

Course Description Form

Course number and section: English 153

Course Topic: Readings in Narrative

Credits: 3

Term: 1

Instructor: Dr. George C. Grinnell

Course Description (aim for no more than 80 – 100 words for your course description):

Narratives shape our lives. Human beings tell stories and reflect on stories. We make sense of our lives and the world around us by telling and receiving stories. This course seeks to understand how narratives function and why they matter. The course takes as one of its abiding principles that cultural narratives are fundamentally social: they can impact our everyday lives and are not simply entertaining diversions from reality. We will consider how they help to create, reinforce, and challenge how we perceive and understand the world around us. Emphasis will also be placed upon developing an understanding of theory and methods useful for the study of narratives, including visual narratives, short stories, novels, speculative fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and a memoir. Significant time and attention will be given to developing successful and sophisticated university-level writing and argumentation, skills that will be an asset to you for your entire university career.

Tentative Reading List: (Be as concise as possible with your reading list, but please also specify the genre of each required text. See sample below)

They Say/I Say by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein 5th edition (bookstore)

Signs Preceding the End of the World by Yuri Herrera (bookstore)

The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead (bookstore)

Narrative Theory by George Grinnell (available for free via Canvas)

Additional Readings (available for free via Canvas)

Other: