

Huron University College
Department of English
English 1027F 551: The Storyteller's Art I: Introduction to Narrative:
Narrating the End
Dr. Adrian Mioc

Class: Wed: 1:30-2:30 Fri: 1:30-3:30 – W106

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General Course Description

In early twentieth century, the great German thinker Walter Benjamin said that “the art of storytelling is coming to an end.” This course is trying to revive and “see a new beauty in what is vanishing.” Storytelling is consequential to who we are and our relation to the community, nation, and the world. We will explore the diverse traditions of storytelling: such as, oral tales, short stories, classic fiction, and graphic novels. Instruction is by lecture, and emphasizes developing strong analytical and writing skills.

Specific Focus

In his *Poetics*, Aristotle says that every good story has a beginning, middle and end. One could add that many stories are also about the beginnings, middles and ends of the people, places and things they tell about. In this course, we will examine stories about different forms of endings; the most general one being the end of the world or Armageddon (*Book of Revelation*, *Daniel 7-22*, the Norse Ragnarok or the Hindu eschatology). We will also read stories about natural disasters like earthquakes (Haruki Murakami's *After the Quake*), the impact of a comet (E.A. Poe's *The Conversation of Eiros and Charmion*) and even glance at Takashi Murakami's paintings after Japan's tsunami. Universal calamities can also be induced through a plague (Mary Shelley's *The Last Man*), the failure of modern technology (E.M. Foster's *The Machine Stops*), nuclear disasters (*Judge Dredd*) or exhaustion of resources (*Mad Max: Fury Road*.) Further, we will not overlook fantastic cataclysms in the form of a zombie apocalypse (*The Walking Dead*) or alien invasions (H. G. Wells' *War of the Worlds*.) Socio-political implications of the end will be discussed while analyzing dystopian narratives (Alan Moore's *V for Vendetta*.) The Holocaust as it is retold in Anne Frank's *Diary of a Young Girl* will occasion considerations about man-made atrocities. Anne Frank's account will also introduce the inner dimension of the end in the form of psychological traumas, amnesias, blackouts or blockages (*Blade Runner*.) Finally, we will look through network news narratives about imminent destructions like global warming and its relation to corporatism.

Course Learning Objectives

Improve critical reading and writing in ways that will enable success in a wide variety of University courses
Further appreciation of diverse cultural productions and practices
Develop an interdisciplinary perspective on a variety of narrative media: for example, short story, novel or film
Become capable of identifying, analyzing and interpreting basic narrative elements, such as plot, character, point of view, theme, setting, imagery, diction, tone, figures of speech, and tropes
Explore a wide range of forms of creative expression
Write logically and persuasively in fluent, standard English using the appropriate conventions for scholarly-critical writing
Design strong thesis statements and structured arguments in persuasive essays
Learn to document essays using MLA format
Evaluate the relevance, reliability, and usefulness of research sources, including those obtained through the Internet
Integrate outside research materials and references to the original text into an essay through use of quotations and paraphrases

Course Texts

King James Bible

Haruki Murakami *After the Quake* (2000)

E.A. Poe *The Conversation of Eiros and Charmion* (1839)

Mary Shelley *The Last Man* (1826)

E.M. Foster *The Machine Stops* (1909)

Alan Moore *V for Vendetta*

H. G. Wells *War of the Worlds* (1898)

Anne Frank *Diary of a Young Girl* (1947)

Method of Evaluation and Assessment

Assignment	Due	Weight
Writing Assignment #1: Plot/Action Analysis (500 words)	in class Sept. 29	10%
Creative Task: Writing Alternate Ends, Your End of the World Scenario	in class Oct. 18	5%
Writing Assignment #2: Scene/Character Analysis (750 words)	in class Nov. 1	15%
Term paper (1250 words)	in class Dec. 7	25%
Final Exam	To be scheduled by Registrar	30%
Attendance & Participation		15%

Attendance and Participation

Attendance is required. If you miss more than six hours of class meetings (the equivalent of two weeks of class meetings), your attendance & participation grade will automatically be cut by 5%. If you miss more than nine hours of class meetings, you will forfeit the grade entirely. Participation means having completed the readings and being prepared to discuss them in class or on the OWL forum.

