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


**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 Folk tale


Borges, Jorge L. “Death and the Compass”


**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.


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*


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

Recommended:

**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 Mexicano Narrative”

Cashman, Ray “Politics and the Sense of Place in Northern Ireland”
October 18 (small group meeting)

October 25: Memory, Time, Trauma


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


Recommended: Kai Erikson “Collective Trauma and the Loss of Communality”

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*


November 8: Counter Narrative and Dialogic Narration

Warhol, Robyn and Susan Lanser “Introduction to Narrative Theory 2.0”


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


**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.