

# FIRST FRIDAY BROWN BAG LUNCH



Storytelling is having a moment. In recent years, story's value has been embraced by brands, social media platforms, and emerging digital media, as well as scholars and political operatives searching for alternatives to traditional conceptions of truth in the face of debates about "fake news" and the

ostensible decline of fact-based argumentation. In short, if some rhetoricians have claimed everything's an argument, many strains of contemporary thinking—digital, political, academic—claim that everything's a narrative.

One of Dr. Detweiler's current research projects puts *narratio*, which is one of rhetorical theory's most influential ways to think about story, in conversation with the digital storytelling boom. Among other things, *narratio* was a common exercise in ancient schools of rhetoric and, according to Cicero, one of a speech's six key parts. In these settings, rhetoricians developed robust theories of *narratio* as a significant part, but not the whole, of argumentative discourse. During this brown bag, Dr. Detweiler will explore how *narratio* can enrich contemporary conceptions of storytelling, both laying out the tacit strategies at work in narrative-driven media and suggesting the limits of approaching all discourse as narrative.

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FEB. 1<sup>ST</sup>

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12:00 PM.

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UWC-LIB 362

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First Friday Brown Bag is monthly meeting in which one English Graduate Student and one English Faculty Member create a short presentation on current research, interests, or projects. Presentations will be informal, with plenty of time for discussion.

Please bring your own lunch. Presentations will be followed by a brief Q and A, and time to socialize.

Please contact Brielle Campos at [brc4a@mtmail.mtsu.edu](mailto:brc4a@mtmail.mtsu.edu) if you are interested in presenting spring semester.



UWC 40

Celebrating 40 Years of Service

# FIRST FRIDAY BROWN BAG LUNCH

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Sarah Wolfe is a first year PhD student from East Tennessee. She is studying Early British Literature, specifically the Middle Ages. Her research interests include writing about medieval women and especially medieval religious women, and she is a fan of Swedish and Russian folk music.

Æthelthryth was one of the most popular native saints in England whose holy figure was used during the 10<sup>th</sup> c. monastic reforms, whereas Ælfthryth played a considerable and meaningful part in the reforms during her reign as queen, even though her reputation became tainted with allegations of murder and witchcraft. In her research, Sarah argues that the 6<sup>th</sup> c. Æthelthryth and 10<sup>th</sup> c. Ælfthryth surprisingly overlap in English history and in legend.

Both of these historical figures are interconnected, even though they are separated by two different time frames. Although Virginia Blanton's monograph on Saint Æthelthryth highlights in scholarly circles that the saint is known, the figure of Queen Ælfthryth is lesser known, even though there is a popular biography about her by Elizabeth Norton. Sarah's research aims to broaden the knowledge of these two women by creating a text that could be available to both popular and scholarly circles because they were influential in shaping the historical and religious culture of England.

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