Students must pass both term work and the final examination in order to pass the course. Students who fail the term work are not allowed to take the final examination. Students who fail the final examination (regardless of their term work) automatically fail the course.

Late Policy

All assignments are due by the end of class on the due date and should be handed to the instructor personally. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the instructor receives the essay.

Late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 2 marks per calendar day until the instructor receives the essay. Normally, late assignments will receive a grade but no detailed commentary. After 7 days, the assignment will not be accepted and a mark of 0/F will be awarded.

For policies detailing accommodation please see the appendix.

Schedule of Readings and Lectures

Week 1 /

Sept. 8: Introduction

Week 2 /

Sept. 13: The Bible (*Book of Revelation, Daniel 7-22*)

Sept. 15: The Norse Ragnarok, Hindu Eschatology

Week 3 /

Sept. 20: Haruki Murakami *After the Quake* (2000) (ufo in kushiro)

Sept, 22: Haruki Murakami *After the Quake* (2000) (super-frog saves tokyo)

Week 4 /

Sept. 27: E.A. Poe *The Conversation of Eiros and Charmion* (1839)

Sept 29: E. A. Poe *The Conversation of Eiros and Charmion* (1839)

Week 5 /

Oct. 4: Mary Shelley *The Last Man* (1826)

Oct. 6: Mary Shelley *The Last Man* (1826)

Week 6 /

Oct. 11: Reading Week

Oct. 13: Reading Week

Week 7 /

Oct. 18: E.M. Foster *The Machine Stops* (1909)

Oct. 20: *Judge Dredd* comics and movie *Dredd* (2012)

Week 8 /

Oct. 25: Alan Moore *V for Vendetta*

Oct. 27: *Mad Max: Fury Road* (2016)

Week 9 /

Nov. 1: *The Walking Dead* comics

Nov. 3: *The Walking Dead* TV series

Week 10 /

Nov. 8: H. G. Wells *War of the Worlds* (1898)

Nov. 10: H. G. Wells *War of the Worlds* (1898)

Week 11 /

Nov. 15: Anne Frank *Diary of a Young Girl* (1947)

Nov. 17: Anne Frank *Diary of a Young Girl* (1947)

Week 12 /

Nov. 22: Anne Frank *Diary of a Young Girl* (1947)

Nov. 24: *Blade Runner* (1982)

Week 13 /

Nov. 29: *Blade Runner* (1982)

Dec. 1: Network News Narratives: Global Warming, BP Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill

Week 14 /

Dec. 7: Conclusion



Appendix to Course Outlines

Prerequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from

your Provost and Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Conduct of Students in Classes, Lectures, and Seminars

Membership in the community of Huron University College and the University of Western Ontario implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. The academic and social privileges granted to each student are conditional upon the fulfillment of these responsibilities.

In the classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Students can avoid any unnecessary disruption of the class by arriving in sufficient time to be seated and ready for the start of the class, by remaining silent while the professor is speaking or another student has the floor, and by taking care of personal needs prior to the start of class. If a student is late, or knows that he/she will have to leave class early, be courteous: sit in an aisle seat and enter and leave quietly.

Please see the *Code of Student Rights and*

Responsibilities at: <http://www.huronuc.ca/CurrentStudents/StudentLifeandSupportServices/StudentDiscipline>

Technology

It is not appropriate to use technology (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and is distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Academic Accommodation for Medical/Non-Medical Grounds

Students who require special accommodation for tests and/or other course components must make the appropriate arrangements with the Student Development Centre (SDC). Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at:

http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/?requesting_acc

- a. **Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go Directly to Academic Advising**

University Senate policy, which can be found

at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf,

requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found

at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform_15JUN.pdf.

