

Rhythm Nation: Pop Culture Narrative

Chris Johnson
chrisjohnso@earthlink.net

Web Site
<http://blackvistas.com/index.html>
password "culture"

This course will consider the evolution of personal and social narrative in our time.

All readings will be available via the course web site.

Participants are required to write two essays of approximately ten pages in length each. The first essay will be due at mid semester and the second near the end of the term. Essay topics will be chosen from course readings and themes.

All writing assignments must be typed. Please double-space the lines and use one-inch margins on all sides of the page.

Final grades will depend 60% on submitted work and 40% on class participation.

Please inform me of any medical issues that may influence your attendance and performance in class.

More than four class absences result in automatic failure of the course. Recurring tardiness will be reflected in the final grade.

Plagiarism occurs when one writer copies the words of another writer without attributing the words to the source. Unattributed copying will result in course failure.

Course Calendar (subject to change)

Week	Theme
One	Introduction
Two	The Postmodern
Three	Story
Four	Space
Five	Nation (1)
Six	Gender
Seven	Postcolonial / Postethnic
Eight	<p style="text-align: center;">First Essay</p> Religion and Science
Nine	Science and Medicine
Ten	Fiction / Nonfiction
Eleven	Action
Twelve	Nation (2)
Thirteen	The Bible
Fourteen	<p style="text-align: center;">Second Essay</p> The Rewrite
Fifteen	The Individual
Sixteen	Containment

Course Readings (subject to change)

Introduction

Reading excerpt from

Narrative across media : the languages of storytelling, edited by Marie-Laure Ryan. 2004.

The Postmodern

Reading excerpt from

Universal abandon? Andrew Ross, editor. 1988.

Reading excerpt from

Uncharted space : the end of narrative. Jennifer M. Jeffers. 2001.

Story

Reading excerpt from

The classical plot and the invention of Western narrative. N.J. Lowe. 2000.

Reading excerpt from

Narrative strategies in television series. edited by Gaby Allrath and Marion Gymnich. 2005.

Space

Reading excerpt from

Inside modernism : relativity theory, cubism, narrative. Thomas Vargish and Delo E. Mook. 1999.

Reading excerpt from

Story and space in Renaissance art. Lew Andrews. 1995.

Nation (1)

Reading excerpt from

Stories of women : gender and narrative in the postcolonial nation. Elleke Boehmer. 2005.

Gender

Reading excerpt from

Men talk : stories in the making of masculinities. Jennifer Coates. 2003.

Reading excerpt from

Having a good cry : effeminate feelings and pop-culture forms. Robyn R. Warhol. 2003.

Postcolonial / Postethnic

Reading excerpt from

Textual politics from slavery to postcolonialism : race and identification. Carl Plasa. 2000.

Reading excerpt from

Postethnic narrative criticism : magicrealism in Oscar "Zeta" Acosta, Ana Castillo, Julie Dash, Hanif Kureishi, and Salman Rushdie. Frederick Luis Aldama. 2003.

Religion and Science

Reading excerpt from

Tribal talk : black theology, hermeneutics, and African/American ways of "telling the story." Will Coleman. 2000.

Reading excerpt from

Narrative, religion, and science : fundamentalism versus irony, 1700-1999. Stephen Prickett. 2002.

Science and Medicine

Reading excerpt from

Darwin's plots : evolutionary narrative in Darwin, George Eliot and nineteenth-century fiction. Gillian Beer. 2000.

Reading excerpt from

Bodily and narrative forms : the influence of medicine on American literature, 1845-1915. Cynthia J. Davis. 2000.

Fiction / Nonfiction

Reading excerpt from

Desire and fictional narrative in late imperial China. Martin W. Huang. 2001.

Reading excerpt from

Narrative of the life of Henry Box Brown / written by himself. introduction by Richard Newman ; foreword by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. 2002.

Action

Reading excerpt from

Killer books : writing, violence, and ethics in modern Spanish American narrative, by Aníbal González. 2001.

Reading excerpt from

The telling of the act : sexuality as narrative in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century France. Peter Cryle. 2001.

Nation (2)

Reading excerpt from

The Israeli Palestinians : an Arab minority in the Jewish state, edited Alexander Bligh. 2003.

The Bible

Reading excerpt from

Encountering the divine : theophany in biblical narrative. George W. Savran. 2005.

Reading excerpt from

Sexual politics in the biblical narrative : reading the Hebrew Bible as a woman. Esther Fuchs. 2000.

The Rewrite

Reading excerpt from

Rewriting : postmodern narrative and cultural critique in the age of cloning. Christian Moraru. 2001.

Reading excerpt from

Black visual culture : modernity and postmodernity. Gen Doy. 2000.

The Individual

Reading excerpt from

Narrative bodies : toward a corporeal narratology. by Daniel Punday. 2003.

Reading excerpt from

Autobiography : narrative of transformation. Carolyn A. Barros. 1998.

Containment

Reading excerpt from

Containment Culture. American Narrative, Postmodernism, and the Atomic Age. Alan Nadel. 1995.