Telling Stories: Studying Narrative in Fiction and Film

GLSP Spring 2011, Tuesday 6:30 – 9:00
Joseph Fitzpatrick (jjfitzpatrick@wesleyan.edu)

January 25  Introduction
Selected definitions of “narrative” (read in-class)
Selected short films (screened in-class)

February 1  Story & Plot
“Art as Technique” (Viktor Shklovsky)
“Gentle Breath” (Ivan Bunin)
from The Psychology of Art (Lev Vygotsky)
Selections from Story and Discourse (Seymour Chatman)
“Narrative Versions, Narrative Theories” (Barbara Herrnstein Smith)

February 8  Romeo & Juliet
Romeo and Juliet (William Shakespeare)
Selection of Sonnets (from The Norton Anthology of Poetry)
Selections from Metamorphoses (Ovid) [“Pyramus and Thisbe”]
Selections from A Midsummer Night’s Dream (William Shakespeare)
“Narrative Desire” (Peter Brooks)

February 15  Wuthering Heights
Wuthering Heights (Emily Bronte)
“Repetition and the Uncanny” (J. Hillis Miller)

February 22  Detection
“Murders in the Rue Morgue” (Edgar Allen Poe)
“A Study in Scarlet” (Arthur Conan Doyle)
“The Typology of Detective Fiction” (Tsvetan Todorov)

March 1  Mystery
“The Turn of the Screw” (Henry James)
The Others (dir. Alejandro Amenábar)
eXistenZ (dir. David Cronenberg)

March 8/15  SPRING RECESS

March 22  Crime & Punishment
“The Overcoat” (Nikolai Gogol)
Crime and Punishment (Fyodor Dostoevsky)
from Problems of Dostoevsky’s Poetics (Mikhail Bakhtin)
March 29

Voice
from *The Rhetoric of Fiction* (Wayne Booth)
from *Narrative Discourse: An Essay on Method* (Gerard Genette)

April 5

Lolita
“Valediction: Forbidding Mourning” (John Donne)
“Annabel Lee” (Edgar Allen Poe)
*Lolita* (Vladimir Nabokov)
*Lolita* (dir. Stanley Kubrik)

April 12

Neo-Noir
*Memento* (dir. Christopher Nolan)
*Vertigo* (dir. Alfred Hitchcock)
“How the Non-duped Err (Slavoj Žižek)

April 19

Good Soldier
“The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” (T.S. Eliot)
*The Good Soldier* (Ford Madox Ford)

April 26

Conclusion
Readings TBA

Required Texts:

Bronte, Emily  
*Wuthering Heights*, Oxford World’s Classics Edition:
- ISBN-10: 0199541892

Dostoevsky, Fyodor  
*Crime and Punishment*, Vintage Classics Edition:  
[Pevear & Volokhonsky translation]
- ISBN-10: 0679734503

Ford, Ford Madox  
*The Good Soldier*, Oxford World’s Classics Edition:
- ISBN-10: 0199537275

Nabokov, Vladimir  
*Lolita*, Vintage Classics Edition:
- ISBN-10: 0679723161