

English 6761 Introduction to Graduate Study in Narrative and Narrative Theory Course Syllabus

Wednesday 1:50-4:05PM

Denney 245

Professor Amy Shuman: shuman.1@osu.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 12:30-1:30; Thursday ..and by appointment.

Course Description:

An introduction to the foundations of narrative study. The course provides the tools necessary to do narrative analysis for a thesis or dissertation on any sort of narrative text, including both narratives collected in interviews or on the web or in published fiction. We will discuss a wide variety of narratives including folk tales, everyday conversational narratives, stories about illness and disability, refugee stories, and stories about the ordinary and extraordinary experiences of everyday life. We will analyze narratives from a variety of sources, including published fiction and non-fiction, internet blogs and other media, and stories recorded in everyday life.

Assignment 1, Due September 6. Part 1: Do a Proppian analysis of both the Grimm's Rapunzel and Ann Sexton's Rapunzel (on Carmen). Part 2: Chart the narrative moments of Borges' "Death and the Compass" Post your assignment to Carmen

Assignment 2, Due October 11. Post the transcript or a one page description of the narrative you want to work on in this class.

Assignment 3, Select one reading to present in class. Please post, and bring to class, a 1-2 page summary of the reading and 2 questions/comments about it.

Assignment 4, post 3-5 sentence comments on one reading for 6 separate class meetings.

Final assignment, due December 13: a 7-10 page term paper for a conference presentation or a 7-10 page discussion of one area of reading, including the optional topics.

(Students taking the class with the s/u option need to do assignments 1, 3, and 4.)

Schedule of Readings

August 23: Discussion of basic terms including plot, character, theme, setting, time, place,

August 30: How narrative works, the key elements

Toolan, Michael "Narrative as Socially Situated" in *Narrative: a Critical Linguistic Introduction* NY: Routledge, 1988, pp 146-164.

Labov, William "The Transformation of Narrative Syntax" in *Language in the Inner City*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1972.

De Fina, Anna, and Alexandra Georgakopoulou "Text and Structure". *Analyzing narrative: Discourse and sociolinguistic perspectives*. Cambridge University Press, 2011.

Rimmon-Kenan, "Introduction" and "Story-Events" *Narrative Fiction* N.Y.: Routledge, 1983, pp 1-28.

September 6: The Structure of the Fairytale (under Fairytale Structure)

Assignment 1: Using Propp's model, identify the morphology of both versions of Rapunzel (Grimm and Ann Sexton)

Propp, Vladimir *Morphology of the Folktale*

Bremond, Claude "The Logic of Narrative Possibilities" *New Literary History*, 1980. Vol. 11: 3 pp 387-411

Borges, Jorge L. "Death and the Compass"

Johnstone, Barbara "Discourse Analysis and Narrative" in *The Handbook of Discourse Analysis* eds. Deborah Schiffrin, Deborah Tannen, and Heidi Hamilton. Oxford: Blackwell. 2001.

September 13: Genre

Bakhtin, M.M. "The Problem of Speech Genres"

Seitel, Peter "Powers of Genre"

Stewart, Susan "Distressed Genres" (note: the first part of the file is "Scandals of the Ballad" which is included for your interest but won't be discussed)

September 20: Perspective, point of view, focalization

Genette, from *Narrative Discourse*, pp. 185-211.

Phelan, James "Dual Focalization, Retrospective Fictional Autobiography, and the Ethics of *Lolita*" in *Narrative and Consciousness: Literature, Psychology and the Brain* Ed. Gary Fireman, Ted McVay, and Owen Flanagan. Oxford

Bal, "Focalization" in *Narratology: Introduction to the Theory of Narrative*, Toronto, pp. 100-118.

Rimmon-Kenan "Focalization" pp 71-85.

September 27: Character

Cashman, Ray "Storytelling and the Construction of Local Identities on the Irish Border"

Phelan, James P. excerpt from "Living to Tell about it, A Rhetoric and Ethics of Character Narration, Cornell.

Rimmon-Kenan "Character" pp 29-42 and "Characterization" pp 58-70

October 4: Positioning, Stance, and Frame

Michael Bamberg "Positioning Between Structure and Performance"

Goffman, Erving "Footing"

Goffman, Erving "The Frame Analysis of Talk" from *Frame Analysis*

Du Bois, John W., and Elise Kärkkäinen. "Taking a stance on emotion: Affect, sequence, and intersubjectivity in dialogic interaction." *Text & Talk* 32.4 (2012): 433-451.

Bucholtz, Mary "From Stance to Style: Gender, Interaction, and Indexicality in Mexican Immigrant Youth Slang" in *Stance: Sociolinguistic Perspectives*. 2009.

Recommended:

Baynham, Mike. "Stance, positioning, and alignment in narratives of professional experience." *Language in Society* 40.1 (2011): 63-74.

