



**SCHOOL OF LINGUISTICS AND APPLIED LANGUAGE STUDIES**

**Linguistics Programme  
LING 331 Special Topic: Literary Linguistics**

**TRIMESTER 2 2010**  
12 July to 13 November 2010

**Trimester dates**

**Teaching dates:** 12 July 2010 to 15 October 2010

**Mid-trimester break:** 23 August to 5 September 2010

**Study week:** 18 - 22 October 2010

**Examination/Assessment period:** 22 October to 13 November 2010

LING 331 has no examination

**Course coordinator**

Dr Sky Marsen

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Office hours: tba

**Class times and locations**

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-12

Location: Murphy 301

**Course delivery**

LING 331 has one 2-hour lecture and one 2-hour tutorial per week.

**Communication of additional information**

Additional information will be communicated through e-mail and Blackboard,  
[www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz](http://www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz)

**Course content**

The course explores literary narrative from a linguistic perspective, and examines the importance of style in creating different aesthetic and emotive effects. By analysing the structure, style and themes of selected novels, the course aims to develop an

appreciation of the ways in which language represents the world through stylistic strategies.

In the course, we will discuss topics relating to the stylistic elements of literary narratives. We aim to answer questions such as:

- How do syntactic structure and lexical choice create different reader effects?
- What are the fundamental characteristics of narrative?
- How does language create point of view and representation?

### **Learning objectives**

After taking the course, you should:

- Understand and be able to evaluate stylistic strategies in relation to their communicative effects.
- Be able to analyse a narrative text in relation to structural, stylistic and semantic structures.
- Understand and be able to apply major narrative- semiotic models of text analysis, such as the actantial model.
- Understand the role of syntax in style, and be able to appreciate and produce different stylistic effects through syntactic manipulation.

### **Expected workload**

Generally you should allow for about 15 hours work outside of class per week.

### **Texts**

#### **Required Texts**

##### **1. Novels**

Gaiman, Neil (2002): *Coraline*. London: Bloomsbury

McEwan, Ian (1990) *The Innocent*. London: Vintage

Shelley, Mary (1818) *Frankenstein*. London: Popular Penguins

Vonnegut, Kurt (1963) *Cat's Cradle*. London: Popular Penguins

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.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz). Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from the shop. Customers will be contacted when

they are available. Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

## **2. Theory:**

Required weekly readings are available from e-reserve. A list will be distributed in the first class.

### **Recommended Texts**

The following relevant texts are on 3-day loan at the library. These provide background to the topics that we will cover in class:

Bal, Mieke (1985) *Narratology: Introduction to the theory of narrative*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. PN212 B171 TE

Bradford, Robert (1997) *Stylistics*. London: Routledge PN203 B799S

Chatman, S. (1978) *Story and discourse: Narrative structure in fiction and film*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. NX650 N37 C494S

Cobley, Paul (Ed) (2010) *Routledge companion to semiotics*. London: Routledge P99 R869 2010

Danesi, Marcel (2000) *Encyclopedic dictionary of semiotics, media and communication*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. P87.5 D179E

Fowler, Roger (1986) *Linguistic Criticism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. P.302.5 F787L 2ed.

Genette, Gerard (1980) [1972] *Narrative discourse: An essay in method*. Trans. By J. E. Lewin. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. PQ 2631 R63 A6125G328N

Marsen, Sky (2006) *Narrative Dimensions of Philosophy*. London: Palgrave. B72M364N

Martin, Bronwen and Ringham, Felizitas (2006) *Key terms in semiotics*. London: Continuum. P99 M379K

Prince, Gerald (1982) *Dictionary of narratology*. Amsterdam: Mouton. P.302.7 P955 D

Toolan, Michael (1998) *Language in literature*. London: Arnold. P302.5 T671L

### Assessment requirements

Task	Length	Credit	Due Date
Essay 1	About 2,000 words	25%	17 August
Essay 2	About 3,500 words	40%	14 October
Oral presentation	About 10 minutes	10%	August-September
In-class test	N/A	25%	7 October

*Essay topics will be given in class.*

You must pass all assignments to pass the course.

### Criteria for assessment

The assessment will be based on an analysis of the four novels in relation to selected theoretical principles. You should show understanding of the nature, function and structures of literary discourse and be able to support your analysis and evaluation with the use of the models and interpretive theories described during the course.

### Submitting assignments

1. Submit all assignments by due date. If you need an extension, consult with the coordinator. Assignments submitted late without permission are penalised by 2% per late day, including weekends. An assignment that is more than one week late may be refused a grade.
2. Use 1.5 line spacing and allow enough margin for comments.
3. Submit in both hard copy and by e-mail as a Word document.

### Victoria University grades

Marks	85+	80-84	75-79	70-74	65-69	60-64	55-59	50-54	40-49	<40
Grades	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	E

### Mandatory course requirements (Terms)

In order to qualify for grade assessment at the end of the course, you must meet these conditions:

1. Complete and pass all assignments

2. Attend all tutorials (unless there is justifiable cause to be absent), complete the reading tasks, and participate in discussions.

### **Class Representative**

A class representative will be elected in the first 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.

### **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>

### **Use of Turnitin**

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted material on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions is not made available to any other party.

## **GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES**

Students should familiarise themselves 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 for students 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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx)