

JEO Seminar: Essentials of Narrative

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The word “narrative” means a telling of connected events, which also means the making of a story. In this seminar, we will explore key factors that an author must deploy in order to create a successful narrative, including some of the foundational elements of plot and character described as early as Aristotle’s *Poetics*, written circa 300 B.C.E. We will read and discuss 20th century prose examples from two genres, investigating authorial choices in the application of plot, character, theme, and voice.

Goal: To examine the origins and applications of key structural elements in creating well-made, vivid prose, and to begin to apply them to analyses of established literary work as well as student-generated material.