ENGLISH 7381
HISTORY OF NARRATIVE/NARRATIVE THEORY
Aboul-Ela

DESCRIPTION AND GOALS: This course is designed to familiarize graduate students with some of the major issues in current discussions of narrative. Toward this end, the units are organized around specific issues with each including representative readings, including some theory which frames the questions and a sample of literary texts from various periods and national traditions. Although a variety of literary genres are represented in the syllabus, the emphasis is on the novel and its major antecedents.

There are three units and each unit's readings represent a series of tightly interlinked questions. The first unit raises the complicated issue of time and the role it plays in narrative. The second takes up the problem of point of view/perspective. The related categories that undergird the final unit include setting, scale, and geography—in short, the "world." Note that these issues bleed into each other across the various units, notwithstanding their presence as organizing principles in particular units. The goal is for the student to leave the course with a deeper understanding of narrative's structure and components, and with a sophisticated language to talk about the workings of narration.

REQUIREMENTS: Students will give a short paper in class between weeks 4 and 9 and write a final paper in which they research a topic growing out of the semester's readings.

DRAFT SCHEDULE
UNIT 1 Histoire
Wells, Citizen Cane
Joyce, "Eveline"
Ricoeur, "Narrative Time"
Chatman, Story and Discourse
Dante, The Inferno
Balzac, Old Goriot
Conrad, Heart of Darkness

UNIT 2 Recit
Haddawy, The Arabian Nights
Austen, Pride and Prejudice
Faulkner, As I Lay Dying
Currie, Postmodern Narrative Theory
Foucault, "What is an Author?"

UNIT 3 Place
Salih, Season of Migration to the North
Devi, Pterodactyl
Spivak, Death of a Discipline
Tanoukhi, "The Scale of World Literature"