

ARTS 310: THE ART OF STORYTELLING

INSTRUCTOR: Bobbie Pell
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Office: New Hall 120
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MEETING TIMES: Mondays 2:45-5:15pm

TEXTS: (EFT) Jacobs, Joseph. English Fairy Tales. NY: Dover, 1967 [1898].

(IYS) Lipman, Doug. Improving Your Storytelling. GA: August House, 1999.

(PPS) Maguire, Jack. The Power of Personal Storytelling. NY: Jeremy Tarcher, 1998.

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will focus on the art of storytelling as a literary art form blending both creative writing and performance, beneficial for all levels of experience. The examination of folklore and fairy tales offers today's lover of stories, tellers and listeners alike, a wealth of eccentric characters, intricate plots, and vivid settings. Students will discover and develop their own style, choosing options from the stylistic continuum ranging from the seated quiet delivery to more dramatic tellings. Comparative analysis of stylistic elements researched in literary tales which differ from oral traditions will offer deeper understanding of Story. Creative writing opportunities will occur in classroom exercises dealing with the basic constructs of fiction, point of view revisions, dialogue exercises. To construct strong story structures and characterizations, the students will transform a third person tale into a first person narrative found in traditional English folklore. Weekly readings from the texts will allow choices for story presentations as students continue to develop and synthesize their delivery techniques such as characterization, voice, gestures, and movement.

2. COURSE GOALS / OBJECTIVES

Students will perform four different shared classroom tellings throughout the semester with graduated expectations on delivery, style, vocals, and movement. Choice of stories will involve personal aesthetic choices after reading at least ten (10) genre-specific tales.

Discernment between literary fairy tales and oral traditional tales will be primary as students conduct research on tales of the Victorian era. Focal points will be author background, fictional elements present, historical/cultural meanings, and comparison/contrast of folklore characteristics.

At the course's completion, students will converse knowledgeably concerning Story elements, characterization, performance techniques, and folklore genres.

3. **Weekly readings** are to be completed prior to class for discussion purposes. **Concise, in-class writings** will check for student comprehension and create basis for class discussions.

4. All readings, in-class exercises, and classroom lectures/discussions will assist students in

successfully completing the **four (4) main tellings** listed below:

Personal Narrative/Family History Tale
Traditional English Folk/Fairy Tale

Ghost/Mystery Tale
Genre Tale (Personal choice)

Additional course work includes **one 6-8 page research paper on Literary Tales of Enchantment** and **2-pg write-up for a live storytelling performance.**

5. Grades for major projects (tellings/research paper) will be determined through carefully crafted rubrics pertaining to the specific parameters of the assignment. All others will be awarded on an appropriate point spread for the time/energy expended.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

Writing assignments should be single-spaced with font size 12, Times New Roman, 1" margins all around) and turned in at the beginning of class. Work not received at the class onset will be credited as "Late" unless prior arrangements are made with instructor. **Any late work should be placed in my campus mailbox (See Humanities Program Asst. Sheryl Donaldson, New Hall, Rm 212).** Automatic **10-point deduction** occurs for late work (exceptions: extreme illness/death in the family).

Use **MLA** style manual and proper pagination. (See example below.)

EX. **HEADINGS** (short papers), upper left -hand corner (cover page not needed)

NAME

COURSE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME

DATE

(Double space once)

TITLE (centered) followed by another double-space before beginning text

EX. PAGINATION

Page One - Numeral one centered as footer with period.

Page Two and following: Student's Last Name - Numeral in upper right-hand corner (Last Name -2)

ATTENDANCE

Weekly attendance will be required (with an exception to illness or family emergency) in order to successfully complete this course. **EACH STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL MATERIAL COVERED IN CLASS.** Contact the instructor or a fellow classmate about assignments so that you will be prepared for the next class meeting. Class participation also includes engaging actively in discussions, asking pertinent questions, and regarding all class comments (whether by instructor or fellow students) with respect.

ASSISTANCE

Assistance with any assignments may be arranged with the instructor by appointment or before/after class.

GRADING SCALE

GRADING PERCENTAGES

A	90-100	Class Participation	10 %
B	80-89	Tellings	50 %
C	70-79	Assignments (In-class)	25%
D	60-69	Research/Performance Paper	15 %
F	Below 60		

CALENDAR

WEEK OF	Aug. 25	TOPICS: Power of Storytelling / Well-told Tales Narrative Time Line (Partner Interviews) READINGS: PPS: Why Tell Personal Stories (p.3-34) IYS: Introduction to Oral Language (p.11-39)
	Sept. 1	NO CLASS - Labor Day Holiday READINGS: PPS: Getting Story Ideas (p.77-109) EFT: English Fairy Tales (p. 13-36)
	Sept. 8	TOPICS: Structure: Storyboarding / Outlining / Clustering READINGS: PPS: Bringing your Stories to Life (p.127-156) EFT: English Fairy Tales (p. 37-72) DUE: Storyboard for Personal Narrative (done in class)
	Sept. 15	TOPICS: Student Tellings READINGS: PPS: Reclaiming Your Storyloving Self (p.37-74) EFT: English Fairy Tales (p.116-146) DUE: Personal Narrative/Family History Tale
	Sept. 22	TOPICS: Character: Character Snapshots / Dialogue READINGS: PPS: Embodying Story / Your Voice (p.169-189) IYS: Your Relationship to Story (p. 75-94) EFT: English Fairy Tales (p.73-115)
	Sept. 29	TOPICS: Creative Vivid Scenes - Imagery / Peer Sharings Movement: Gestures, Facial Expression READINGS: PPS: Enlivening Ways (p. 157-165) IYS: Imagery (p.41-55) EFT: English Fairy Tales (p.147-186)
	Oct. 6	TOPICS: Student Tellings READINGS: EFT: English Fairy Tales (p.187-224) DUE: Traditional English Folk/Fairy Tale
		* FALL BREAK : OCT. 13 - NO CLASS *
	Oct. 20	TOPICS: Changing Point of View / Claiming Characters

READINGS: Personal Choices for Ghost/Mystery Tale
IYS: Your Relationship to Listeners (p.137-154)

- Oct. 27 **TOPICS:** Musical Options in Storytelling
READINGS: Personal Choices for Ghost/Mystery Tale
IYS: Your Relationship to Yourself (p. 154-186)
DUE: Traditional English Folk/Fairy Tale Dialogue (1st POV)
- Nov. 3 **TOPICS:** Student Tellings / Oral Tradition Genres
READINGS: Personal Choice For Genre Tale / Literary research
DUE: Ghost/Mystery Tale
- Nov. 10 **TOPICS:** Moral/Ethical Choices in Storytelling
READINGS: Personal Choice For Genre Tale / Literary research
- Nov. 17 **TOPICS:** Tales of Enchantment: Victorian Literary Fairy Tales
DUE: Literary Tales of Enchantment Research paper (6-8pg)
- Nov. 24 **TOPICS:** Student Tellings
DUE: Genre tale
- Dec. 1 **TOPICS:** Where to go from here?
READINGS: IYS: Putting it All Together (p. 189-209)
PPS: Worlds of Personal Storytelling (p.190-214)
LAST CLASS