Instructor Information
Instructor: James Christopher Head
Time: 1:00-2:40, MW
Location: 104 Melson Hall
Office Location: 219 Melson Hall
Office Hours: MW, 11-12
Telephone (direct): 678-839-0620
Telephone (department): 678-839-6510
Westga email: jchead@westga.edu

Course Information
Course Description
In recent decades qualitative inquiry in psychology has been characterized as having taken a “narrative turn.” This turn reflects an awareness that narrating is an essential mode of meaning-construction – one that entwines domains that are typically understood to be personal with those understood to be social. Since this turn, scholars have debated the nature, meaning, and utility of narrative in psychology. This course will be an immersion into those debates and students will be invited to engage with narrative psychology in a way that they find useful. To facilitate this engagement, this course is structured to help students (a) develop an understanding of narrative, narrating, and narration, (b) cultivate an awareness of the broad landscape of narrative inquiry, (c) engage with multiple modes of narrative analysis, and (d) create a research proposal that reflects a deep awareness of the nature, meaning, and utility of narrative in psychology.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes
Students will:

1) Develop an understanding of narrative and its relevance to the field of psychology.
2) Develop an understanding of narration as a psychological process.
3) Engage in analytical writing that reflects an awareness of the historical, philosophical, and conceptual foundations of narrative psychology.
4) Cultivate an awareness of the uses of and distinctions between various forms of narrative analysis.
5) Create and propose a narrative research project.

Grading Information and Policy
There are a total of 100 points possible in the course. Participation is worth a total of 25 points, reflection papers are worth a total of 30 points (10 points each), the topic facilitation is worth a total of 10 points, the narrative interview presentation is worth 10 points, and the research
proposal is worth a total of 25 points. These 100 points will be used to calculate a percentage grade according to the standard percentage point divisions:

Grading structure and point scale:

- 90-100 points 90% - 100% A
- 80 points - 89 points 80% - 89% B
- 70 points - 79 points 70% - 79% C
- 60 points - 69 points 60% - 69% D
- < 60 points < 60% F

Late work policy:
All assignments are due (i.e., submitted on the course website, unless otherwise specified) by the beginning of the class period corresponding to the due date of the assignment (see the course schedule). Any work turned in after this time will be docked 10% for each day past the due date that it is not turned in.

Assignments and Requirements

Attendance. Formal attendance will be taken in this class and there is no way to learn the material, complete the project, or to get a good grade without regular attendance. Some course work will be completed in class and all assignments will only be fully explained in class.

Readings. You are expected to come to each class with a copy of the reading for the day, having read the materials listed on the same date as that lecture (see course schedule below). Each day’s class will cover material relevant to the assigned readings, so you will be more prepared to understand the material if you come to class having read the assignment.

Participation. You are expected to participate in in-class activities and exercises. This class will be highly experiential (i.e., non-lecture), so you should expect to come to class, come on time, come prepared, and actively engage in your learning.

Reflection Papers. You are expected to write three reflections (2 pages, double spaced, 12pt font) that demonstrate your understanding of and engagement with course texts, concepts, and issues.

Topic Facilitation. You are expected to facilitate the class’s learning of one course text or a supplemental text that you identify as being complimentary to one of our three units. After selecting one text that you will explore in-depth, you will prepare a “lesson” that will help your classmates better understand/appreciate the text.

Research Proposal. You are expected to construct a formal research proposal of a narrative research project you might conduct. This will be the summative project for this course, and accordingly, will reflect your understanding of the concepts and issues addressed throughout the semester. You will present a succinct version of your proposal to the class.
Texts, Readings, Instructional Resources, and References
The number associated with each text corresponds with the class schedule (see below). Readings should be completed before the date in which they are scheduled to be addressed.

Required Texts:


## Class Schedule Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schedule</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading #</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Narrative Turn</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Why Narrative</td>
<td>3, 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Temporality</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Dialogism</td>
<td>6, 7, 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Dialogism for/in Practice</td>
<td>9, 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Narrative Inquiry</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb.</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Narrative Inquiry Issues</td>
<td>12, 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Narrative Inquiry Issues</td>
<td>14, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Narrative Inquiry Issues</td>
<td>16, 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Narrative Inquiry Issues</td>
<td>18, 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Narrative Inquiry Issues</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Interviewing</td>
<td>21, 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Interviewing</td>
<td>Interviewing Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Interviewing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Life Stories</td>
<td>23, 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Life Stories</td>
<td>25, 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Life Stories</td>
<td>27, 28, 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Shared Stories</td>
<td>30, 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Shared Stories</td>
<td>32, 33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Narrating and Depth</td>
<td>34, 35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Narrating and Depth</td>
<td>36, 37, 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Dynamic Meaning Systems</td>
<td>39, 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Dynamic Meaning Systems</td>
<td>41, 42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>tbd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>tbd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>tbd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Workshopping</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*See the reading list of readings above for complete references for all readings. All readings will be posted on Course Den. This schedule serves as guide and will likely change. Schedule updates will be sent via Course Den.*

## Course and UWG Policies

### Honor Code
At the University of West Georgia, we believe that academic and personal integrity are based upon honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students at West Georgia assume responsibility for upholding the honor code. West Georgia students pledge to refrain from engaging in acts that do not
maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing. The University of West Georgia maintains and monitors a confidential Academic Dishonesty Tracking System. This database collects and reports patterns of repeated student violations across all the Colleges, the Ingram Library, and the School of Nursing. Each incidence of academic dishonesty is subject to review and consideration by the instructor, and is subject to a range of academic penalties including, but not limited to, failing the assignment and/or failing the course. Student conduct sanctions range from verbal warning to suspension or expulsion depending on the magnitude of the offense and/or number of offenses. The incident becomes part of the student’s conduct record at UWG. Additionally, the student is responsible for safeguarding his/her computer account. The student’s account and network connection are for his/her individual use. A computer account is to be used only by the person to whom it has been issued. The student is responsible for all actions originating through his/her account or network connection. Students must not impersonate others or misrepresent or conceal their identities in electronic messages and actions. For more information on the University of West Georgia Honor Code, please see the Student Handbook.

