

Syllabus for PNSI 2026

Unit I: Rhetorical Poetics and Unreliable Narration

Monday 6/15: Aristotle, *Poetics*

Excerpts from Wayne C. Booth, *The Rhetoric of Fiction*

Ring Lardner, "Haircut"

Tuesday, 6/16: Excerpt from Phelan, *Living to Tell about It*, and "Bonding and Estranging Unreliability"

Ansgar Nünning, "Unreliable, Compared to What? Towards a Cognitive Theory of Unreliable Narration"

Vera Nünning, "Unreliable Narration and the Historical Variability of Values and Norms"

Edgar Allan Poe, "The Cask of Amontillado" Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper"

Unit II: Authorial Intention

Wednesday 6/17 Wimsatt and Beardsley, "The Intentional Fallacy":

E.D. Hirsch, Jr. "Objective Interpretation";

Katra Byram, "Narrative as Social Action: Making Rhetorical Narrative Theory Accountable to Context";

Faye Halpern, "Charles Chesnutt, Rhetorical Passing, and the Flesh and Blood Author: A Case for Considering Authorial Intention";

Chesnutt, "The Goophered Grapevine"; Constance Fenimore Woolson, "Miss Grief"

Unit III: Fictionality

Thursday 6/18 John Searle, "The Logical Status of Fictional Discourse";

Marie-Laure Ryan, excerpt from *A New Anatomy of Storyworlds*;

Lasse Gammelgaard, et al. "Introduction" to *Fictionality in Literature*;

Roddy Doyle, "Worms"; Tobias Wolff, "Close Calls"

Friday, June 19th. Holiday

Unit IV: Climate Change and Econarratology

Monday June 22 Excerpts from Amitav Ghosh, *The Great Derangement*

Excerpts from Erin James, *Narrative and the Anthropocene*

Omar El-Akkad, "Factory Air"; Nathaniel Rich, "Hermie"

Unit V: Narrative Medicine as Applied Narratology

Tuesday June 23

Excerpts from Charon, et al. *The Principles and Practices of Narrative Medicine*;

Excerpts from Phelan, *Narrative Medicine: A Rhetorical Rx*

Richard Selzer, "Imelda"; Joyce Carol Oates, "Hospice/Honeymoon."

Unit VI: AI Narratives

Wednesday June 24

Angus Fletcher, "Why Computers Will Never Read (or Write) Literature"

Jon Chun and Katherine Elkins, "What the Rise of AI Means for Narrative Studies: A Response to Angus Fletcher"

Angus Fletcher, "Why Computer AI Will Never Do What We Imagine It Can"

Project Narrative Podcast with Stefan Iversen on AI-generated "metafiction about grief"

Namwali Serpell, "Account"

Unit VII: Participant Presentations

Thursday and Friday, June 25 and 26