

## Huron Brief Course Outlines

Fall/Winter 2023-2024

**Course Title:** The Storyteller's Art: Introduction to Narrative

**Course Number and Section**

ENGLISH

1027F - 550

**Instructor Name(s):** Andrew Sargent

**Instructor Email(s):** asargen@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:

Storytelling defines who we are and our relation to the community, the nation, and the world. This course will explore various modes of storytelling and narrative in the form of epic, narrative poem, lyric, sonnet, short story, drama, novel, and film. This iteration of the course offers students a survey of the "major authors" in the English and American tradition broadly, but will also touch upon ancient and modern literatures and media of west and east Asia, as well as Continental Europe. The central theme of this course will be not only how storytelling makes sense of the world but how storytelling productively struggles and fails to make sense of the world. We will thereby examine how storytelling and narrative function as a means of organizing and confronting existential and historical instances of resistance, failure, incoherence, loss, deferral, and missed encounters.

### Learning Outcomes:

1. Develop critical thinking and essay writing skills that will be applicable in further University courses
2. Engage with and analyze a variety of narrative media, including the novel, long and short poems, and film
3. Understand how narrative both organizes our experience of the world and plots difficult psychic, cultural, and political phenomena into manageable and comprehensible patterns
4. Identify basic components of narrative such as plot, theme, character, point of view, tone, setting, diction, imagery, and trope
5. Write logical, persuasive, and grammatical essays with clear and well-structured arguments
6. Learn to use the university library database to search for and evaluate scholarly resources

### Textbooks and Course Materials:

The Norton Anthology of English Literature, The Major Authors (Two volumes)

Foster, Benjamin R., ed. The Epic of Gilgamesh (Penguin)

Kafka, Franz. The Trial (Oxford)

### Methods of Evaluation:

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Due Date mm/dd/yy</b>	<b>Weight - %</b>
Participation	Ongoing	10%
Short Reflection paper	09/27/2023	15%
First Essay	10/18/2023	20%
Final Essay	11/29/2023	30%
Exam	TBA	25%

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