully supported by ITS: you can contact the help line here: <https://wts.uwo.ca/helpdesk/index.html>

Learning Outcomes

Successful students who complete the course will be able to:

- Identify and analyze basic elements of narrative literature, such as plot, story, character, point of view, setting, imagery, diction, and tone.
- Write an essay about a work of narrative literature, containing an effective thesis supported by adequate evidence from the original text;
- Research critical commentary on literary works;

- Evaluate the relevance, reliability, and usefulness of research sources, especially those obtained through the Internet;
- Integrate outside research materials and references to the original text into an essay through use of quotations and paraphrases;
- Organize and present ideas clearly and effectively;
- Document essays using MLA format.

Required Texts

Bausch, Richard, and J.V. Cassill (eds.), *The Norton Anthology of Short Fiction*. Shorter Eighth Ed. (Norton)

Casson, Leslie E. *A Writer's Handbook*. Fourth Ed. (Broadview)

Forster, E.M. *The Machine Stops* (Penguin)

Mitchell, Stephen. *Gilgamesh: A New English Version* (Free Press)

Rooney, Sally. *Normal People* (Knopf)

Sophocles. *The Three Theban Plays* (Penguin)

Print copies available from the Campus Bookstore (includes option for delivery to home address): <https://bookstore.uwo.ca/>

Digital versions are available from these vendors:

<https://bookstore.uwo.ca/product/cebebookid9672118>

<https://www.vitalsource.com/en-ca/products/the-machine-stops-e-m-forster-v9781434446251?term=9781434446251>

<https://www.simonandschuster.ca/books/Gilgamesh/Stephen-Mitchell/9781439104743>

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/592625/normal-people-by-sally-rooney/9780735276482>

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/292307/the-three-theban-plays-by-sophocles/9781101042694>

Assignments and Grade Distributions

Four Quizzes: Best three (5% each): 15%

Passage Analysis (1000 words): 15%

Essay (2500 words): 30%

Tutorial Participation: 5%

Final Exam: 35%

Quizzes

Four short quizzes will be conducted online during our regular scheduled lectures using the Test and Quizzes tool in Owl. 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%.

Each quiz will be made up of five questions testing your comprehension of the assigned texts and recent lecture materials.

You will have five minutes to complete the quiz from the moment you click the link: write your answers in the boxes provided and the app will upload your answers at the end of the allotted period. The lecture will resume following the quiz.

Passage Analysis

A Passage Analysis is an assignment in which students get to develop their close reading and interpretative skills in preparation for the longer essay assignment at the end of term.

Students will be assigned an excerpt from a longer work previously studied in class. Read this passage carefully several times and provide a well-documented analysis of its structural features (its use of character, plot, setting, point of view, etc.) and its narrative style, including attention to word choice, figurative language, and use of symbolism. How does this passage contribute to the work's overarching themes and patterns of imagery? What makes this passage important to our understanding of the work as a whole?

The Passage Analysis should be approximately 1000 words or three-four pages in length. It will constitute 15% of your final grade. Further details regarding format and how to submit the assignment (including late penalties), can be found in the **Course Assignments** section below.

Essay

Students will choose from one of four essay topics to be circulated two weeks prior to the assignment's due date. Each topic will provide an opportunity for the student to develop his or her analytical and research skills, combining a close and detailed reading of the text in question with a knowledge of the secondary criticism related to its study.

You will be expected to use at least two secondary sources, but the essay is not to be a review of such secondary literature. Rather, you should use your secondary sources to either support aspects of your own argument, or to show places in which your analysis differs from that of the critics upon whom you are drawing. The essay is, first and foremost, an account of your interpretation of the text, and should read as such. Please consider using an electronic search tool, such as the MLA Bibliography, to find journal articles.

Your essay should be approximately 2500 words or eight-ten pages in length. It will constitute 30% of your final grade. Further details regarding format and how to submit the assignment (including late penalties), can be found in the **Course Assignments** section below.

Tutorials and Participation

In addition to lectures, all students will be assigned to a tutorial group of approximately twenty students, facilitated by a Teaching Assistant. These tutorial groups are, in many ways, the heart and soul of a large lecture course such as English 1027F, affording students opportunities to raise

questions and pursue issues introduced in the weekly lectures, and to share their insights with their fellow students. The tutorial groups will also provide a venue for instruction regarding researching, organizing, and writing an effective, university-level research essay, complete with secondary criticism and a list of works cited.

