This course will focus on “problematic narrators,” first-person and otherwise, in major works of modern fiction. We will examine unreliable narrators, repressed narrators, disguised narrators, and multiple narrators in English-language, twentieth-century novels and short stories from around the world. We will also entertain theoretical perspectives on problematic narrators.

TEXTS:
Behr, *The Smell of Apples*
Coetzee, *Waiting for the Barbarians*
Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
Ford, *The Good Soldier*
Ishiguro, “Getting Poisoned” (photocopy)
Ishiguro, *Pale View of Hills*
Joyce, *Dubliners*
Robinson, *Housekeeping*

CLASS POLICY:
Except in the case of documented illness or emergency, late essays will not be accepted for credit. Because a premium is placed on class participation and lively discussion, more than two unexcused absences during the semester will result in the lowering of your final grade. Failure to complete one or more major assignments or to attend class on a regular basis will result in a failing grade in the course. All work for this class must be done in strict compliance with the Rhodes Honor Code.

REQUIREMENTS:
One critical essay, 5-7 pp.: 20%
One research essay, 10-14 pp.: 40%
Final examination: 20%
Participation, attendance, presentation: 20%

All reading and writing assignments are due on the class dates listed below. Please bring the appropriate text to class each day we meet.

Aug. 26  Course Introduction
       THE PROBLEM OF NARRATOR RELIABILITY/SUBJECTIVITY
28  Melville, “Bartleby the Scrivenor” (Cassill)
31  Melville

Sep.  2  Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (Cassill)
  4  Conrad
  7  Labor Day
  9  Conrad + optional film
11  Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
THE PROBLEM OF NARRATOR IDENTITY/OTHERNESS
23 Coetzee, Waiting for the Barbarians
25 Coetzee
28 Coetzee
30 No Class

Oct. 2 Coetzee
*Critical Essay Due*
5 Robinson, Housekeeping
7 Robinson
9 Robinson
12 Robinson + optional film
14 Midterm Conferences
16 Faulkner, “A Rose for Emily” (Cassill)
19 Fall Break
21 Faulkner

THE PROBLEM OF NARRATOR/NARRATIVE REPRESSION
23 Joyce, “Clay”
26 Joyce
28 Ford, The Good Soldier
30 Ford

Nov. 2 Ford
4 Ford
6 No Class
9 Ishiguro, Pale View of Hills
11 Ishiguro
13 Ishiguro
16 Ishiguro, “Getting Poisoned” (photocopy)
18 Behr, The Smell of Apples
20 Behr
23 Behr
*Research Essay Due*
25 Thanksgiving
27 Thanksgiving
30 Behr

Dec. 2 Seminar
4 Seminar
7 Seminar
9 Seminar

Final Examination