

ENGL 431 Literary Criticism

Trimester 2 2015

13 July to 15 November 2015

30 Points

IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates:	13 July to 16 October 2015
Mid-trimester break:	24 August to 6 September 2015
Study period:	19 to 23 October 2015
Examination/Assessment period:	23 October to 14 November 2015

Note: Students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

Withdrawal dates:

Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Wed	10.00 – 1.00 pm	Von Zedlitz VZ808
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NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Staff	Email	Phone	Room	Office Hours
James Meffan	James.Meffan@vuw.ac.nz	463 6807	vZ 903	tba

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

PRESCRIPTION

Narrative - telling stories - is fundamental to our interactions in and with the world. Yet narrative, like language, is no neutral medium, nor are its rules and methods fixed. This course introduces some influential accounts of what narrative is and how it works. What kinds of logic do we use to shape and to understand stories? How do narratives order, disrupt and transform our understanding of the world? Students intending to enrol on this course are encouraged to read through the first set text (Abbott) before seminars begin.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with the distinctive form and content of all texts studied;
2. Demonstrate familiarity with relevant critical concerns;
3. Show evidence of having read texts critically, paying close attention to detail;
4. Discuss texts comparatively and contextually;
5. Synthesise a range of ideas and approaches into a coherent argument;
6. Demonstrate familiarity with the conventions of academic writing and ethics.

TEACHING FORMAT

The course is delivered through weekly three hour seminars. Seminar discussions are based on the readings detailed in the seminar programme below. Seminars will be led by the course convenor but with time set aside for class members to introduce the readings.

Each student is required to introduce a seminar, and to circulate to the class, one week in advance of the seminar, an outline of questions for discussion. Presentations are not formally assessed, but they may be taken into account when the final Honours grade is being considered. You should examine the seminar schedule and nominate a topic which you will be prepared to introduce as soon as possible.

The **supplementary texts** assigned for each seminar – other than the chapters from second editions of *The Cambridge Introduction to Narrative* and from *Postmodern Narrative Theory* – are available on **Blackboard**. Students are expected to be well-prepared for classes, particularly in their reading, and to be ready to participate in discussion.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

- Attend at least 9 of the 12 seminars (unless otherwise excused by the Course Coordinator);
- Achieve at least 25% in each piece of assessment.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 30-point course is 300 hours over the trimester or 25 hours per teaching week. Individual students will of course need to make their own judgements about the amount of time they must give to the course in order to maintain satisfactory progress. You are not required to read any texts for this course other than those assigned for each seminar and prescribed for the course. Nevertheless, you may wish to extend your reading in an aspect of the course which particularly interests you.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	500-word reading report	8%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	24/07/15
2	500-word reading report	8%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	7/08/15
3	500-word reading report	8%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	21/08/15
4	2500-word essay	26%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	9/10/15
5	Exam 3 hours (23 October to 14 November 2015)	50%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	

Please note: Marks for Honours level assignments and final course grades are not finalised until feedback from the external examiner has been considered. Honours grades gained in individual courses remain provisional until the overall final classification made by the Honours programme examination committee.

SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

Work provided for assessment in this course will be checked for academic integrity by Turnitin. Follow the instructions provided in the "Assignments and Turnitin" section of Blackboard.

Electronic assignments are submitted as a MS Word file through Blackboard. How to name your file and step-by-step instructions can be found on Blackboard in the "Assignments and Turnitin" section.

Your marked assignment will be found on Blackboard in the same section.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

Extensions

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. To apply for an extension, email your Course Coordinator before the assignment is due. If granted, your Course Coordinator will

inform you of the new due date. **No assignment with or without an extension will be accepted after Friday 13 November 2015.**

Penalties

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

SET TEXTS

Abbott, H. Porter. *The Cambridge Introduction to Narrative*. 2nd revised edition, Cambridge University Press.

Currie, Mark. *Postmodern Narrative Theory*. 2nd edition, Palgrave.

You can order textbooks online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz.

