



EAST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

ENG 546.01E & 01W. — Decoding Narrative

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2026

Hybrid Course

Class Meetings on Tuesday 5:00 pm -7:00 pm

In-Person: Classroom DTH 146

Online: <https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/95517023854> Meeting ID: 955 1702 3854

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Hyo Kyung Woo, Assistant Professor

Office Location: David Talbot Hall 209

Office Hours: TT 10:00am-12:00pm, 2:00pm-4:00 pm (or by appointment)

University Email Address: hyokyung.woo@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: 24 hours during weekdays, 48 hours during weekends

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s)

Required

See the reading schedule.

*Bring the assigned readings to every class. Students without their readings may be marked absent.

*All readings are available at D2L in PDF format.

*E-book and different editions are acceptable.

Technology Required: MyLeo Online Learning Management System (D2L).

Software Required: Microsoft Word, University Email, PowerPoint

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This graduate seminar explores the structural and theoretical mechanics of storytelling. Moving beyond thematic analysis, students will dismantle narratives to understand how they mean, rather than just what they mean. Using classical and post-classical narratology, we will investigate time, focalization, voice, character architecture, and narrative reliability. Each week

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pairs a core theoretical concept with a specific literary text, allowing students to immediately apply abstract frameworks to concrete narrative art.

Course Objectives:

- Students will master the foundational vocabulary of narrative theory.
- Students will be able to apply theoretical frameworks to complex literary works to uncover hidden structural mechanics.
- Students will be able to evaluate the cultural and literary implications of narrative techniques.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Using the learning management system, using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, using presentation and graphics programs, etc.

Instructional Methods

This course consists of a series of activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the outcomes and objectives of this course and instructional units/modules. By the end of this course, the class will read and discuss literature as well as secondary materials in a manner befitting a specialist in the discipline of English. You are expected to do all readings for class by the date indicated on this syllabus (see "Course Outline/Calendar" below). The readings are the foundation of our class meetings; we cannot discuss and understand the ideas and theories unless you have completed the required readings. On occasion there will be videos for you to watch on YouTube. You must have internet access to view them.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

- 1) Attend every class meeting.
- 2) Read every assigned reading.
- 3) Complete every assignment/exam on time.
- 4) Communicate with your professor if you are in doubt.

STUDENT CONTACT STATEMENT

Announcements: General tool for course communication; I will post short messages or reminders related to due dates or changes in the assignments.

Email: Please only use the official ETAMU Leo Email to communicate with me and your classmates. I will send general emails with information related to the course, date changes, assignments modifications, etc. or with information that relates to our content. I will send individual emails as needed. I will respond to emails in 24 hs. during the work week and on the next business day on weekends and holidays.

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GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale and total points:

A = 90%-100% (900-1000 points)

B = 80%-89% (800-899 points)

C = 70%-79% (700-799 points)

D = 60%-69% (600-699 points)

F = 59% or Below (below 599 points)

ASSESSMENTS

Weekly Attendance or Participation Response 20% (200 points)

Weekly Narrative Analysis 20% (200 points)

Class Reading Presentation: Theory 10% (100 points)

Class Reading Presentation: Primary Text 10% (100 points)

Midterm Exam 20% (200 points)

Final Exam 20% (200 points)

100% (1000 points)

Weekly Attendance Or Participation Response 20% (200 points)

Everyone in this class is required to contribute to class discussion either synchronously and asynchronously while being fully prepared to discuss the weekly reading materials. It is also challenging to organize a hybrid, relatively large-size class in terms of class discussion; thus, I need your full cooperation.

*Students must comply with the module that they are enrolled in during the semester. If you need any change or adjustment, please consult with the instructor for permission.

- 01E (in-person): Show up for the in-person class on Tuesday every week.
- 01W (synchronous online): Show up in Zoom class on Tuesday every week.
- 01W (asynchronous online): Watch recordings of class discussions and presentations, and upload 200-word participation response every week no later than Thursday. It should include two specific moments of the Zoom class or presentation recordings. Since this is used for your attendance/participation points, no feedback will be given for this response assignment unless necessary.

Weekly Narrative Analysis 20% (200 points)

Students will write a 200-word weekly narrative analysis about the assigned primary text (short stories) for each week. This analysis should be based on the theoretical concepts and terms from the secondary texts assigned for the same week and include at least one discussion question about the text(s). Due by **Sunday** midnight (Sunday leading into Monday). Points will be deducted if the post is too short, late, or does not write about the assigned text(s).

