

Instructor: Richard Greene

Course number: 110Y5Y Section 0401

Course title: Narrative

Course Description: Stories are the house of memory – one room opens into another. Doors open and close. In this course, we will look at how stories enable us to live as creatures in time. We will look at a group of novels and short stories written over the past century, and episodes of a recent television drama, and our task will be to understand the subtleties of these different forms and to become alert to the ways narratives create meaning. We will try to understand the work that stories do in our lives. Students will be expected to write polished essays about the works on our list, and a portion of the course will be devoted to developing writing skills.

Required Reading:

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*.

Willa Cather. *My Antonia*.

Graham Greene. *The End of the Affair*.

John Steinbeck, *East of Eden*.

Cormac McCarthy. *No Country for Old Men*.

Mary Lawson. *Crow Lake*.

Selections TBA from *The Norton Anthology of Short Fiction*, shorter 7th ed.

The West Wing: “18th and Potomac” and “Two Cathedrals.”

First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied:

Heart of Darkness (from anthology); *My Antonia*; *The End of the Affair*.

Method of Instruction:

Lectures and discussion.

Method of Evaluation:

A minimum of four writing assignments (40%); reading tests (10%); term-test (15%); final examination (35%).