

Brescia University College 2011-2012
The Story of *ME* – Fiction and The Self
English 1027F 001 The Storyteller's Art I

Instructor: Dr. Elan Paulson

Office: TBA

Online: Google Chat (office hours only)

Class: Tues. 1:30-3:30pm, Thurs. 2:30-3:30pm

Office Hours (and online chat): Thurs. 11am-2pm

Email: Please use WebCT Mail

Course Topic Description:

In this course we will examine the art of constructing and representing the self in a variety of fictional works. We will also investigate the meaning of telling the story of the self, paying particular attention to how the life stories of fictional characters broaden and deepen our understanding of identity, society, and reality. We will also discuss the fundamentals for thinking and writing effectively about literature.

Prerequisites

Contact the Brescia English Department for information on prerequisites for this course. Please see the Brescia University College Academic Policies and Regulations (Appendix point 6) for more information.

Course Readings

The custom course pack is available at InPrint. Students must also be able to access WebCT.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

The purpose of this course is for students to:

1. Identify various elements of fiction and how, together, they create a storytelling experience;
2. Recognize the function and assumptions underlying narrative voice;
3. Become familiar with fictional sub-genres associated with life storytelling;
4. Explore narrative as method of identity construction, historical interpretation, and social critique;
5. Develop critical habits of reading, writing, and speaking about stories and storytelling;
6. Produce essays that are lively and engaged, arguments are thoughtful, analytical, and coherent, and writing is error-free and in compliance with MLA standards.

Evaluation Scheme*

Assignment	Length (approximate)	Weight	Date Due
Take-home paragraph	250 words (1 page max.)	5%	Week 3 (Tues. Sept. 27)
Creative writing & paragraph	1000 words (4 pages max.)	15%	Week 4 (Thurs. Oct. 6)
Midterm	50 minutes	10%	Week 6 (Thurs. Oct. 20)
Essay	1500 words (6 pages max.)	25%	Week 11 (Thurs. Nov. 24)
Participation	various (in-class/online)	15%	Over the term
Final Exam	3 hours	30%	TBA

**Note: More information about the assignments and grading criteria will be made available on WebCT.*

COURSE SCHEDULE (Required, Recommended, and Private Study Readings)

[CP] = readings available in the InPrint custom course pack

[OL] = readings available on WebCT

NOTE: Please have all readings completed before we are scheduled to discuss them in class.

Introduction: (Sept. 8): “Introduction to Literature” by R.S. Gwynn [recommended reading OL]

Week 1 (Sept 13 and 15): “My Last Duchess” by Robert Browning; “The Black Cat” by Edgar Allan

*Week 2 (Sept 20 and 22): Excerpt from *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain [OL]*

Weeks 3 (Sept 27 and 29): “The Yellow Wallpaper” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman [OL]

Week 4 (Oct 4 and 6): “Theme for English B” by Langston Hughes; “Helen of Troy Does Counter Dancing,” Margaret Atwood [OL]

Week 5 (Oct 11 and 13): “Flowers for Algernon” by Daniel Keyes [OL]

Week 6 (Oct 18 and 20): “The Bloody Chamber” by Angela Carter [CP]

Week 7 (Oct 25 and 27): “The Stowaway” by Julian Barnes [CP]

Week 8 (Nov 1 and 3): “No Name Woman” by Maxine Hong Kingston [CP]

*Weeks 9-10 (Nov 8, 10, 15, 17): **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time** by Mark Haddon*

*Week 11 (Nov 22 and 24): **Excerpt from I am America, And So Can You** by Stephen Colbert [CP]*

*Week 12 (Nov 29 and Dec 1): **Excerpt from A Million Little Pieces** by Jason Frey [CP]*

Week 13 (December 6): Review and tips for studying the final exam

Final Exam: TBA (See the Undergraduate Fall/Winter Academic Timetable 2011-2012)

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS (Appendix)

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

If supporting documentation is from a family physician, Hospital Urgent Care Centre or Emergency Department, or a walk-in clinic a UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required**. To download an SMC go to <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> and follow the link under "Medical Documentation". Documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial visit. If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations document-ation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** considered adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2011/pg117.html>.

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html.

The University of Western Ontario Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.