The Power of Storytelling: Narrative Theory and Practice
HON 329-01, Spring 2020
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Julie Jenner
Meeting Time: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 12:00-12:50 pm
Meeting Place: Argyros Forum 205
Instructor's e-mail: jenner@chapman.edu
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description
A distinctly human endeavor, storytelling can serve many purposes: interpreting past and present, projecting a future, encouraging empathy, providing testimony, giving voice to individual realities, and more. Through the composition of personalized writing projects that are critical and creative and through the analysis of narrative use in various genres and texts of established authors, students explore the humanistic value and rhetorical effect of storytelling in their own work and the works of others. This writing seminar will focus on the structure and function of narrative and its conventions, the persuasive use of narrators and narration, and the implications of interpretation and adaptation across media.

Learning Outcomes

Written Inquiry
Student establishes active, genuine, and responsible authorial engagement; communicates a purpose—an argument or other intentional point/goal; invokes a specific audience, develops the argument/content with an internal logic-organization; integrates references, citations, and source material logically and dialogically, indicating how such forms of evidence relate to each other and the author’s position; and composes the text with: a style or styles appropriate to the purpose and intended audience, a consistent use of the diction appropriate to the author’s topic and purpose, the ability to establish and vary authorial voice(s) and tone(s), a choice of form(s) and genre(s) appropriate to purpose and audience (forms may be digital and/or multimodal), and rhetorically effective use of document design.

Honors Program
Upon completing a course in the University Honors Program students will have:
- obtained a starting point for integrative exploration of the development of cultures and intellectual achievements through a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives;
- sharpened their ability to critically analyze and synthesize a broad range of knowledge through the study of primary texts and through engagement in active learning with fellow students, faculty, and texts (broadly understood);
- understood how to apply more integrative and interdisciplinary forms of understanding in the advancement of knowledge and in addressing complex challenges shaping the world;
- developed effective communication skills.
Course Specific
Students will:
• learn to identify and deploy the central components of narrative and the different ways in which storytelling techniques manifest in different genres (fiction and non-fiction) and media.
• learn specific techniques in writing narrative that can be transferred across multiple genres of writing.
• critically analyze narratives contexts according to compositional components and interpretation and respond effectively to that analysis through well-crafted compositions.
• understand how storytelling is used to negotiate social, educational, and intellectual relationships in various contexts, to a range of audiences.
• apply storytelling craft knowledge to their own writing with attention to the ways in which techniques channel and alter the significance of one’s narratives.
• learn how to generate new creative ideas.
• learn how to give positive and constructive feedback to other writers.
• recognize the benefit of multiple drafts, feedback, and revision in the writing process.
• engage in regular writing practice and complete a revised portfolio of work.

Course Components

Course Format
We will meet in class on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12 pm to 12:50 pm unless directed otherwise. Exceptions might include any fieldtrips, fieldwork or individual conferences. Check updated course schedule or conference schedule for special meeting places.

Required Texts
The course textbook is The Cambridge Introduction to Narrative, second edition (ISBN 978-0-521-71515-7) by H. Porter Abbott. You will also be asked to acquire any additional text(s) necessary for upcoming writing projects. You will also be asked to engage with a variety of primary texts and selected works that address specific topics in narrative. Links for these readings and viewings will be provided on Blackboard in the Readings and Viewings section or through Kanopy (chapman.kanapy.com).

Technology
You will need to bring a laptop or comparable device to each class to engage in Bb discussions or for other in-class exercises. If need be, you can borrow a laptop free of charge, with valid student id, at a display in Argyros Forum. Please let me know if for any reason you are unable to meet this requirement. This course employs features of Blackboard. It is your responsibility to learn to use all the web functions that are relevant to this course. You can access Blackboard through “My Chapman” on the Chapman University homepage.

Tentative Course Schedule
The course schedule with in-class activities and homework assignments is available on Blackboard under the section Syllabus and Schedule. Please note that I don’t recommend printing out the schedule
as readings, viewings and assignment due dates are subject to change. Always consult Blackboard for most recent version of course schedule.

Coursework at a Glance
The course is organized into three general parts. SECTION I: Components of Narrative will concern itself with defining narrative and the way it acts upon us as well as providing an in-depth exploration through journal exercises, an analytical writing project, and discussion of the foundational elements of storytelling including narrator, character, plot, setting, and more. In SECTION 2: Crafting Narrative you will have the opportunity to focus on the crafting on your own work of narrative, be it fiction or nonfiction, applying the narrative elements introduced in the first section. You will also have the opportunity to participate in a peer workshop, giving and receiving feedback on your original work in a structured and supportive environment. And lastly, in SECTION 3: Narratives in Perspective, topics such as rhetorical power, interpretation, and adaptation will be the focus. You will engage in an individualized writing project about one or more of these topics.