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Complete/Incomplete assignment. No feedback will be given for this assignment unless necessary.

Course Reading Presentation: Primary Text 10% (100 points)

Students will sign up for one week to present a primary text for 10 minutes, followed by a Q&A discussion. The presenter(s) will read the assigned text thoroughly and choose 2-3 important passages that show good examples of application of theoretical concepts we will discuss that week. The presentation should include one or two discussion questions after briefly explaining the social and cultural context as well as the author's biography. Submit your presentation slides to D2L no later than Sunday night, (and presentation recording if you are an asynchronous student).

Course Reading Presentation: Theory Text 10% (100 points)

Students will sign up for one week to present secondary/theory readings (usually 2 articles per week) for 15 minutes, followed by a Q&A discussion. The presenter(s) will read the assigned text thoroughly and summarize important concepts and terms from the assigned theory texts with one or two discussion questions. Submit your presentation slides to D2L no later than Sunday night, (and presentation recording if you are an asynchronous student).

Midterm Exam 20% (200 points)

Students will take a midterm take-home exam including explanations of theoretical terms, historical contexts, and application of theory on literary texts we studied in class. Class discussions, reading responses, and student presentations will be used for exam questions. Direct use of AI for the exam is prohibited; thus, uncanny resemblance with AI answers can be considered cheating.

Final Exam 20% (200 points)

Students will take a final take-home exam including explanations of theoretical terms, historical contexts, and application of theory on literary texts we studied in class. Class discussions, reading responses, and student presentations will be used for exam questions. Direct use of AI for the exam is prohibited; thus, uncanny resemblance with AI answers can be considered cheating.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Academic Honesty Policy

East Texas A&M University and the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another person and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments (using AI without critical caution), collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with

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others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension and expulsion (East Texas A&M University-Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1, 2, 3]). Cheating, including plagiarizing papers in whole or part, will result in a grade of zero (0) on the assignment for the first offense and may result in failure of the course for any subsequent offenses.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is important for your success in this class. Therefore, each unexcused absence after two will result in the lowering of your final grade by a third of a grade. Excused absences, such as those for documented illness, family tragedy, religious observance, or travel for inter-collegiate athletics, will not alter your grade. Also, use of a cell phone during class without permission will result in an unexcused absence (that means texting). Three unexcused absences will automatically result in failure for the course.

Assignment Policy

Student work must be completed and submitted when it is due. Students who know in advance they will miss class when an assignment is due must contact the instructor as soon as possible in advance of class to arrange for submission of the assignment. Deadline extensions and other allowances can often be provided before they are required.

Administrative Withdrawal

I reserve the right to drop a student from the course administratively for excessive absences or violations of student conduct codes.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

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ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34safetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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Students Sources

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University

Halladay Building, Room 203

Phone (903) 886-5145.

www.tamuc.edu/counsel

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

- * Sunday: 200-word Narrative Analysis Due
- * Sunday: Presentation Recording or Slides Due (in the week you are assigned)
- * Tuesday: 5:00-7:00
 - In-Person: Classroom DTH 146
 - Online: <https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/95517023854> Meeting ID: 955 1702 3854
- * Thursday: 200-word Asynchronous Participation Essay Due (only for asynchronous students)

Black: Reading and in-class activities

Blue: Student Work

	Weekly Topics, Reading, and Assignments
Week 1	School starts on 8/20 (Thursday)
	*Start to read Week 3 readings.

