

ENGL 117 How to read stories

Trimester 1 2010

1 March to 4 July 2010

20 Points

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	1 March 2010 to 4 June 2010
Mid-trimester break:	5 April to 18 April 2010
Study week:	7 June to 11 June 2010

WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Staff	Email	Phone	Room
Linda Hardy	linda.hardy@vuw.ac.nz	463 6806	VZ 812 (Course co-ordinator)
James Meffan	james.meffan@vuw.ac.nz	463 6807	VZ 903 (Course co-ordinator)
Brian Opie	brian.opie@vuw.ac.nz	463 6812	VZ 804
Mark Williams	mark.williams@vuw.ac.nz	463 6810	VZ 911

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Days	Time	Room Number
Mon, Tue, Thu	4.10 – 5.00 pm	Hunter LT 323

Tutorials

TBA

COURSE DELIVERY

ENGL 117 will be taught by a combination of one-hour lectures and tutorials. There will be three lectures and one tutorial per week. Students should prepare for both lectures and tutorials by reading set texts prior to the classes in which they are discussed. Preparatory reading is noted in the lecture programme below. Further reading will be specified in class.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All changes or additional information will be conveyed to students via Blackboard.

COURSE CONTENT

This course aims to provide students with some essential tools for the study of narrative. The primary focus is literary fiction, but examples will be drawn from a variety of genres and media for comparative purposes. Students will be introduced to distinctive aspects of narrative form and provided with a basic critical vocabulary for the accurate analysis of narrative texts.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, students should:

- a) have gained an understanding of narrative form through a range of critical and narrative texts;
- b) be familiar with important narratological terms and concepts;
- c) have developed the skills of critically focussed reading through close analysis;
- d) understand the relationship between narrative form and content;
- e) understand what is distinctive about the ways different media produce narratives;
- f) be able to explicate the relationship between the formal features and content of selected narratives;
- g) be able to accurately analyse narratives in a range of media and genres.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

You should expect to spend, on average, about **13 hours per week** on work for this paper (*apart* from time in class). **Please note that this is a rough guideline only.** Some students may have to put in more time than others. The time commitment will be greatest in the weeks immediately prior to submission dates.

READINGS

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of vicbooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate

textbooks will be sold from vicbooks and student notes from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building. You can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to you or they can be picked up from the shop. You will be contacted when they are available.

Essential texts:

H. Porter Abbott, *The Cambridge Introduction to Narrative*, 2nd edition (Cambridge UP)

Ian McEwen, *Atonement* (Vintage)

Further readings will be posted on Blackboard in the Course Documents folder.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Assessment is 100% internal, consisting of:

- three short critical exercises 15% each; 45% total;
- a class test (20%);
- a critical analysis essay 35%.

All assignment topics will be posted on Blackboard in the Assignments folder well in advance of the due dates.

1. Critical Exercise 1: 15%
Due date: Friday 12 March (5 pm).
2. Critical Exercise 2: 15%
Due date: Friday 26 March (5 pm).
3. Class Test: 20%
Held in class on Thursday 1 April.
4. Critical Exercise 3: 15%
Due date: Friday 7 May (5 pm).
5. Critical Analysis Essay: 35%
Due date: Thursday 3 June (5 pm).

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

PENALTIES AND EXTENSIONS

If work is handed in late, then one grade is subtracted and no comments are offered.

Extensions

Extensions will be granted only in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. Issues of workload do not constitute exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Tutors cannot grant extensions.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To gain a pass in this course you must:

- Submit the written work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- Attend a minimum of 8 tutorials

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

A class representative will be elected in the second class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

STATEMENT ON LEGIBILITY

You are expected to present work that meets appropriate standards. Work submitted during the course (i. e. work that is internally assessed) should be typed or prepared on a computer. Work submitted in the class test will obviously be handwritten. You are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed 'illegible', you will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES

You should familiarise yourself with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC (Academic) website also provides information in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week	Date	Lecture	Lecturer	Readings
Week 1	Mon 1 Mar	Introduction	(JM)	Chapter 1 Narrative and life
	Tue 2 Mar	What is narrative?	(JM)	Chapter 2 Defining narrative
	Thu 4 Mar	What isn't?	(JM)	Chapter 3 The borders of narrative
Week 2	Mon 8 Mar	"Fat girls in glasses from New Zealand"	(MW)	<i>Atonement</i>
	Tue 9 Mar	Narrative delinquencies	(MW)	
	Thu 11 Mar	"A sense of evil"	(MW)	
ASSIGNMENT 1 Due – 12 March 5pm				
Week 3	Mon 15 Mar	Story and discourse (1)	(JM)	Chapter 5 Closure
	Tue 16 Mar	Narrativity and literariness	(LH)	Chapter 6 Narration
	Thu 18 Mar	Story and discourse (2)	(LH)	
Week 4	Mon 22 Mar	Plot	(LH)	
	Tue 23 Mar	Time	(LH)	
	Thu 25 Mar	Who is speaking?	(LH)	
ASSIGNMENT 2 Due – 26 Mar 5pm				
Week 5	Mon 29 Mar	Focalisation	(LH)	Re-read <i>Atonement</i>
	Tue 30 Mar	Closure	(LH)	
	Thu 1 Apr	CLASS TEST		
Mid Trimester Break:		Friday 2 April– Sunday 18 April 2010		
Week 6	Mon 19 Apr	Intentional reading (1)	(LH)	Chapter 7 Interpreting narrative
	Tue 20 Apr	Intentional reading (2)	(LH)	Chapter 8 Three ways to interpret narrative
	Thu 22 Apr	Symptomatic reading	(LH)	

Week 7	Mon 26 Apr	The rhetoric of narrative	(BO)	Chapter 4 The rhetoric of narrative
	Tue 27 Apr	The medium matters	(BO)	Chapter 9 Adaptation across media
	Thu 29 Apr	Analysing film narratives	(JM)	
Week 8	Mon 3 May	Narrative and media	(BO)	
	Tue 4 May	From page to (digital) screen	(BO)	
	Thu 6 May	Is the real world really real?	(BO)	
ASSIGNMENT 3 Due 7 May 5pm				
Week 9	Mon 10 May	Character, self and story	(BO)	Chapter 10 Character and self in narrative
	Tue 11 May	Fiction and reality	(BO)	
	Thu 13 May	Fiction and meaning	(BO)	Chapter 11 Narrative and truth Chapter 12 Narrative worlds
Week 10	Mon 17 May	Space, time and narrative	(BO)	
	Tue 18 May	Multiple worlds	(BO)	
	Thu 20 May	Is truth stranger than fiction?	(BO)	
Week 11	Mon 24 May	Interpretation vs reading	(JM)	Chapter 13 Narrative contestation
	Tue 25 May	Design and intention	(JM)	Chapter 14 Narrative negotiation
	Thu 27 May	Judgement and authority	(JM)	
Week 12	Mon 31 May	Literature and politics	(JM)	
	Tue 1 Jun	The moral of the story	(JM)	
	Thu 3 Jun	The death of the author	(JM)	
CRITICAL ANALYSIS ESSAY Due 3 June 5pm				
Study Week:	Monday 7 June to Friday 11 June 2010			
Examination Period:	Friday 11 June – Sunday 4 July 2010			