Your progress in the course will be evaluated based on the following (6) areas:

1. Participation (Attendance, Collaborations and Discussions)
Your presence is crucial to your success in this class. Because we do a lot of group work, your peers depend on you being present and attentive. You show respect to the writing community by being informed and fulfilling your responsibilities to your classmates. Participation will be evaluated based on your performance on a combination of activities including overall attendance, collaboration and discussions throughout the semester.

   Attendance
   The University recommends as a minimal policy that students who are absent 20 percent of the course should be failed. For this course, you are allowed 3 unexcused absences. I allow for three unexcused absences because I understand how life has a way of sometimes interfering with our regular schedules, so use these absences wisely. For each unexcused absence over the 3 allowed, your participation grade will be lowered 5 grade points. Though I appreciate the heads up immensely, simply telling me in advance that you are going to absent for class does not excuse the absence; it merely explains it. For an absence to be considered excused, official documentation will need to be provided. Some examples of official documentation include a note from the campus health center or a doctor in case of sickness, a copy of the notice in case of jury duty or some other court hearing, or a note from an instructor regarding an absence due to performance or sport. Let me know immediately if you need clarification about the nature of the absence or its documentation. I take attendance at the beginning of class each day. Tardiness is disruptive to class and is noted on the attendance roster. I understand having to be late due to unavoidable circumstances; however, if I notice your tardiness becoming excessive or habitual, I will be lowering your participation grade. 3 tardy arrivals being equivalent to one unexcused absence. It is your responsibility to do all assigned reading and work for any missed class sessions, and to contact me via email for class details. All assignments, due dates, handouts and readings will be posted on Blackboard in advance.

   Collaborations and Discussions


We are a community of writers and learners in this course. You will engage with peers for group discussions, workshops as well as group activities assigned throughout the semester. Giving and receiving feedback on works in progress is invaluable to growing as a writer and understanding writing as a social process. There will be times when we will be utilizing the Discussion board feature on Blackboard to post your responses to peer work, discussion prompts and questions. The content of these posts will range from creative exercises to responses to readings and viewings. This is a community space, so keep in mind that peers will have access as well to the material you post. Each of these entries will be graded on a credit/no credit basis and must be turned in on time to receive credit.

You will receive all participation points when you attend class regularly (not having more than three unexcused absences), are on time, are engaged learners, bring readings and necessary materials to class (this includes laptops and writing journals), avoid distractive use of technology (using phones in class for personal communication), contribute regularly and in an informed manner to the class discussions, successfully collaborate with others, participate in any class activities such as assigned discussion posts and presentations, manifest professional behavior (also in email exchanges), and help others to do all of the above. Your participation grade will count 15% of your grade for the course.

(2) Writers Journal: You are required to keep a journal for this course. I ask that you purchase a physical notebook or journal (any size and style that suits you) in which you will be recording your responses to readings and any assigned journal entries during the course of the semester. Required journal prompts and required reading responses can be found on Blackboard under the Assignments section. I will be collecting the journal at midterm and at the end of the semester for evaluation. You will be asked to develop at least two of your journal entries for your final portfolio. The journal comprises 15% percent of your grade and is evaluated based on completion and quality of effort.

(3) Narrative Component Analysis:
In the first section of the course, you will be asked to complete an analysis of a work of your choice, applying what you learned about the components of narrative introduced in SECTION I of the course. A proposal and presentation are part of this project. Specific guidelines for this assignment will be posted under Assignments on Blackboard. This project makes up 15% of your total grade. A revised version is a required part of your final portfolio.

(4) Narrative Writing Project:
In SECTION 2, you will have the opportunity to craft an original work of narrative, carefully considering authorial choices of style, voice and genre. This project will be peer workshopped. This project also includes a reflection component and is worth 15% of your grade. This project will be completed in two phases: draft and revision. Guidelines will be posted under Assignments on Blackboard. A revised version is a required part of your final portfolio.

(5) Interpretation Project:
In SECTION 3, you will be asked to interpret a short narrative of your choice using an intentional, symptomatic, or adaptive approach. This assignment is worth 15% of your grade
and specific guidelines will be posted on Blackboard under the Assignments section. A revised version is a required part of your final portfolio.

