

ENG110Y5Y- Fall 2009

Instructor: Cary DiPietro

Course number: ENG110Y

Course title: Narrative

Course description: In this course, we will explore the many ways narratives permeate our society—from children’s stories to music videos, from famous works of literature to “flash” fiction—and how aspects of narrative such as character, narration and genre help us to make sense of and articulate our lived experience. We will explore the role narrative has played in our shared cultural history, how narrative even determines what we understand of history. Through the year, we will consider a variety of different narrative forms including the narrative poem, short story, novella, case study, history, film, music video and novel. In addition to an introductory unit on narrative terminology and theory, we will also give emphasis to such topics as the writing of morality, identity, gender, and history.

Required Reading: selected flash narratives (online); selected short stories (coursepack); selections from Aesop, Mother Goose nursery rhymes, and other short children’s literature (coursepack); selected music lyrics and music videos (online); a selection of oral narratives (coursepack); Chaucer, *The Nun’s Priest’s Tale* (coursepack); Thomas King, *The Truth About Stories*; Freud, selection from *The Interpretation of Dreams* (coursepack), *Dora* (Touchstone); James, *The Turn of the Screw* (in *The Turn of the Screw and Other Short Fiction*, Bantam Classic); Zemon-Davis, *The Return of Martin Guerre* (Harvard UP); Thomas, *The White Hotel* (Penguin); Woolf, *A Room of One’s Own* (Penguin); Coleridge, “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner” (coursepack); Shelley, *Frankenstein* (Penguin Classics). A complete reading list will be supplied in the first class.

First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied: selected flash narratives and short stories by authors including Margaret Atwood, Neil Gaiman, and Angela Carter.

Method of Instruction: Lecture and discussion

Method of Evaluation: A minimum of four writing assignments (40%); end-of-term test (5%); participation (10%); information literacy exercise (10%); and final exam (35%).