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Week 2	Introduction to Course
Reading	None
Class (8/25)	Introduction to Course *Recording and PPT slides will be uploaded after class for asynchronous students https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/95517023854 Meeting ID: 955 1702 3854
Assignment (8/27)	Complete Welcome Survey and Presentation Sign-Up sheet at D2L
Week 3	Mapping the Field: What Is “Narrative” and “Narratology”?
Reading	Susana Onega and Jose Angel Garcia Landa, “Introduction,” in <i>Narratology: An Introduction</i> (Routledge, 2014), 1-35. Roland Barthes, “An Introduction to the Structural Analysis of Narrative” <i>New Literary History</i> 6.2 (1975): 237-272. Kate Chopin, “The Story of an Hour” (1894)
Assignment (8/30)	Narrative Analysis 1: Analyze Kate Chopin’s short story based on Roland Barthes’s structural analysis of narrative in 200 words. Use specific examples and moments from the primary text and add at least one discussion question.
Class (9/1)	Lecture & Discussion *Recording and PPT slides will be uploaded after class for students who can’t make it. https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/95517023854 Meeting ID: 955 1702 3854
Assignment (9/3)	Participation Essay Due (asynchronous students only): Watch the class recording and write a 200-word response addressing one or two discussion questions raised during the lecture or discussion.
Week 4	How Narrative Works?
Reading	Michael Toolan, “Narrative as Socially Situated” in <i>Narrative: A Critical Linguistic Introduction</i> (NY: Routledge, 1988), 146-164. Shlomith Rimmon-Kenan, “Story-Events” in <i>Narrative Fiction</i> (Routledge, 1983), 6-28. Flannery O’Connor, “A Good Man is Hard to Find” (1953)
Assignment (9/6)	Narrative Analysis 2: Flannery O’Connor
Class (9/8)	Presentation & Discussion *Recording and PPT slides will be uploaded after class for students who can’t make it. https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/95517023854 Meeting ID: 955 1702 3854 Presentation 1 Theory: Presentation 2 Primary Text:

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Assignment (9/10)	Participation Essay Due (asynchronous students only)
Week 5	Characters
Reading	Shlomith Rimmon-Kenan, "Character" & "Characterization" in <i>Narrative Fiction</i> (Routledge, 1983), 29-42, 58-70. Toni Morrison, "Recitatif" (1983)
Assignment (9/13)	Narrative Analysis 3: Toni Morrison
Class (9/15)	Presentation & Discussion *Recording and PPT slides will be uploaded after class for students who can't make it. https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/95517023854 Meeting ID: 955 1702 3854 Presentation 1 Theory: Presentation 2 Primary Text:
Assignment (9/17)	Participation Essay Due (asynchronous students only)
Week 6	Focalization
Reading	Mieke Bal, "Focalization" in <i>Narratology: Introduction to the Theory of Narrative</i> (U of Toronto P), 100-118. Shlomith Rimmon-Kenan, "Focalization" in <i>Narrative Fiction</i> (Routledge, 1983), 71-85. Ernest Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants" (1927)
Assignment (9/20)	Narrative Analysis 4: Ernest Hemingway
Class (9/22)	Presentation & Discussion *Recording and PPT slides will be uploaded after class for students who can't make it. https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/95517023854 Meeting ID: 955 1702 3854 Presentation 1 Theory: Presentation 2 Primary Text:
Assignment (9/24)	Participation Essay Due (asynchronous students only)
Week 7	Positioning, Stance, and Frame (+Midterm Review)
Reading	Michael Bamberg "Positioning Between Structure and Performance" <i>Journal of Narrative and Life History</i> 7 (1997): 335-342. Goffman, Erving "The Frame Analysis of Talk" in <i>Frame Analysis: An Essay on the Organization of Experience</i> (Northeastern University Press, 1986): 496-559. Junot Díaz, "How to Date a Browngirl, Blackgirl, Whitegirl, or Halfie" (1997)

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	1986
Assignment (9/27)	Narrative Analysis 5: Junot Díaz (“Footing” Exercise) Go through the first two pages of Díaz’s story and highlight every instance where the speaker changes their “footing”—shifting from an intimate tone to a defensive one, or from quoting someone else to speaking for themselves.
Class (9/29)	Presentation and Discussion *Recording and PPT slides will be uploaded after class for students who can’t make it. https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/95517023854 Meeting ID: 955 1702 3854 Presentation 1 Theory: Presentation 2 Primary Text:
Assignment (10/1)	Participation Essay Due (asynchronous students only)
Week 8	Midterm Exam (No Class)
Class (10/6)	No Class *Midterm Exam will be released on 10/1.
Assignment (10/8)	Take-Home Exam Due (10/1-10/8)
Week 9	Time, Space, and Chronotope
Reading	Shlomith Rimmon-Kenan, “Time,” in <i>Narrative Fiction</i> (Routledge, 1983), 43-38 M.M. Bakhtin, “Forms of Time and of the Chronotope in the Novel” William Faulkner, “A Rose for Emily” (1930)
Assignment (10/11)	Narrative Analysis 6: William Faulkner
Class (10/13)	Presentation and Discussion *Recording and PPT slides will be uploaded after class for students who can’t make it. https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/95517023854 Meeting ID: 955 1702 3854 Presentation 1 Theory: Presentation 2 Primary Text:
Assignment (10/15)	Participation Essay Due (asynchronous students only)
Week 10	Narrator and (Un)reliability
Reading	Mieke Bal, “The Narrator” in <i>Narratology: Introduction to the Theory of Narrative</i> (U of Toronto P), 11-26.