RECOMMENDED READING

Tony Thwaites, Lloyd Davis, and Warwick Mules, *Tools for Cultural Studies: An Introduction* (Melbourne: Macmillan, 1994); Frank Lentricchia and Thomas McLaughlin (eds.) *Critical Terms for Literary Study* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2nd edition, 1995); Wayne Booth, *The Rhetoric of Fiction* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1961); Peter Brooks, *Reading for the Plot: Design and Intention in Narrative* (New York: Knopf, 1984); David Lodge, *After Bakhtin: Essays on Fiction and Criticism* (London: Routledge, 1990); Suzanne Keen, *Narrative Form* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003); Martin McQuillan (ed.), *The Narrative Reader*, (London: Routledge, 2000).

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Student feedback on this course is always given due consideration and, where appropriate, used to influence course developments.

Students have often commented on the intellectual challenge presented by course readings. In response, the amount of reading has been somewhat diminished and more time allowed in class to guide students through some of the more difficult concepts.

In week six or seven of the trimester your class representative will be invited to a meeting with the Programme staff. In week five your class representative will ask the class for any feedback on this course to discuss at this meeting.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz
- School website: www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1 15 Jul Introduction: What is narrative?
Abbott, Ch. 1-3: "Narrative and Life", "Defining Narrative", "The Borders of Narrative"
Ryan, "Toward a Definition of Narrative" [tbs]
Plato, "The Allegory of the Cave" [tbs]
Aristotle, "Plot" [tbs]

Week 2 22 Jul Mimesis and diegesis
Abbott, Ch. 4 "The Rhetoric of Narrative"
Abbott, Ch. 6 "Narration"
Rimmon-Kenan, "Narration: Levels and Voices" [tbs]
Lodge, "Mimesis and Diegesis in Modern Fiction" [tbs]

First reading report due Friday 24 July

Week 3 29 Jul Time and narrative
Rimmon-Kennan, "Text: Time" [tbs]
Keen, "Timing: How Long and How Often?" [tbs]

Week 4 5 Aug Story and discourse Reading:
Culler, "Story and Discourse in the Analysis of Narrative" [tbs]

Second reading report due Friday 7 August

Week 5 12 Aug Narrative versions and adaptations
Abbott, Ch. 9 "Adaptation Across Media"
Mittell, "Film and Television Narrative" [tbs]
Smith, "Narrative Versions, Narrative Theories" [tbs]

Week 6 19 Aug Interpretation and meaning
Abbott, Ch 7, "Interpreting Narrative"
Abbott, Ch 8 "Three Ways to Interpret Narrative"
Abbott, Ch 14 "Narrative Negotiation"

Third reading report due Friday 21 August

Mid Trimester Break: Monday 24 August to Sunday 6 September 2015

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
ENGLISH PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE ENGL 431

Week 7	9 Sep	Closure Abbott, Ch. 5 "Closure" Graff, "Determinacy/Indeterminacy" [tbs] Brooks, "An Unreadable Report" [tbs]
Week 8	16 Sep	Sign and structure Mules et al, Tools for Cultural Studies Ch. 2 "Signs and Systems" [tbs] Currie, Ch. 1 "The Manufacture of Identities"
Week 9	23 Sep	The linguistic model and the question of reference Abbott, Ch. 11 "Narrative and Truth" Abbott, Ch. 12 "Narrative Worlds" Currie, Ch. 2 "Terminologisation" Roland Barthes, "Introduction to the Structural Analysis of Narratives" [extract; tbs]
Week 10	30 Sep	Deconstruction Readings: Barthes, "Textual Analysis of Poe's 'Valdemar'." [tbs] Culler, Deconstruction, Chapter 2.1 "Writing and Logocentrism" [tbs]
Week 11	7 Oct	The reader Rimmon-Kenan, "The Text and its Reading" [tbs] Booth, from The Rhetoric of Fiction (on Emma) [extract; tbs]] Currie, Ch. 3 "Theoretical Fiction" Essay due Friday 9 October
Week 12	14 Oct	Narrative, politics and history Currie, Ch 4 "Narrative, Politics and History" Currie, Ch 7 "The Dark Clouds of Enlightenment" Greenblatt and Gallagher, from Introducing New Historicism [extract; tbs]

Study Period: Monday 19 October to Friday 23 October 2015

Examination Period: Friday 23 October to Saturday 14 November 2015