

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

Department of English & Writing Studies
Western University



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, autobiography, and realist 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.

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

(Available in the English section at the Campus Bookstore in the University Community Centre)

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)

Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (Broadview)

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

Rooney, Sally. *Normal People* (Knopf)

Sophocles. *The Three Theban Plays* (Penguin)

E-books are available here:

The Norton Anthology of Short Fiction https://www.amazon.ca/Norton-Anthology-Fiction-Shorter-Eighth/dp/0393937763/ref=sr_1_1?crid=1OPEBO8PBWB6C&keywords=norton+anthology+of+short+fiction+shorter&qid=1660830053&srefix=norton+athology+of+short+fiction+shorter%2Caps%2C64&sr=8-1

Gilgamesh: A New English Version https://www.amazon.ca/Gilgamesh-English-Version-Stephen-Mitchell-ebook/dp/B003P9XHZ8/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1626097690&sr=8-1

Normal People https://www.amazon.ca/Normal-People-Novel-Sally-Rooney-ebook/dp/B07FS7P349/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1626097736&sr=8-1

The Three Theban Plays https://www.amazon.ca/Three-Theban-Plays-Antigone-Oedipus-ebook/dp/B00256Z2AA/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=0140444254&qid=1626097786&sr=8-1

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass <https://broadviewpress.com/product/narrative-of-the-life-of-frederick-douglass-an-american-slave/#tab-description>

Assignments and Grade Distributions

Academic Integrity Tutorial

Four Quizzes: Best Three (3.33% each): 10%

Passage Analysis (1000 words): 20%

Essay (2500 words): 30%

Attendance and Participation: 5%

Final Exam: 35%

Academic Integrity Tutorial

All students are required to enroll in and complete the Centre for Teaching and Learning's Academic Integrity Tutorial. To access the tutorial, please use the link provided in the Resource tab in the course OWL site. Once the tutorial has been completed, you will receive a downloadable certificate. You must upload the certificate and submit it through the course Assignments tab in order to complete this assignment. The tutorial must be completed by Friday, Sept 22. This tutorial is mandatory in order for you to complete and pass the course. If you have completed the tutorial already for another course, you may upload the same certificate for this course; you do not need to repeat the tutorial.

Quizzes

Four short quizzes will be conducted in class at the beginning of lectures 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 3.33%), to count toward your final grade, for a total of 10%.

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 20% 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 students to develop their 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-five 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. Participation counts for 5% of your final grade.

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* (9th 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. **Late papers will be penalized 10 per cent for the first 24 hours and then 2% per day thereafter, including weekends. Papers submitted after the assignment is returned will not normally be accepted.**

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory in all classes and tutorials. In cases of excessive absenteeism (e.g. more than 9 unexcused hours for a half course, 18 for a full course), which are not accounted for by either academic consideration or accommodation, students may be debarred from taking the final examination, and will receive an official warning to this effect by or before the course drop date (see Senate policy). In classes with or without final exams, students who do not attend class will receive 0% for course participation grades.

Intellectual Property/Copyright

All instructor-written materials (e.g. PowerPoints, lecture notes, oral lectures) for this course are created solely for students' personal use within the course, and remain the instructor's intellectual property. Further reproduction, fixation, distribution, transmission, dissemination, communication, or any other uses, without securing the consent of the copyright owner (the course instructor) may be an infringement of copyright. You may not distribute, email, or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. These limitations extend to recording, photographing, or sharing lectures (online or in-person) and lecture material without permission. Posting the instructor's content from this course to online course sharing sites like OneClass or Course Hero without permission is both an infringement of intellectual property law

and a violation of academic integrity guidelines. The instructor will pass these cases on to the Western University Ombudsperson or their Department Chair as appropriate.

Accommodation Policies

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Accommodation for Students on Medical Grounds:

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth (either alone or in combination) 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 Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

The full policy is set out here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Religious Accommodation:

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

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>.

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.

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced gender-based or sexual violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, [here](#). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

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/>

Academic Support & Engagement <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.

Office Hours

Students are encouraged to speak with the instructor or their teaching assistant concerning any aspect of the course or its assignments during the office hours noted above. These times are open to anyone; you do not need to make an appointment. If these times are inconvenient, however, feel free to get in touch on email and arrange an alternative date and time.

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, text messaging, 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 Eighth Ed.

September	7	Introduction
	12	Fundamentals Poe, "The Fall of the House of Usher" (<i>NASF</i> 674-87)
	14	Fundamentals Poe, "The Fall of the House of Usher" (<i>NASF</i> 674-87)
	19	Fundamentals Poe, "The Fall of the House of Usher" (<i>NASF</i> 674-87)
	21	Fundamentals Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants" (<i>NASF</i> 349-53)
	26	Fundamentals Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants" (<i>NASF</i> 349-53)
	28	Fundamentals Bierce, "An Occurrence At Owl Creek Bridge" (<i>NASF</i> 78-84)
October	3	Fundamentals Bierce, "An Occurrence At Owl Creek Bridge" (<i>NASF</i> 78-84)
	5	Fundamentals Kafka, "The Metamorphosis" (<i>NASF</i> 399-433)
	10	Fundamentals Kafka, "The Metamorphosis" (<i>NASF</i> 399-433)
	12	Epic Mitchell, <i>Gilgamesh</i>

17	Epic Mitchell, <i>Gilgamesh</i>
19	Epic Mitchell, <i>Gilgamesh</i>
24	Epic Mitchell, <i>Gilgamesh</i>
26	Tragedy Sophocles, <i>Oedipus</i>
31	Reading Week
November 2	Reading Week
7	Tragedy Sophocles, <i>Oedipus</i>
9	Tragedy Sophocles, <i>Oedipus</i>
14	Autobiography Douglass, <i>Narrative</i>
16	Autobiography Douglass, <i>Narrative</i>
21	Autobiography Douglass, <i>Narrative</i>
23	Novel Rooney, <i>Normal People</i>
28	Novel Rooney, <i>Normal People</i>
30	Novel Rooney, <i>Normal People</i>
December 5	Novel Rooney, <i>Normal People</i>
7	Review