(6) Final Portfolio:
The final portfolio will take the place of a final exam and is due on the scheduled exam date for the course. The portfolio will contain revised work and new cumulative and reflective assignments. A detailed list of contents required for the portfolio and specific guidelines will be provided mid-semester in the Assignments section on Blackboard. You will be reading an excerpt from the portfolio to the class on the day of the final exam. The portfolio will comprise 25% of your grade for the course.

Late Work Policy
As mentioned above, late assignments will not be accepted without an excused absence and an approved extension. You must turn in all assignments on time to receive credit. Writing Project drafts, if late, receive a one-time 10-point penalty that will be applied to graded revision phase of the project. Please note that 10 points will be automatically deducted for any graded assignment not posted at the beginning of class on the due date.

You are required to turn in assignments in their designated areas on Blackboard. Drafts and revisions of your projects should be turned in on Blackboard discussion board as a thread under the appropriate forum heading. Blackboard tells me the exact time you have submitted the assignment, and this will be the time I will use to determine if your work is to be considered late or not. Don’t wait until the last minute to submit work; give yourself extra time in case any problems arise. If by chance you are having any difficulties posting on Blackboard that day, send me a copy of your assignment by email, using your student email.
Course Evaluation
As the course progresses, I will post grades for completed assignments on Blackboard. Your participation grade will be posted at mid-term and readjusted as needed at the end of the semester.

Percentage Breakdown

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<tr>
<td>Participation: attendance, collaborations and discussions</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writers Journal: entries and reading responses</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Narrative Component Analysis</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Narrative Writing Project: draft and revision</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interpretation Project: draft and revision</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Portfolio</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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A-100-94; A- 93-90; B+ 89-87; B 86-84; B- 83-80; C+ 79-77; C 76-74; C- 73-70; D+ 69-67; D 66-64; D- 63-60; F 59-0

Peer Groups and Workshops
We are a community of writers and learners in this course. You will engage with peers for group discussions, workshop, and collaborative activities. Giving and receiving feedback on works in progress is invaluable to growing as a writer and understanding writing as a social process. I will be providing guidelines on how to respond to your peers’ work during workshops and peer review sessions.

Field Work and Trips
There might be days when class will be conducted outside the usual classroom space and time. For instance, we might meet at the 1888 Center downtown Orange or in various spaces around campus. Locations will be announced in advance and posted on the course schedule.

Guest Speakers and Special Events
As needed, I will make space in our course schedule for guest speakers and special campus events that inform the content of the course. Locations and times will be announced in advance and posted on the course schedule.

Individual Conferences
Individual conferences will take place around mid-term and again at the end of the semester. You are required to sign up for a time slot during these weeks. We will not hold class meetings during these conferencing days, but you are required to complete any readings or assignments as directed in the course schedule. Conferences are an opportunity to discuss any concerns or challenges you are having with the class or with writing in general, or to discuss ideas for projects and revisions. These are the only required conference meeting during the semester; however, please feel free to schedule additional meeting times with me as needed. Your success in this course is important to me.

Additional University Policy

Chapman University’s Academic Integrity Policy. “Chapman University is a community of scholars that emphasizes the mutual responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in
good faith. Students are responsible for doing their own work and academic dishonesty of any kind will be subject to sanction by the instructor/administrator and referral to the university Academic Integrity Committee, which may impose additional sanctions including expulsion. Please see the full description of Chapman University's policy on Academic Integrity at www.chapman.edu/academics/academicintegrity/index.aspx.

Chapman University’s Students with Disabilities Policy. “In compliance with ADA guidelines, students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, that might affect their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to contact the Disability Services Office. If you will need to utilize your approved accommodations in this class, please follow the proper notification procedure for informing your professor(s). This notification process must occur more than a week before any accommodation can be utilized. Please contact Disability Services at (714) 516–4520 or visit www.chapman.edu/students/student-health-services/disability-services if you have questions regarding this procedure or for information or to make an appointment to discuss and/or request potential accommodations based on documentation of your disability. Once formal approval of your need for an accommodation has been granted, you are encouraged to talk with your professor(s) about your accommodation options. The granting of any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.”

Chapman University’s Equity and Diversity Policy. “Chapman University is committed to ensuring equality and valuing diversity. Students and professors are reminded to show respect at all times as outlined in Chapman’s Harassment and Discrimination Policy. Please see the full description of this policy at http://www.chapman.edu/faculty-staff/human-resources/eoo.aspx. Any violations of this policy should be discussed with the professor, the dean of students and/or otherwise reported in accordance with this policy.”