Participation means arriving for your tutorial on time, having read the assigned materials, and regularly volunteering informed, thoughtful, and helpful replies to questions and/or leading group discussions, as arranged by the Teaching Assistant.

In order for the tutorial groups to promote a free exchange of ideas and opinions, all students are expected to treat each other and their Teaching Assistants with dignity and respect. This means listening carefully to each others' contributions to the group discussion, and allowing each group member an opportunity to express his or her own point of view, with the objective of sharing and enriching our understanding of the literature we are studying.

Course Assignments

Essay and Passage Analysis assignments will be written according to standard essay style: double-spaced, 12 point font, and all margins set at 1 inch. A title-page is not necessary, but the first page must include the title of the essay, your name, the course number, the professor's name, teaching assistant's name, and the date.

Originality of argument, the ability to support the argument with reference to the primary text, rhetorical persuasiveness, syntax, grammar, spelling, and accurate bibliographic citation will *all* be factors in the grading of the essay.

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 Casson's *A Writers Handbook*, or the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (8th ed.), which is available in the reference shelves of the D.B. Weldon Library. A good online guide to the MLA method can be found [here](#).

Assignments will be submitted electronically through the owl site, and are due by 4:30 on the due date. Papers submitted late will be returned with a grade but no comments. Papers submitted late without prior permission will be deducted 2 per cent per day late, including weekends. Papers submitted after the assignment is returned will not normally be accepted.

Please keep at least one copy of each of your papers. Save each file on a usb key, external drive, drop box, or other form of back up media. Retain all returned, marked assignments until you receive your final grade for the course.

Academic Accommodation Policy

Students seeking academic accommodation for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counseling 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. 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 Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found [here](#).

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to [MentalHealth@Western](#) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism (the unacknowledged use of another person's work) is one of the most serious academic offences, since it involves fraud and misrepresentation. In plagiarizing, one is in effect claiming another person's words or ideas or data as one's own work, and thus misrepresenting material subject to academic evaluation. It is necessary, therefore, that plagiarism carry appropriate penalties. These are within the discretion of the Chair of Undergraduate Studies, but may include failure of a course or a grade of zero on an assignment, without the privilege of resubmitting it. The Department's policy on plagiarism is [here](#).

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 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 Western University and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

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.

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 Eighth Ed.

September	10	Introduction
	15	Fundamentals Poe, "The Fall of the House of Usher" (<i>NASF</i> 674-87)
	17	Fundamentals Poe, "The Fall of the House of Usher" (<i>NASF</i> 674-87)
	22	Fundamentals Poe, "The Fall of the House of Usher" (<i>NASF</i> 674-87)
	24	Fundamentals Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants" (<i>NASF</i> 349-53)
	29	Fundamentals Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants" (<i>NASF</i> 349-53)
October	1	Fundamentals Bierce, "An Occurrence At Owl Creek Bridge" (<i>NASF</i> 78-84)
	6	Fundamentals Bierce, "An Occurrence At Owl Creek Bridge" (<i>NASF</i> 78-84)
	8	Fundamentals Kafka, "The Metamorphosis" (<i>NASF</i> 399-433)
	13	Fundamentals Kafka, "The Metamorphosis" (<i>NASF</i> 399-433)
	15	Epic Mitchell, <i>Gilgamesh</i>

	20	Epic Mitchell, <i>Gilgamesh</i>
	22	Epic Mitchell, <i>Gilgamesh</i>
	27	Epic Mitchell, <i>Gilgamesh</i>
	29	Tragedy Sophocles, <i>Oedipus</i>
November	3	Reading Week
	5	Reading Week
	10	Tragedy Sophocles, <i>Oedipus</i>
	12	Tragedy Sophocles, <i>Oedipus</i>
	17	Romance Forster, <i>The Machine Stops</i>
	19	Romance Forster, <i>The Machine Stops</i>
	24	Novel Rooney, <i>Normal People</i>
	26	Novel Rooney, <i>Normal People</i>
December	1	Novel Rooney, <i>Normal People</i>
	3	Novel Rooney, <i>Normal People</i>
	8	Review