

## Brief Course Outline

**Course Title:** **The Storyteller's Art II: Topics in Narrative - Fantastic Short Stories**

**Course Number and Section:**

ENGLISH

1028G 550

**Instructor Name(s):** Amanda Di Ponio

**Instructor Email(s):** adiponi@uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

### Course Description:

This course will focus on the short story, the 'topic in narrative' in The Storyteller's Art II. The selected texts, featuring classic and contemporary narratives, classified as literature of the fantastic and including remediations and adaptations, will expose students to key themes in literature in a variety of story-telling techniques typical of shorter fiction. Students will add to their skills in critical analysis and creative writing.

This course will also investigate theoretical approaches relevant to the study of narrative. Alongside reading our short stories, we will trace the historical trajectory of narrative theory and explore the ways in which the theoretical principles we study can be applied, considering its importance in understanding our world and deriving meaning from it.

### Learning Outcomes:

- Improve critical reading and writing in ways that will enable success in a wide variety of university courses
- Further appreciation of diverse cultural productions and practices
- Draft, review, and revise creative writing assignments
- Become acquainted with narratology in assessing different methods for storytelling
- Develop an interdisciplinary perspective on one particular narrative medium – i.e. the short story – in various forms
- Become confident and capable of identifying, analyzing and interpreting basic narrative elements, such as plot, character, point of view, theme, setting, imagery, diction, tone, figures of speech, and tropes
- Explore a wide range of forms of creative expression
- Communicate ideas effectively both orally and in writing
- Write logically and persuasively in fluent, standard English using the appropriate conventions for scholarly-critical writing

- Research and engage with scholarly/critical texts to aid in the understanding of short fiction
- Incorporate evidence, from primary, secondary, and critical theory texts in essay writing to support claims that logically and persuasively present complex and debatable arguments
- Apply principles of quotation integration using MLA documentation
- Collaborate with peers respectfully, fostering an environment that prompts healthy classroom culture alongside achieving individual and group goals

### Textbooks and Course Materials:

Course materials will be distributed to students via our OWL course site, under Course Readings.

Patrick O'Neill. *Fictions of Discourse: Reading Narrative Theory*. University of Toronto Press, 1996.

Thomas King, "One Good Story, That One" (1992)

Ambrose Bierce, "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge" (1890)

Nikolai Gogol, "The Nose" (1836)

Edgar Allan Poe, "The Masque of the Red Death: A Fantasy" (1842)

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper" (1892)

Gabriel García Márquez, "The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World" (1968)

H.P. Lovecraft, "The Call of Cthulhu" (1928)

Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Rappaccini's Daughter" (1844)

Sam Cohen, selection from "Sarahland" (2021)

Ursula K. Le Guin, "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" (1973)

Neil Gaiman, "Thermidor" *The Sandman Volume 6: Fables and Reflections* (1993)

Haruki Murakami, "Super-Frog Saves Tokyo" (2002)

### Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Character Study	02/06/2024	15
Creative Assignment	02/27/2024	10
Essay	03/19/2024	20
Final Exam	TBD	30
Quizzes	Weekly	15
Participation	Weekly	10

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Monday, December 4, 2023