**Email Policy**
University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. The University considers this account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. The purpose of the official use of the student e-mail account is to provide an effective means of communicating important university related information to UWG students in a timely manner. It is the student’s responsibility to check his or her email.

**Accessibility Services**
Accessibility Services: Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. All entitlements to accommodations are based on documentation and USG Board of Regents standards. If a student needs course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if he/she needs to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, the student should notify his/her instructor in writing and provide a copy of his/her Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available only from Accessibility Services. Faculty cannot offer accommodations without timely receipt of the SAR; further, no retroactive accommodations will be given. For more information, please contact Accessibility Services.

Center for Academic Success: The Center for Academic Success provides services, programs, and opportunities to help all undergraduate students succeed academically. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6280 or cas@westga.edu

University Writing Center: The University Writing Center assists students with all areas of the writing process. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6513 or writing@westga.edu

**Americans with Disabilities Act Statement:**
If you are a student who is disabled as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act and require assistance or support services, please seek assistance through the Office for Accessibility Services. UWG also provides Accessibility Statements for Technology that you may be required to use for this course.
For more information on the Americans with Disabilities Act, UWG Email, Credit Hour, and UWG Honor Code policies as well as information on Academic Tutoring, Student Services, and Technical Requirements, Privacy Policy, and Accessibility Statements, please see the Common Language for Syllabus document.

I strongly recommend that students make an electronic copy of everything submitted to me via the dropbox.

**Additional Support Information**

**Technical Support**

Technical support for CourseDen, as well as the technological requirements, accessibility statements, privacy statements, tutorials, and other information can be found at Technology Requirements.

**Support for courses**

*Hyperlinks provided for accessibility throughout; full URLs are available at the end of the document.

**CourseDen D2L Home Page**

**CourseDen Help** (8 AM – 5 PM)
Call: 678-839-6248 or 1-855-933-8946 or email: online@westga.edu

**24/7/365 D2L Help Center**
Call 1-855-772-0423

**University Bookstore**

**Student Services**

**Center for Academic Success**

The new Center for Academic Success (CAS) provides services, programs, and opportunities to help all undergraduate students succeed academically. The CAS offers free appointment-based peer tutoring in core courses, as well as supplemental instruction (SI)—which is peer-facilitated collaborative learning—in a variety of disciplines. Students seeking help with study skills and strategies can attend workshops though the Academic Success Workshop series, or work individually with either a staff or peer Academic Coach. Beginning Fall 2014, the CAS will also offer “Back on Track,” a voluntary academic recovery program designed for students who want to improve their grades and academic standing. The Center for Academic Success is located in UCC 200, and can be reached at 678-839-6280. Our email address is cas@westga.edu.

**Smarthinking**

Smarthinking offers online tutoring services and resources (including the Writing Center) for UWG students/instructors in all courses. A link to Smarthinking is available in CourseDen under Resources in the navigation bar.

**Student Services**

Here is a great resource of Student Services for all students at UWG, whether or not they are taking online courses. This link provides students with most of the information they need. If a student is experiencing distress and needs some help, check out UWG Cares.
Full URL Support for Courses

- **CourseDen D2L Home Page**
  [https://westga.view.usg.edu/](https://westga.view.usg.edu/)
- **CourseDen Help (8 AM – 5 PM)**
  [https://uwgonline.westga.edu/uwg-online-student-help.php](https://uwgonline.westga.edu/uwg-online-student-help.php)
  Email: online@westga.edu
- **24/7/365 D2L Help Center**
  [https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/](https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/)
- **University Bookstore**
  [http://www.bookstore.westga.edu/](http://www.bookstore.westga.edu/)
- **Common Language for Course Syllabi**
  [https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/common-language-course-syllabi.php](https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/common-language-course-syllabi.php)
- **UWG Cares**
  [http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/](http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/)
- **Accessibility Services**
  [https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php)
- **Student Services**
- **Center for Academic Success**
  [http://www.westga.edu/cas/](http://www.westga.edu/cas/)
- **Distance Learning Library Services**
  [https://www.westga.edu/library/resource-sharing.php](https://www.westga.edu/library/resource-sharing.php)
- **Ingram Library Services**
  [http://www.westga.edu/library/](http://www.westga.edu/library/)
- **Proctored Exams**
  [http://uwgonline.westga.edu/exams.php#student](http://uwgonline.westga.edu/exams.php#student)
- **UWG Accessibility Statements for Technology**
  [https://docs.google.com/document/d/16Ri1XgaXiGx28ooO-zRvYPraV3Aq3F5ZNJYbVDGVnEAd/edit?ts=57b4c82d#heading=h.yrqefffVtS1f](https://docs.google.com/document/d/16Ri1XgaXiGx28ooO-zRvYPraV3Aq3F5ZNJYbVDGVnEAd/edit?ts=57b4c82d#heading=h.yrqefffVtS1f)

**Syllabus**

As this document corresponds with a dynamic entity (a class), this syllabus is subject to change.