



Lahore University of Management Sciences

ENGL 2432 – Narrative Essays Summer Semester 2024

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Instructor | Younis B. Azeem |
| Room No. | |
| Office Hours | |
| Email | Younis.azeem@lums.edu.pk |
| Telephone | |
| Secretary/TA | |
| TA Office Hours | |
| Course URL (if any) | |
| Support Services | LUMS offers a range of academic and other services to support students. These are mentioned below, and you are encouraged to use these in addition to in-class assistance from course staff. For a complete list of campus support services available for you click here (https://advising.lums.edu.pk/#supportservices) |

| Course Basics | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|---|----------|------------------------|
| Credit Hours | 4 | | | |
| Lecture(s) | Nbr of Lec(s) Per Week | 4 | Duration | One Hour Fifty Minutes |
| Recitation/Lab (per week) | Nbr of Lec(s) Per Week | | Duration | |
| Tutorial (per week) | Nbr of Lec(s) Per Week | | Duration | |

| Course Distribution | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Core | No |
| Elective | Yes |
| Open for Student Category | All |
| Close for Student Category | |

| COURSE DESCRIPTION |
|--|
| <p>If you've experienced <i>anything</i> in your life, and can construct a simple sentence, you're already equipped with the material to handle this class.</p> <p>This course introduces students to the art and craft of the narrative essay. Divided into various categories, the course attempts to teach students how writers use various craft and narrative techniques to deliver authentic, moving, and poignant stories about the human experience. We will develop techniques to identify why some essays/stories work. How do they engage with the world, and how do they deliver emotionally-driven, hard-hitting narratives that are not only memorable for their content but also for their craft? What techniques are useful? What are the limitations and flexibilities of the said techniques?</p> <p>The course will be writing intensive with in class writing exercises every week, and close reading required as we read writers from across the globe including masters of the form such as Joan Didion, James Baldwin, and David Foster Wallace. Towards the end of the course we will also look beyond writing towards the world of rap music, standup comedy, and film to see how they deal with narrative, and what we can borrow from them for our own writing.</p> |

| COURSE PREREQUISITE(S) | |
|---|-------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">••• | None. |

| COURSE OBJECTIVES |
|-------------------|
|-------------------|



Lahore University of Management Sciences

| | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • | <p>To introduce students to different forms of narrative essays, and important essayists from around the world.</p> <p>To enable students to understand what are the elements that make a great narrative essay, and how to replicate that in their own work</p> <p>To have students write original, unpublished essays.</p> <p>To workshop and provide constructive feedback to their peers.</p> |
|---|---|

| Learning Outcomes | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • | <p>Students will develop the ability to read a text closely and critically to see how it works at the sentence level.</p> <p>Students will learn how to record and mine their own lived experiences and convert them into narrative essays.</p> <p>Students will get closer to finding their own unique writing voice, and understand what form and techniques best bring this voice out.</p> |
| Grading Breakup and Policy | |
| <p>In Class Assignment(s): 17.5 percent</p> <p>Response Papers: 17.5 percent</p> <p>Presentation: 5 percent</p> <p>Class Participation: 10 percent</p> <p>Attendance: 5 percent</p> <p>Midterm Essay : 20 percent</p> <p>Final Essay: 25 percent</p> <p>Grading will be absolute. The following cut-offs will be used (Cut-offs may be changed before the start of the course)</p> <p>A+=91+</p> <p>A=85-90</p> <p>A-=80-84</p> <p>B+=75-79</p> <p>B=70-74</p> <p>B-=65-69</p> <p>C+=60-64</p> <p>C=55-59</p> <p>C-=50-54</p> <p>D=45-50</p> <p>Below 45 = F</p> <p>A total of two unexcused absences will be allowed for the course.</p> <p>Classes will alternate between submitting response papers and in class writing responses. These are there to simply gauge if the students are doing the readings and students ought to get the full points available if they have genuinely engaged with the texts and writing prompts.</p> | |

| Examination Detail | |
|--------------------|--|
| Midterm Exam | <p>Yes/No: No</p> <p>Combine Separate:</p> <p>Duration:</p> <p>Preferred Date:</p> <p>Exam Specifications:</p> |
| Final Exam | <p>Yes/No: No</p> <p>Combine Separate:</p> <p>Duration:</p> <p>Exam Specifications:</p> |



