



UNSW
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University



ARTS3022

Narrative: The Art and Science of Storytelling

Term One // 2020

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

| Name | Email | Availability | Location | Phone |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|---|----------|
| Associate Professor Paul Dawson | paul.dawson@unsw.edu.au | By appointment | rm 218, level 2, Webster Building | 93852220 |

School Contact Information

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The School of the Arts and Media would like to Respectfully Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Bedegal (Kensington campus), Gadigal (City and Art & Design Campuses) and the Ngunnawal people (Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra) of the lands where each campus of UNSW is located.

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

This course develops your skills in rigorous close reading of the formal elements of narrative fiction, enabling you to better understand and appreciate how fiction works. What is a narrative? Do all narratives share formal features? How do authors construct their stories? How do readers recognize and make sense of these stories? You will learn the principles of narratology, and how it provides a poetics of fiction for critics and writers. You will gain in-depth knowledge of concepts such as free indirect discourse, perspective, unreliable narration, and the paratext. A number of recent theoretical approaches to narrative (feminist, cognitive, rhetorical) will be put into dialogue with each other and employed to anatomize novels that have provoked controversy or ethical debates amongst readers.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Identify and explain the formal features of narrative fiction
2. Analyze the relationship between form and content in individual works of narrative fiction
3. Interrogate the relationship between theoretical concepts and critical/creative practice
4. Assess the major movements and methodological debates within narrative theory

Teaching Strategies

Teaching strategies

- lectures to familiarise students with key issues and concepts in the course
- group discussion of issues raised by lectures and material in course reader
- close reading and textual analysis of set texts to develop critical skills
- occasional in-class group exercises
- time allocated for each student to offer their own opinion
- no set questions for major essay to encourage students to research the topics which most interest them, and to provide them with the opportunity to make their own original intervention in a scholarly debate

Assessment

Assessment criteria

Theoretical critique

- demonstrated understanding of methodological procedures in narrative theory
- capacity to exercise logic and original thinking in the service of disciplinary debate
- ability to successfully argue a point

creative experiment

- demonstrated awareness of narratological categories and their creative possibilities
- the capacity to engage productively with these categories in the genre of fiction
- ability to structure an innovative narrative

In class test

- Demonstrated familiarity with and understanding of theoretical concepts covered in the first five weeks of the course
- Ability to provide a considered and insightful response to the exam questions
- Clarity of thought and written expression

Scholarly essay

- demonstrated understanding of narrative techniques operating in the literary work(s) under scrutiny
- productive use of relevant narratological methods to explicate these techniques
- capacity and willingness to develop your own approach to theories of narrative
- ability to produce a clearly written, grammatically correct, and logically structured essay, proof-read for all errors
- ability to construct a sustained and coherent argument about the chosen topic
- ability to situate your argument in the context of a wider scholarly debate
- ability to support this argument with a 'close reading' of the books discussed
- ability to cite and analyse appropriate passages as textual evidence
- demonstrated awareness of the issues raised and debated in class
- demonstrated knowledge of the books being discussed
- ability to correctly and consistently employ a recognised referencing system

Assessment Tasks

| Assessment task | Weight | Due Date | Student Learning Outcomes Assessed |
|---|--------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| In-class test | 30% | 02/04/2020 10:00 AM | 1,4 |
| Theoretical critique OR creative experiment | 20% | 13/03/2020 11:00 PM | 3,4 |
| Scholarly essay | 50% | 01/05/2020 11:00 PM | 1,2,3,4 |

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: In-class test

Start date:

Details: 40 minute closed book test. Marked tests returned with numerical mark, assessment rubric and comments. Lecturer will also provide general feedback about the test answers in the class when marked tests are returned. This will enable students to correct areas of weakness before the major assignment.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 2: Theoretical critique OR creative experiment

Start date:

Details: 1000 word critical diagnosis of the research questions and methods of narratology OR 1000 word microfiction that experiments with one or more elements of narrative form covered in the course. Assignments returned with numerical mark, assessment rubric and comments. There will also be a general discussion in class about the strengths and weaknesses revealed by this assessment exercise.

Assessment 3: Scholarly essay

Start date:

Details: 3000 words. This is the final assessment task. Numerical mark and assessment rubric provided. Written commentary provided with marked essay if requested.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

– Vladimir Nabokov, *Lolita*

– Ian McEwan, *Atonement*

Recommended Resources

Recommended reading:

Gerard Genette. *Narrative Discourse: An Essay in Method*. 1972. Trans. Jane E. Lewin, Ithaca: Cornell UP, 1980.

Online resources:

– *The Living Handbook of Narratology*: <http://www.lhn.uni-hamburg.de>

– Manfred Jahn, *Narratology: A Guide to the Theory of Narrative*: <http://www.uni-koeln.de/~ame02/pppn.htm>

Course Evaluation and Development

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au. Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

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