

Department of English & Writing Studies
The Storyteller's Art I: Introduction to Narrative
English 1027F (002)
Fall 2022

Instructor: Dr. Alison Lee
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Course Location: UC 3110

Course Day/Time: Monday/Wednesday
2:30-3:30 pm

Office Hours: Monday 10:30-12:30 by zoom
(other times, in person or on zoom, by
appointment)

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek (Ah-nish-in-a-bek), Haudenosaunee (Ho-den-no-show-nee), Lūnaapéewak (Len-ahpay-wuk) and Chonnonton (Chun-ongk-ton) Nations, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum.

With this, we respect the longstanding relationships that Indigenous Nations have to this land, as they are the original caretakers. We acknowledge historical and ongoing injustices that Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) endure in Canada, and we accept responsibility as a public institution to contribute toward revealing and correcting miseducation as well as renewing respectful relationships with Indigenous communities through our teaching, research and community service.

Course Description

Reading literature allows us to think differently, to engage our curiosity and imagination, to look into the past and to see the present through different eyes. Literature demonstrates the power of language to persuade, to move, and sometimes to mislead. It introduces us to new words and words in new combinations that allow us to think new thoughts. This course will examine how it does so focussing on how narratives are constructed and stories are told.

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 an opportunity to discuss 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 will have completed the 1.0 credits in first-year English necessary to take senior courses in English.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify and analyse basic elements of narrative literature such as plot, story, character, point of view, setting, imagery, diction, and tone;
- Develop a critical reading of a text, and write essays that have an effective thesis and a logical argument supported by evidence from the text(s);
- Engage in research and properly document their essays using the MLA guidelines;
- *Converse in the language of the discipline, using literary terms and concepts, both in written and oral forms;
- Demonstrate a basic ability to practice intersectional analysis.

Course Materials

Required Texts:

Print copies are available from the Campus Bookstore (includes an option for delivery) <https://bookstore.uwo.ca/> Digital versions are available from the vendors whose URLs are listed below the titles.

Broadview Introduction to Literature: Short Fiction. Second Ed. (Broadview). (BIL)
<https://broadviewpress.com/product/the-broadview-introduction-to-literature-short-fiction-second-edition/#tab-description>

Mitchell, Stephen, ed. *Gilgamesh: A New English Version* (Free Press).
<https://www.simonandschuster.ca/books/Gilgamesh/Stephen-Mitchell/9781439104743>

Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic* (Mariner/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
<https://www.hmhbooks.com/shop/books/fun-home/9780618871711>

Andrea Levy, *The Long Song* (Penguin).
<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/417169/the-long-song-by-andrea-levy/9780143173953>

Searchable Style Guide: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html

Methods of Evaluation

Final Exam: 35%

Tutorial: 15%:

TWO Passage Analyses: (approximately 750 words each) 2x15% Due **September 28; October 26.**

Final Paper: (2000-2500 words) 20% Due **November 28.**

Assignments will be submitted electronically through the OWL site, and are due by 11:55 pm on the due date.

***PLEASE NOTE: there will be no extensions without academic accommodation.

Late papers without academic accommodation will have 15% deducted on day 1, and 2% per day on subsequent days, including weekends, to a maximum of 7 days, after which the paper will receive a 0.

If you wish to request a re-reading of any of your work, you must make the request no more than 7 days after receipt of the grade. The first step in this process is to contact the person who originally graded your paper to ask for clarification. If you still have questions, I will read the paper.

Email:

While I appreciate that email is the dinosaur of communication strategies, it is nevertheless the medium through which the University, and I, will get in touch. Please check it from time to time. I try to respond to email within 24 hours, 48 on weekends.

Passage Analyses:

Students will be assigned an excerpt from a longer work. 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? Further information will be posted with the assignment.

Final Essay:

The questions for this essay will be based on the longer texts on the course – *Gilgamesh*, *Fun Home* and *The Long Song*. You will be expected to use **at least** one secondary source (scholarly, peer-reviewed sources as opposed to Wikipedia or SparkNotes), and this should support your argument, or show places in which your analysis differs from that of the critic(s) upon whom you are drawing. More information about how to access secondary texts from the library will be forthcoming in tutorials.

Exam:

The final exam will be a take home. It will be released through Assignments on OWL on a date and time specified by the Registrar's Office during the regular exam period in April. You will have 24 hours to complete the exam, although it will be created to be a three-hour exam, and should not take you longer than that.

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 other's 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 Purdue OWL (https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html) for a good online guide to the MLA method.

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. Unless other policies dictate a different set of penalties in specific English and Writing Studies programs, this will apply to all department programs.

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

The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see [Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#) and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.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.

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.

Timetable

September 12: Introduction

September 14: Margaret Atwood, "Happy Endings"; James Kelman, "Acid." (BIL)

September 19: Ursula Le Guin, "The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas." (BIL)

September 21, 26, 28, Oct 3: Mitchell, Ed. *Gilgamesh*.

October 5 : Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper" (BIL)

October 10: THANKSGIVING

October 12: "The Yellow Wallpaper" con't.

October 17, 19, 24: Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*.

October 26: Madeleine Thien, "Simple Recipes" (BIL)

October 31-November 6 READING WEEK

November 7: Kazuo Ishiguro, "A Family Supper" (BIL)

November 9, 14, 16, 21: Andrea Levy, *The Long Song*.

November 23: Ali Smith, "True Short Story"

November 28: Octavia Butler, "Speech Sounds" (BIL)

November 30: Jonathan Safran Foer, "A Primer for the Punctuation of Heart Disease" (BIL online)

December 5: REVIEW