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	Greta Olson, "Reconsidering Unreliability: Fallible and Untrustworthy Narrators" <i>Narrative</i> 11.1 (2003): 93-109. Ring Lardner, "Haircut" (1926)
Assignment (10/18)	Narrative Analysis 7: Ring Lardner
Class (10/20)	Presentation and Discussion *Recording and PPT slides will be uploaded after class for students who can't make it. https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/95517023854 Meeting ID: 955 1702 3854 Presentation 1 Theory: Presentation 2 Primary Text:
Assignment (10/22)	Participation Essay Due (asynchronous students only)
Week 11	Rhythm, Frequency, and Ellipsis
Reading	Gérard Genette, "Duration" in <i>Narrative Discourse: An Essay in Method</i> (1983): 86-112 W. W. Jacobs, "The Monkey's Paw" (1902)
Assignment (10/25)	Narrative Analysis 8: W. W. Jacobs
Class (10/27)	Presentation and Discussion *Recording and PPT slides will be uploaded after class for students who can't make it. https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/95517023854 Meeting ID: 955 1702 3854 Presentation 1 Theory: Presentation 2 Primary Text:
Assignment (10/29)	Participation Essay Due (asynchronous students only)
Week 12	Counter-Narrative and Dialogic Narration
Reading	Susan S. Lanser, "Toward a Feminist Narratology" <i>Style</i> 20.3 (1986): 341-363. Gerald Prince, "On Postcolonial Narratology" in <i>A Companion to Narrative Theory</i> (Blackwell, 2005), 372-81. Carmen Maria Machado, "The Husband Stitch" (2014) at https://granta.com/the-husband-stitch
Assignment (11/1)	Narrative Analysis 9: Carmen Maria Machado
Class (11/3)	Presentation and Discussion *Recording and PPT slides will be uploaded after class for students who can't make it. https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/95517023854 Meeting ID: 955 1702 3854

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	Presentation 1 Theory: Presentation 2 Primary Text:
Assignment (11/5)	Participation Essay Due (asynchronous students only)
Week 13	Narrating Memory and Trauma
Reading	Dori Laub, "Truth and Testimony: The Process and the Struggle" <i>American Imago</i>, 48.1 (1991): 75-91. Kai Erikson, "Notes on Trauma and Community" <i>American Imago</i> 48.4 (1991): 455-472. Tim O'Brien, "How to Tell a True War Story"
Assignment (11/8)	Narrative Analysis 10: Tim O'Brien
Class (11/10)	Presentation and Discussion *Recording and PPT slides will be uploaded after class for students who can't make it. https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/95517023854 Meeting ID: 955 1702 3854 Presentation 1 Theory: Presentation 2 Primary Text:
Assignment (11/12)	Participation Essay Due (asynchronous students only)
Week 14	Narrative, Media, & Intermediality and Warp-Up
Reading	Michael Toolan, "Electronic Multimodal Narratives and Literary Form" in <i>New Perspectives on Narrative and Multimodality</i> (Routledge, 2010), 127-141. Page, Ruth. "The Narrative Dimensions of Social Media Storytelling: Options for Linearity and Tellership" in <i>The Handbook of Narrative Analysis</i> (Wiley, 2015), 342-360. #reel/shorts: <i>The Double Life of My Billionaire Husband</i>
Assignment (11/15)	Narrative Analysis 11: <i>The Double Life of My Billionaire Husband</i>
Class (11/17)	Presentation and Discussion *Recording and PPT slides will be uploaded after class for students who can't make it. https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/95517023854 Meeting ID: 955 1702 3854 Presentation 1 Theory: Presentation 2 Primary Text: Teaching Feedback

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Assignment (11/19)	Participation Essay Due (asynchronous students only)
Week 15	Thanksgiving Break
Class	No Class (School Close)
Week 16	Final Exam
12/6 (Sun)	Take-Home Final Exam Due (11/20-12/6)
12/13 (Sun)	Final grade will be posted at D2L, with email notification. Students will have 24 hours to submit any inquiries or complaints before the official grade is due.
12/21 (Mon)	Final grade will be submitted to the ETAMU system, and no change can be made at this stage.

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