Lahore University of Management Sciences

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
|--|--|

Campus supports & Key university policies

Campus Supports

Students are strongly encouraged to meet course instructors and TA's during office hours for assistance in course-content, understand the course's expectations from enrolled students, etc. Beyond the course, students are also encouraged to use a variety of other resources. (Instructors are also encouraged to refer students to these resources when needed.) These resources include Counseling and Psychological Services/CAPS (for mental health), LUMS Medical Center/LMC (for physical health), Office of Accessibility & Inclusion/ OAI (for long-term disabilities), advising staff dedicated to supporting and guiding students in each school, online resources (<https://advising.lums.edu.pk/advising-resources>), etc. To view all support services, their specific role as well as contact information click [here](https://advising.lums.edu.pk/#supportservices) (<https://advising.lums.edu.pk/#supportservices>).

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

LUMS has zero tolerance for academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for upholding academic integrity. If unsure, refer to the student handbook and consult with instructors/teaching assistants. To check for plagiarism before essay submission, use similarity@lums.edu.pk. Consult the following resources: 1) Academic and Intellectual Integrity (<http://surl.li/gpvwb>), and 2) Understanding and Avoiding Plagiarism (<http://surl.li/gpvwo>).

LUMS Academic Accommodations/ Petitions policy

Long-term medical conditions are accommodated through the Office of Accessibility & Inclusion (OAI). Short-term emergencies that impact studies are either handled by the course instructor or Student Support Services (SSS). For more information, please see Missed Instrument or 'Petition' FAQs for students and faculty (<https://rb.gy/8sj1h>)

LUMS Sexual Harassment Policy

LUMS and this class are a harassment-free zone. No behavior that makes someone uncomfortable or negatively impacts the class or individual's potential will be tolerated.

To report sexual harassment experienced or observed in class, please contact me. For further support or to file a complaint, contact OAI at oai@lums.edu.pk or harassment@lums.edu.pk. You may choose to file an informal or formal complaint to put an end to the offending behavior. You can also call their Anti-Harassment helpline at 042-35608877 for advice or concerns. *For more information: Harassment, Bullying & Other Interpersonal Misconduct: Presentation* (<http://surl.li/qpvwt>)

COURSE OVERVIEW

| Week/ Lecture/ Module | Topics | Recommended Readings | Objectives/ Application |
|-----------------------------|---|---|----------------------------|
| Week 1 | Introduction to the course. What are Narrative Essays and Key Examples | "Annie Dillard and The Writing Life," by Alexander Chee | |
| Week 2 | Place – An introspection into how spaces shape us, and how to write them. | "Here is New York," by E.B. White "Goodbye to All That," by Joan Didion | |



Lahore University of Management Sciences

| | | | |
|---------------|---|---|--|
| | | <p>"Behind the Beautiful Forevers," by Katherine Boo</p> <p>"A Map of Lost Things," by Jamila Osman</p> | |
| Week 3 | Identity – How the specific permutations of identity markers such as gender, class, citizenship etc. shape our experiences, and by extension ourselves. | <p>Essays from "Notes of a Native Son," by James Baldwin.</p> <p>"Split at the root," by Adrienne Rich.</p> | |
| Week 4 | Family – Reflecting on the nature of familial relations and their impact on the self. | <p>"The Grief Comes First in Little Knockings," by Lizz Dawson</p> <p>"My Father's Brain," by Jonathan Franzen</p> <p>"Coventry," by Rachel Cusk.</p> <p>"Songs of Blood and Sword," by Fatima Bhutto</p> | |
| Week 5 | Writing our Heroes/Research Essay – Writing ourselves through writing about celebrities, sports heroes, and world icons. | <p>"Roger Federer as Religious Experience" by David Foster Wallace.</p> <p>Excerpts from Hanif Abdurraqib's collection "They Can't Kill Us Until They Kill Us."</p> <p>"Is Maneskin the last Rock Band," by Dan Brooks.</p> | |
| Week 6 | Beyond Writing – Narrative construction in rap, stand-up and film. | A rap album, a stand up special and a film will be assigned. | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Textbook(s)/Supplementary Readings

All readings will be uploaded by the instructor on LMS during the first week of the course.

Important Note:

Readings for the course, arrangement of the various modules, and grade breakdown components are all tentative and subject to change. A comprehensive final course outline will be made available during the first week of classes and presented in the first class of the semester.