NARRATIVE AND INTERPRETATION
Spring 2009
Course Syllabus

Course Number: En133.04
Times: TTh 10:30-11:45
Room: Carney 004

Prof. Min Hyoung Song
Phone: x2-1655
Email: songm@bc.edu
Office: Carney 445
Office Hours: Weds. 1-3 or by appt.

DESCRIPTION
This course focuses both on the act of reading narratives, making more self-reflexive something that often occurs in the background, and on introducing students to a particular way of being in the world that active and critical thinking encourages. It begins with a form, the graphic narrative or comic book, that has traditionally not be considered serious literature. It then focuses on a dialogue between fiction and nonfiction, as well as between literature and criticism, with a special focus on how all of these call attention to issues related to space, place, and ecology.

REQUIRED READING
Alison Bechdel, Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic
Rachel Carson, Silent Spring
Leo Marx, The Machine in the Garden
Karen Tei Yamashita, Through the Arc of the Rain Forest
Michael Pollan, The Omnivore’s Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals

SCREENING
Wall-E (excerpt)

ARTICLES (available in Blackboard)
Jane Smiley, “What Is a Novel?” from Thirteen Ways of Looking at the Novel
Glottfety, Cheryll. "Cold War, Silent Spring: The Trope of War in Modern Environmentalism." And No Birds Sing: Rhetorical Analyses of Rachel Carson's Silent Spring. Ed. Craig

REQUIREMENTS 
Regular attendance, appearance on time, participation in discussions, cooperation with other students are crucial for success in this class, and for the vitality of the classroom experience as a whole. Absences are actively discouraged; more than three absences will start to result in grade reductions and will ultimately lead to failure in the class. I will be taking attendance at the start of class. (15%) 

As in all sections of this course, you will be required to complete five papers. The first three papers will be 3-4 pages long and will be worth 15% of your total grade each. The last two papers will be 5-6 pages long and will be worth 20% of your total grade each. 

Please look at the course outline, as due dates are clearly marked there and please be sure to organize your time accordingly. Extensions are strongly discouraged. Every late day will be penalized 1/2 a grade. If you have concerns or something pressing comes up, please contact me before the due date. Even an email will be helpful. All papers should be submitted at the start of class on the dates in which they are due. Topics will be distributed at least a week before the paper due dates; as this course is writing-intensive, it is crucial that you keep up with both reading and writing. 

It should go without saying that all written assignments should reflect your own thinking, and anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will face stiff university-wide reprimand. For official university guidelines, definitions of terms, and procedures regarding academic integrity, visit www.bc.edu/integrity. 

COURSE OUTLINE 
Jan. 15 Welcome and Introduction 

Jan. 20 Smiley; Chute and DeKordovan; Royal 
Jan. 22 Fun Home (1-23) 

Jan. 27 Fun Home (24-150) 
Jan. 29 Fun Home (151-232) 

Feb. 3 “Chute: Interview with Alison Bechdel”; Paper 1 Due 
Feb. 5 Silent Spring (1-51)
Feb. 10 *Silent Spring* (52-152)
Feb. 12 *Silent Spring* (153-184)
Feb. 17 *Silent Spring* (185-297)
Feb. 19 Lutts; Glotfelty

Feb. 24 *Machine in the Garden* (3-33); **Paper 2 Due**
Feb. 26 *Machine in the Garden* (34-72)

**SPRING BREAK**

Mar. 10 *Machine in the Garden* (145-226)
Mar. 12 *Machine in the Garden* (254-265)

Mar. 17 *Through the Arc of the Rain Forest* (3-22); **Paper 3 Due**
Mar. 19 *Through the Arc of the Rain Forest* (22-52)

Mar. 24 *Through the Arc of the Rain Forest* (52-138)
Mar. 26 *Through the Arc of the Rain Forest* (139-175)

Mar. 31 *Through the Arc of the Rain Forest* (176-212)
Apr. 2 Murashige; Heise

Apr. 7 *Omnivore’s Dilemma* (1-11); **Paper 4 Due**
Apr. 9 **Holy Thursday – No Class**

Apr. 14 *Omnivore’s Dilemma* (15-119)
Apr. 16 *Omnivore’s Dilemma* (134-273)

Apr. 21 *Omnivore’s Dilemma* (277-333)
Apr. 23 **No Class** (away at a conference)

Apr. 28 screening: *Wall-E* (excerpt)
Apr. 30 film discussion; **Paper 5 Due**