

## **English 1028G: The Storyteller's Art II: Topics in Narrative - Voice**

Winter 2017

**Instructor:** Alicia Robinet  
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**Office Hours:** TBA  
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**Class Times:** Monday 11:30-12:30, Wednesday 11:30-1:30  
**Location:** Room BR 185  
**Section:** 530

**Course Calendar Description:** This course explores a particular theme, mode, or genre of storytelling. Instruction is by lecture and tutorials; emphasis on developing strong analytical and writing skills.

**Antirequisite(s):** [English 1024E](#), [1036E](#).

**Pre requisite(s):** Grade 12U English or permission of the Department. For part time students who have been admitted without the OSSD, this permission will be granted as a matter of course.

**Extra Information:** 3 hours, 0.5 course.

**Course Description:** In this course, we will consider voice in terms of form and content. Who is the storyteller and how is she telling the story? By focusing on the devices and techniques used to voice a story, this course aims to solidify the knowledge of “the storyteller’s art” students gained in the Introductory half of the course.

**Course Objectives:** By the end of the course, the successful student will be able to:

1. Identify the characteristics of narrative voice in a particular text and communicate the effects of a particular voice (**Communication; Critical Thinking; Inquiry and Analysis**)
2. Recognize and understand the impact of rhetorical devices used in “the storyteller’s art” (**Critical Thinking; Inquiry and Analysis**)
3. Communicate her ideas about a literary or cultural text orally and in writing (**Communication; Critical Thinking**)
4. Understand and apply the basic rules of grammar in written projects (**Communication**)
5. Engage in academic research to complete an academic essay in MLA format (**Communication; Critical Thinking; Inquiry and Analysis**)
6. Evaluate her contributions to class discussions (**Communication; Inquiry and Analysis; Self Awareness and Development**)
7. Evaluate and analyze her classmates’ written communication (**Communication; Critical Thinking; Self Awareness and Development; Social Awareness and Engagement**)
8. Provide effective and considerate feedback to her classmates and instructor (**Communication; Critical Thinking**)
9. Appreciate the effect and analyze the nuances of a particular narrative voice in fiction (**Inquiry and Analysis**)
10. Analyze and attend to the political, moral, ethical, and social effects of a particular narrative voice in a literary work (**Valuing**)

\*The relevant Brescia Competencies are in bold.

### **Required texts:**

Bausch, Richard and Cassill, R. V., eds. *The Norton Anthology of Short Fiction*, Shorter 8<sup>th</sup> edition.  
Donoghue, Emma. *Room* (2010).

SCHEDULE:

DATE	READING
Monday, January 9	<b>Introduction</b>
Wednesday, January 11	<p><b>The Writer's Voice</b></p> <p>Margaret Atwood, "Why Do You Write?" (1991)  <i>Norton</i> 872</p> <p>Toni Cade Bambara, "What Is It I Think I'm Doing Anyhow?" (1980)  <i>Norton</i> 872-73</p> <p>Richard Bausch, "Letter to a Young Writer" (2004)  <i>Norton</i> 873-876</p> <p>Joseph Conrad, "Preface" (1897)  <i>Norton</i> 877-879</p> <p>Guy de Maupassant, "The Novel" (1887)  <i>Norton</i> 887-889</p> <p>Bharati Mukherjee, "A Four-Hundred-Year-Old Woman" (1991)  <i>Norton</i> 889-891</p> <p>Edgar Allan Poe, "The Philosophy of Composition"  <i>Norton</i> 891</p>
Monday, January 16	<p><b>The Canonical Voice</b></p> <p>Guy de Maupassant, "An Adventure in Paris" (1881)  <i>Norton</i> 493-98</p>
Wednesday, January 18	<p>Franz Kafka, "The Metamorphosis" (1915)  <i>Norton</i> 399-433</p> <p>Stanley Corngold, "Kafka's 'The Metamorphosis': <i>Metamorphosis of the Metaphor</i>"  <i>Norton</i> 920-21</p>
Monday, January 23	<p><b>Voicing Modernism</b></p> <p>James Joyce, <i>Ulysses</i>: Episode 18, "Penelope" (1922)  Excerpt available on OWL</p>
Wednesday, January 25	<p>Virginia Woolf, "Kew Gardens" (1943)  <i>Norton</i> 854-59</p> <p><b>Reading journal #1 due</b></p>
Monday, January 30	<p><b>The Satirical Voice</b></p> <p>Stephen Leacock, "The Marine Excursion of the Knights of Pythias" (1912)  Available on OWL</p>
Wednesday, February 1	<p>Rohinton Mistry, "Squatter" (1987)  Available on OWL</p> <p><b>In-class response #1</b></p>
Monday, February 6	<p><b>The Veteran's Voice</b></p> <p>Frank O'Connor, "Guests of the Nation" (1931)  <i>Norton</i> 637-45</p>
Wednesday, February 8	<p>Tim O'Brien, "The Things They Carried" (1986)  <i>Norton</i> 598-610</p>
Monday, February 13	<p><b>Questioning Voice</b></p> <p>Rudy Wiebe, "Where is the Voice Coming From?" (1974)  Available on OWL</p>
Wednesday, February 15	<p>Louise Erdrich, "Matchimanito" (1988)  <i>Norton</i> 249-59</p> <p><b>Reading journal #2 due</b></p>

