



Instructor: Cary Dipietro

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Course Number: ENG110Y5Y

Course Title: Narrative

Course description: In this course, we will explore the many ways narrative permeates our society – from children’s stories to music videos, from flash fiction to famous works of literature – and how aspects of narrative such as character, narration and genre help us to make sense of and articulate our lived experience. We will explore the roles narrative has played in our shared cultural history, how narrative even determines what we understand of history, and how different genres of writing have been used to communicate, for example, the crisis of colonial encounter, the hardships of slavery, and the trauma of war. Through the year, we will consider a variety of different narrative forms including the narrative poem, short story, novella, case study, history, graphic novel and novel. In addition to an introductory unit on narrative terminology and theory, we will also give emphasis to such topics as the writing of morality, identity, gender, and history.

Required Reading: selected flash narratives, short stories, music videos, and oral narratives; Thomas King, *The Truth About Stories*; Geoffrey Chaucer, “The Nun’s Priest’s Tale”; Angela Carter, selections from *The Bloody Chamber*;

Continued...

Simon Winchester, *The Professor and the Madman*; Sigmund Freud, selection from *The Interpretation of Dreams*, and *Dora*; Henry James, *The Turn of the Screw*; D. M. Thomas, *The White Hotel*; Natalie Zemon-Davis, *The Return of Martin Guerre*; Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One’s Own*; Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*; Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (1818 text). Texts will be available for purchase at the UTM bookstore. Please consult the website to purchase the correct editions.

First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied: selected flash narratives and short stories by authors including Margaret Atwood, Neil Gaiman, and Michael Crummey; King, *The Truth About Stories*; Chaucer, “The Nun’s Priest’s Tale.”

Method of Instruction: Lecture and tutorial discussion.

Method of Evaluation: Tutorial participation, close-reading assignments, essays, mid-term and final exam.