



Syllabus

		Lecture
wk 1	Mon 7 Oct	Introduction
wk 2	Mon 14 Oct	Narrative
wk 3	Mon 21 Oct	Genre
wk 4	Mon 28 Oct	Representation
wk 5	Mon 4 Nov	Intertextuality
wk 6	Mon 11 Nov	Transmediality
wk 7	Mon 18 Nov	Conclusions



Today's seminar

- Lecture recap
- Seminar activity 1
- Seminar activity 2
- Lunch task
- Group tutorials



Lecture Recap: What are Stories and Why (and How) do we Tell Them?

What is a Story?

Most dictionaries define a story as a narrative account of a real or imagined event or events. Within the storytelling community, a story is more generally agreed to be a specific structure of narrative with a specific style and set of characters and which includes a sense of completeness. Through this sharing of experience we use stories to pass on accumulated wisdom, beliefs, and values. Through stories we explain how things are, why they are, and our role and purpose. Stories are the building blocks of knowledge, the foundation of memory and learning. Stories connect us with our humanness and link past, present, and future by teaching us to anticipate the possible consequences of our actions. (from: the online archive of the National Storytelling Association, http://www.eldrbarry.net/roos/st_defn.htm)

It goes on to say: Storytelling passes on the essence of who we are. Stories are a prime vehicle for assessing and interpreting events, experiences, and concepts from minor moments of daily life to the grand nature of the human condition. It is an intrinsic and basic form of human communication. More than any other form of communication, the telling of stories in an integral and essential part of the human experience... Storytelling emerges from the interaction and cooperative, coordinated efforts of teller and audience.



Lecture Recap: What are Stories and Why (and How) do we Tell Them?

What is a Narrative?

A narrative is some kind of retelling, often in words (though it is possible to mime a story), of something that happened (a story). The narrative is not the story itself but rather the telling of the story -- which is why it is so often used in phrases such as "written narrative," "oral narrative," etc. While a story just is a sequence of events, a narrative recounts those events, perhaps leaving some occurrences out because they are from some perspective insignificant, and perhaps emphasizing others. In a series of events, a car crash takes a split second. A narrative account, however, might be almost entirely about the crash itself and the few seconds leading up to it. Narratives thus shape history (the series of events, the story of what happened). (from: The Digital Humanities archive: <http://www.units.muohio.edu/technologyandhumanities/narastech.htm>)



Seminar activity 1

What is Film Noir?

- A definition of what the genre is (its history and origin, etc)
- A list of key stylistic and narrative features that define it (eg lighting techniques, character types, storylines, etc)
- At least two clips from films described as noir and to be able to identify the features in each clip that make the films noir.



Seminar activity 2

Storytelling the combination of the story and the narrative. Think about some of your favourite stories (these can be from literature, film, fairytales, music videos, oral stories etc, etc). What are the various elements in the ways in which these stories are told that attracts you to them and gives you pleasure (ie, not the story itself but the way that the story is told)



Group Tutorials Explained

	ET130	ET135
1.30	Group 1	Group 6
1.45	Group 2	Group 7
2pm	Group 3	Group 8
2.15	Group 4	Group 9
2.30	Group 5	Group 10

Each week, we will assign you a group task to be performed over lunch. Bring your completed task back to your group tutorials for discussion.

Tutorial times for today above. Each week we will rotate times for fairness, so make sure you note this down each week. Please be on time!



Lunch task

Different media (for example fictional film, documentary film, news reports, newspaper columns, advertisements, fictional literature, music video etc) and different genres within each of these media (eg within fictional film – film noir, the gangster, chick flick, rom com etc) have different codes, conventions and rules for their narrative forms, even though the subject may be identical. In your groups, and using the research you did on Film Noir prepare a 5 - 10 min informal presentation on the representation of crime in Film Noir, eg, what type of people tend to be the central protagonists, how are they portrayed, how does the stylistic, musical and visual presentation of the narrative help to produce the particular representation of crime in Noir? The following is a useful resource: <http://www.filmnoirfoundation.org/home.html>



This afternoon 14 October

	ET130	ET135
1.30	Group 1	Group 6
1.45	Group 2	Group 7
2pm	Group 3	Group 8
2.15	Group 4	Group 9
2.30	Group 5	Group 10

See you this afternoon. Please be on time!