Narrative Studies

Learning Objectives

Narrative studies prepares students for the development and evaluation of original content for novels, films, theatre and other narrative platforms, but recognizes that the range of professional opportunities in literature and the performing arts is much wider than the roles of author, screenwriter or playwright.

To study narrative is to study the control of implication, to recognize that what isn’t said – or seen, or heard – is as important as what is said and how it is said. These aspects shift according to culture, time, and audience, with shared understandings, perspectives, materials, media, and procedures. No single discipline embraces all of these aspects to the exclusion of other disciplines. Conversely, disparate explorations need to be brought together in a way that makes personal sense to each individual student. Our studies in narrative are based in the humanities, coordinate with practice in the arts and media, and culminate in an individual project that will be unique to each student.

Students will learn to:

- study narrative and its structure from the perspective of several disciplines
• develop and evaluate original content for novels, visual media, theatre, and other narrative platforms
• recognize professional opportunities beyond the roles of author, screenwriter or playwright
• recognize a good story, to critique, help shape, realize and transform it
• understand the history of narrative, cross-cultural and contemporary models, and the broader context of popular culture
• realize that effective narratives in new media are apt to emerge from an earlier medium
• understand the variety of current platforms while concentrating on the techniques of construction common to them all
• coordinate studies in humanities with studies and practices in fine arts
• integrate perspectives and methodologies from different fields
• design an individual and thematic curriculum
• engage in self-directed research
• identify and develop an independent research project
• work with scholars in different disciplines who share a common academic interest