October 11: Time, Space, Chronotope

Rimmon-Kenan "Time" pp 43-38

M.M. Bakhtin, from "Forms of Time and of the Chronotope in the Novel"

Hill, Jane H. "The Voices of Don Gabriel: Responsibility and Self in a Modern Mexican Narrative"

Cashman, Ray "Politics and the Sense of Place in Northern Ireland"

October 18 (small group meeting)

October 25: Memory, Time, Trauma

Barbara Myerhoff "Life History among the elderly: Performance, visibility and remembering," Life History as Integration: Personal Myth and Aging," "Life not Death in Venice," and "Surviving stories" from Remembered Lives

Laub, Dori "Truth and Testimony: The Process and the Struggle"
Erikson, "Notes on Trauma and Community"

Lindahl, Carl "Legends of Hurricane Katrina: The Right to be Wrong, Survivor-to-Survivor Stories of Healing" *Journal of American Folklore* 125: 496. 2012, pp 139-176.

Recommended: Kai Erikson "Collective Trauma and the Loss of Communitality"

November 1: Self and Life Story in Illness and Disability Narratives

Couser, G. Thomas "Self-Reconstruction: Personal Narratives of Breast Cancer"

Smith, Sidonie "Taking it to a Limit One More Time: Autobiography and Autism"

Ochs and Capps "Becoming a Narrator" *Living Narrative*

Gubrium, Jaber and James Holstein "Narrative Practice and the Coherence of Personal Stories" *Sociological Quarterly* 39:1, 1998, pp 163-187.

Briggs, Charles "Communicability, Racial Discourse, and Disease" *Annual Review of Anthropology* 2005. 34: 269-91.

November 8: Counter Narrative and Dialogic Narration

Warhol, Robyn and Susan Lanser "Introduction to Narrative Theory 2.0"

Bruner, Edward and Phyllis Gorfain "Dialogic narration and the paradoxes of Masada. pp 56-79 in Edward Bruner, Ed. *Text, Play and Story: the construction and reconstruction of self and society*. 1983 proceedings of the American ethnological society. 1984.

Georgakopoulou, Alexandra "Women, Men, and Conversational Narrative Performances: Aspects of Gender and Storytelling" *Anthropological Linguistics* 37: 4, 1995, pp 460-486.

Borland, Katherine “‘That’s Not What I Said’: Interpretive Conflict in Oral Narrative Research”

Shuman, Amy “Entitlement and Empathy in Personal Narrative”

November 15 Media, Transmedia, Intertextuality

Toolan, Michael. “Electronic Multimodal Narratives and Literary Form” in Ruth Page, ed. *New Perspectives on Narrative and Multimodality* N.Y.: Routledge, 2010, pp 127-141.

Herman, David and Ruth Page “Eighteen Questions for the Study of Narrative and Multimodality” in Ruth Page, ed. *New Perspectives on Narrative and Multimodality* N.Y.: Routledge, 2010, pp 217-220.

Page, Ruth. “The Narrative Dimensions of Social Media Storytelling: Options for Linearity and Tellership” in *The Handbook of Narrative Analysis*. Eds. Anna De Fina and Alexandra Georgakapoulou. NY: Wiley, 2015.

November 22 (no class meeting—Thanksgiving)

November 29: Student Presentations

December 6: Student Presentations

Optional Small Group Reading Topics:

1. Classical Narratology
Gerard Genette
2. Digital Narrative
Ryan, Marie-Laure
3. Narrative, Medicine, Disability
Frank, “Illness as a Call for Stories” from *The Wounded Storyteller*
Elinor Ochs
Rita Charon
4. Narrative Interaction (Linguistic Anthropological Approaches)
Selections from Ochs and Capps and Schiffrin and DeFina, Sacks Lecture Notes
Ochs and Capps “A Dimensional Approach to Narrative” in *Living Narrative*
Georgakopoulou, Alexandra
5. Oral History and History
Portelli

- White, the Value of Narrative
Hill, Jane "The Voices of
6. Folklore and Performance
Gunnell, Terry. Narratives, Space and Drama: Essential Spatial Aspects involved
in the Performance and Reception of Oral Narrative
Noyes, Dorothy
Mills, Margaret
Bauman, Richard
Mullen, Patrick

Plagiarism is the representation of another's works or ideas as one's own: it includes the unacknowledged word for word use and/or paraphrasing of another person's work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person's ideas. All cases of suspected plagiarism, in accordance with university rules, will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. I note that the alternative is to cite others' work. In this class, citation is valued as a form of significant intellectual work.

Disability issues: Anyone who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability (documented or not) should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Anyone with such needs should also be aware of the Office for Disability Services in room 150 Pomerene Hall (614-292-3307) which provides services for students with documented disabilities. I welcome any suggestions for making the classroom more accessible, and I design my classes with accessibility in mind.