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the

presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Provost and Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Provost and Dean.

b. Accommodation on Medical Grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly

When seeking accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. The instructor may not collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Provost and Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Provost and Dean.

c. Non-medical Grounds: Consult Instructor Directly

Where the grounds for seeking accommodation are not medical, the student should contact the instructor directly. Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor. Apart from the exception noted below, academic advisors will not be involved in the process of accommodation for non-medical reasons.

Where a student seeks accommodation on non-medical grounds where confidentiality is a concern, the student should approach an academic advisor with any documentation available. The advisors will contact the instructor after the student's request is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the challenge without breaching confidence. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified that significant circumstances are affecting or have affected the student's ability to complete work, and the student will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. Before denying a request for accommodation where documentation has been submitted to an academic advisor, the instructor will consult with the Provost and Dean. The instructor's decision is appealable to the Provost and Dean.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Statement on Academic Integrity

The International Centre for Academic Integrity defines academic integrity as "a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behaviour that enable academic communities to translate ideals to action." (CAI Fundamental Values Project, 1999).

A lack of academic integrity is indicated by such behaviours as the following:

- Cheating on tests;
- Fraudulent submissions online;
- Plagiarism in papers submitted (including failure to cite and piecing together unattributed sources);
- Unauthorized resubmission of course work to a different course;
- Helping someone else cheat;
- Unauthorized collaboration;
- Fabrication of results or sources;
- Purchasing work and representing it as one's own.

Academic Integrity: Importance and Impact

Being at university means engaging with a variety of communities in the pursuit and sharing of knowledge and understanding in ways that are clear, respectful, efficient, and productive. University communities have established norms of academic integrity to ensure responsible, honest, and ethical behavior in the academic work of the university, which is best done when sources of ideas are properly and fully acknowledged and when responsibility for ideas is fully and accurately represented.

In the academic sphere, unacknowledged use of another's work or ideas is not only an offence against the community of scholars and an obstacle to academic productivity. It may also be understood as fraud and may constitute an infringement of legal copyright.

A university is a place for fulfilling one's potential and challenging oneself, and this means rising to challenges rather than finding ways around them. The achievements in an individual's university studies can only be fairly evaluated quantitatively through true and honest representation of the actual learning done by the student. Equity in assessment for all students is ensured through fair representation of the efforts by each.

Acting with integrity at university constitutes a good set of practices for maintaining integrity in later life. Offences against academic integrity are therefore taken very seriously as part of the university's work in preparing students to serve, lead, and innovate in the world at large.

A university degree is a significant investment of an individual's, and the public's, time, energies, and resources in the future, and habits of academic integrity protect that investment by preserving the university's reputation and ensuring public confidence in higher education.

Students found guilty of plagiarism will suffer consequences ranging from a grade reduction to failure in the course to expulsion from the university. In addition, a formal letter documenting the offence will be filed in the Provost and Dean's Office, and this record of the offence will be retained in the Provost and Dean's Office for the duration of the student's academic career at Huron University College.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Policy on Special Needs

Students who require special accommodation for tests and/or other course components must make the appropriate arrangements with the Student Development Centre (SDC). Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at:

http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/?requesting_acc

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Provost and Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Provost and Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Provost and Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Provost and Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Class Cancellations

In the event of a cancellation of class, every effort will be made to post that information on the Huron website, <http://www.huronuc.ca/AccessibilityInfo> (“Class Cancellations”).

Mental Health @ Western

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Academic Advising

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation [see above], students should contact an Academic Advisor in Huron’s Student Support Services (hurousss@uwo.ca). An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <http://www.huronuc.ca/CurrentStudents/AcademicAdvisorsandServices>

Department Chairs and Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about their individual programs. Their contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <http://www.huronuc.ca/Academics/FacultyofArtsandSocialScience>