



Faculty of Arts  
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

GERM 699.13  
Narrative Theory

Fall 2020

Times to be determined. (Synchronous meetings via Zoom)  
COURSE OUTLINE

**INSTRUCTOR'S NAME:** Martin Wagner

**OFFICE HOURS:** Remotely, by appointment via email.

**E-MAIL:** martin.wagner@ucalgary.ca (You may expect a response within 48 hours, weekends excluded.)

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** I currently don't have access to my office phone. Phone calls and Zoom meetings can be arranged via email.

**DESCRIPTION**

This course provides an in-depth study of narrative theory, combining a survey of classic German and international narratological frameworks with a broader inquiry into the cultural and theoretical foundations of narrative. Class discussions will be in English. For texts written in German, we will refer to the original language. Assignments can be written in either German or English. Students are encouraged to write some assignments in German and others in English.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Familiarize students with leading theories in the study of narrative.
- Discuss in both practical and theoretical terms what it can mean to apply a theory in literary studies.
- Strengthen students' ability to assess scholarly work according to professional academic standards.

**OUTCOMES**

- Students will be able to analyze the narrative structure of literary text and non-literary texts using the appropriate conceptual vocabulary. They will be able to make informed choices in their use of this vocabulary and they will be able to clearly state how a certain narrative theory advances our understanding of texts (or vice versa, how the understanding of specific texts can help us refine the conceptual vocabulary).
- Students will be able to write academic book reviews, using the appropriate structure, language, and criteria for evaluation.

**REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS**

- Mieke Bal, *Narratology: Introduction to the Study of Narrative*. 4th Edition. (University of Toronto Press, 2017)
- Albrecht Koschorke, *Wahrheit und Erfindung. Grundzüge einer allgemeinen Erzähltheorie* (Fischer, 2012).
- Wolf Schmid, *Elemente der Narratologie*. 3. Auflage. (De Gruyter, 2014)

**RECOMMENDED COURSE MATERIALS**

**COURSE NOTES**

- Instructor and students will meet on a weekly basis to discuss readings and the students' writing assignments (details to be confirmed).
- Meetings will be conducted remotely via Zoom and will not be recorded.



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#### Technology Requirements:

As per the requirements, students need to have reliable access to technology, as follows:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Stable internet connection.

Additionally, a webcam/camera (built-in or external) is highly recommended.

#### ASSESSMENT

- Two book reviews: 40 % (20 % per review)
- Two case studies: 40 % (20 % per case study)
- Preparation and participation: 20%
  
- **Two book reviews (no fewer than 750 words each):** Students write a review of two of the three books studied in this course (they can choose which book they wish to focus on). Each review can earn up to 20 points, according to the following rubric:
  - Concision and completeness of the summary of the reviewed book (5/20).
  - Soundness and nuance in the evaluation of the reviewed book (5/20)
  - Successful establishment of connections to other published research (5/20).
  - Clarity of structure and writing and formal and stylistic appropriateness (5/20).
  
- **Two case studies (no fewer than 750 words each):** Students prepare two narratological case studies—one focusing on a literary text and one on a non-literary text. Students should make clear at the outset which narratological concept(s) will be applied in the analysis, and to what end these concept(s) will be applied (what will the analysis reveal about these concepts or about the studied texts?). Each case study can earn up to 20 points, according to the following rubric:
  - Successful and nuanced application of the chosen narratological concepts (10/20).
  - Convincingly reasoned choice of the narratological concepts (5/20).
  - Clarity of structure and writing and formal and stylistic appropriateness (5/20).
  
- **Preparation and participation:** Students are asked to participate in class discussions and to come to class with questions and comments related to the assigned readings. To receive a perfect grade, students are asked to make 20 contributions over the course of the semester (in the form of well-developed questions, comments etc.). Students may choose to supplement their contributions with short reflective statements (c. 250 words each) about individual class meetings. Each of these statements will be worth up to 3 points (to achieve a perfect score, the writing must be clear, and the statement must demonstrate familiarity with the content of the assigned reading, film screening, or class discussion). Please email these statements to the instructor no later than 48 hours after the meeting on which they comment.

#### PLEASE NOTE:

- **All written assignments should be submitted to the instructor via email. Please use Word documents for all written assignments.**
- **For each 24 hours an assignment is late, one point will be deducted. Please reach out to the instructor prior to the due date to arrange accommodations if appropriate.**
- **Any assignment that is not submitted will be graded at zero points.**

#### GRADING SCALE

**A+** (97-100%), **A** (92-96%), **A-** (86-91%)

**B+** (81-85%), **B** (76-80%), **B-** (71-75%)

**C+** (67-70%), **C** (62-66%), **C-** (58-61%)

**D+** (54-57%), **D** (50-53%), **F** (0-49%)



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#### **INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT**

All members of the University community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the Statement on Principles of Conduct, and to comply with the University of Calgary Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures (available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>).

#### **Academic misconduct**

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:

- a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);
- b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;
- c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
- d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted."

Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.

3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

#### **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

#### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT**

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it. Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.



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#### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>.)

Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

#### **FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES**

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)

Website: [arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate).

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Block.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca).

#### **INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

#### **SUPPORT AND RESOURCES**

Links to information that is not course-specific related to student wellness and safety resources can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>.