Monday, February 20	Reading Week ☺
Wednesday, February 22	Reading Week ☺
Monday, February 27	Scholarly research seminar
Wednesday, March 1	<p><b>Voicing Grief</b>            Bharati Mukherjee, “The Management of Grief” (1988)  <i>Norton</i> 538-550            Richard Ford, “Bharati Mukherjee’s ‘The Management of Grief’”  <i>Norton</i> 922-23</p>
Monday, March 6	<p><b>A Child’s Voice</b>            Robert Penn Warren, “Blackberry Winter” (1946)  <i>Norton</i> 823-38</p>
Wednesday, March 8	Emma Donoghue, <i>Room</i> (2010) <p><b>In-class response #2</b></p>
Monday, March 13	<i>Room</i> continued
Wednesday, March 15	<i>Room</i> continued
Monday, March 20	<i>Room</i> continued
Wednesday, March 22	<p><b>Epistolary Voice</b>            Leonard Cohen, “Famous Blue Raincoat” (1971)            Available on OWL  <b>TERM PAPER DUE</b></p>
Monday, March 27	Richard Bausch, “Letter to the Lady of the House” (1989) <i>Norton</i> 69-75
Wednesday, March 29	<p><b>Visualizing Voice</b>            Joe Sacco, <i>Palestine</i> (1996)            Excerpts available on OWL  <b>Reading journal #3 due</b></p>
Monday, April 3	<p><b>Voicing Postmodernism</b>            George Saunders, “Victory Lap” (2009)  <i>Norton</i> 710-21</p>
Wednesday, April 5	Conclusion and Review

## ASSIGNMENTS:

Participation: 10% (includes self-evaluation of participation @ 1%)

In-class responses (#1 on Wednesday, February 1 worth 5% and #2 on Wednesday, March 8 worth 5%): 10%

Oral presentation: 10%

Reading journals (#1 worth 3% due Wednesday, January 25, #2 worth 5% due Wednesday, February 15, #3 worth 7% due Wednesday, March 29): 15%

Term paper (due Wednesday, March 22): 25%

Final exam: 30%

Late assignments will be penalized 3% per day.

## ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS:

### PARTICIPATION:

You need to come to class prepared to discuss the day’s assigned reading. Please bring any comments or questions you have to class and do not hesitate to share them with the instructor and your peers. Your participation grade will also reflect your role as an active listener in the classroom.

**SELF-EVALUATION:**

You will assign a grade to your class participation and will provide a written justification for this grade. Your mark for this assignment will be based on the accuracy of your self-evaluation.

**IN-CLASS RESPONSES:**

You will write TWO in-class responses. These responses will help prepare you for writing your answers for the final exam.

**READING JOURNALS:**

You will submit THREE reading journals over the course of the semester. These journals should be 600-800 words in length and should be your reflection on any of the assigned readings during the period up until the reading is due. Your journal can be in the form of a traditional short essay, or you can submit a non-traditional piece in the form of a podcast or vodcast. You will be graded on the quality of your writing and your ideas. Please refer to the assignment handout for specific expectations.

**ORAL PRESENTATION:**

You will present to the class for approximately **five** minutes. You will select one paragraph from the work on which you are presenting. You will present a close reading on this paragraph. You can narrow into just one sentence, if you prefer. Please refer to the assignment handout for specific expectations.

**TERM PAPER:**

Your term paper needs to be **5-7 pages** in length. You are required to consult at least **TWO** scholarly sources. Format your paper according to MLA style. Please refer to the assignment handout for specific expectations.

**EXAM:**

Your final exam will be scheduled during the exam period and more information will be provided in writing during class time.

**2016-17 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE  
ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS**

**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 for illness 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. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated. Documentation shall be submitted as soon as possible to the student's Academic Advisor indicating the period of illness and when the student should be able to resume academic responsibilities. Students must submit their documentation along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming 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. A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded from: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg117.html> 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 documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical

reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. 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 policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf)

## **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](http://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 (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg130.html>)

## **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**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg113.html> 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 Student Academic Appeals under Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg112.html>)

## **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 prerequisite(s). 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://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western [http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) for information including a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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