Narrative, Fiction, Theory
Spring Term
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Narrative theory has always been preoccupied with literary fiction, yet has also asserted the much broader significance of narrative. How well has the example of literary fiction served as a theoretical paradigm for narrative in general? And conversely, how well has the general concept of narrative served the specific features of fictionality? This module adopts a broadly historical perspective upon the development of narrative theory, taking seminal theoretical works for its primary texts. The readings below are either available in the university library’s e-journal collection (or LION, via the MetaLib gateway, in the case of Henry James), or they will be provided in handouts week by week. A useful introductory text on narrative theory is Porter Abbott, *The Cambridge Introduction to Narrative* (Cambridge: CUP, 2002).

1. Precursors

2. Russian Formalists

3. Structuralist Narratology
4. Discourse Theorists

5. The Limits of Structuralism

6. Narrative Semantics

7. The Narratological Diaspora

8. Cognitive Narratology