ENGL2131 – Studies in Narrative  
Fall 2016

ENGL2133.01 STUDIES IN NARRATIVE  T TH 10 30  Prof. Robert Lehman

This section of Studies in Narrative will focus on retellings. We’ll examine works of literature that address the problem of getting someone else’s story “right” (e.g., H. James’ Turn of the Screw); we’ll look at examples of attempts by one work of literature to re-write another work (e.g., Defoe’s Robinson Crusoe re-written by Coetzee as Foe); and we’ll analyze the transformation of literary fiction into film (e.g., the transformation of Conrad’s Heart of Darkness into Coppola’s Apocalypse Now). Texts will include short stories, novels, films, and works of literary theory.

ENGL2133.03 STUDIES IN NARRATIVE  T TH 1 30  Prof. Seshadri

This course has two goals: to foster deep appreciation for the art of literary narrative; to develop a sophisticated vocabulary with which to assess and interpret these narratives. The particular skills of literary analysis you will learn in this course are: close reading, learning to speak and write within the parameters of a given discourse, and constructing an argument. We shall engage in a small sampling of narrative genres, discuss key concepts of narrative analysis and discuss a few contemporary theoretical strategies that inform the art of literary criticism.

ENGL2133.05 STUDIES IN NARRATIVE  M W F 11  Prof. Beth Wallace

In this section, we’ll read a series of texts allowing us to explore the various kinds of “cultural work” accomplished through the act of storytelling. As we’ll see, stories can manage cultural and social anxieties, they can process new and innovative concepts, and they can serve as repositories of memory. Starting with Homer’s great epic, The Odyssey, we’ll move forward through the western canon, finally arriving at a twenty-first century play. Our readings include literary masterpieces such as The Tempest, Moll Flanders, Jane Eyre, The Turn of the Screw, and Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man. In addition, we will watch two classic Hollywood films, Cape Fear and The Night of the Hunter, which then give rise to a well-regarded Simpsons episode, as well as Ann Washburn’s response to the Simpsons episode in her 2012 play entitled Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play. Along the way, we review different critical reading strategies, discussing the strengths and weaknesses of each one, and we’ll practice employing them in a variety of in-class exercises and written assignments. Requirements include four five-to-eight page papers and a final examination.