

ARTS 310: THE ART OF STORYTELLING

INSTRUCTOR: Bobbie Pell

Home Ph. 828-689-4295

Office: New Hall 120

Email: bpell@unca.edu

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.

(MAC) MacDonald, George. The Complete Fairy Tales. NY: Penguin, 1999.

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 (Oral tradition and literary folklore) offers deeper understanding of Story. Creative writing opportunities will occur in classroom exercises dealing with the basic constructs of fiction, point of view and dialogue exercises. Weekly textual readings 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 listen, observe, and conduct research regarding folklore and original tales during the Victorian era. Focal points will be author background, fictional elements present, historical and 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. **Two literary exams will check for student comprehension.**

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)

At each performance, students will turn in a typed sheet including plot summary, opening/closing lines, specific imagery/phrasing, and characters (voice/posture).

5. Students will view one live performance then create a **2-pg write-up for a live storytelling performance**. Create one **6-8 page research paper** on Literary Tales of Enchantment.

6. Grades for major projects (tellings/research paper) will be determined through carefully crafted rubrics pertaining to the specific parameters of the assignment or 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.

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

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	Below 60

GRADING PERCENTAGES

Class Participation	10 %
Tellings	50 %
Assignments (In-class)	25%
Research/Performance Paper	15 %

CALENDAR**WEEK OF** Jan. 26**TOPICS:** Power of Storytelling / Well-told Tales
Narrative Time Line (Partner Interviews)**READINGS: IYS:** Introduction to Oral Language (p.11-39)**EFT:** English Fairy Tales (p. 13-36)

Feb. 2

TOPICS: Structure: Storyboarding / Organizational Aids
Wording the Story - creating memorable phrasings**READINGS: IYS:** Structure / Memorizing (p. 95-109)**EFT:** English Fairy Tales (p. 37-72)**DUE: Storyboard for Personal Narrative (done in class)**

Feb. 9

TOPICS: Student Tellings**READINGS: EFT:** English Fairy Tales (p.116-146)**DUE: Personal Narrative/Family History Tale**

Feb. 16

TOPICS: Elements of Traditional Folklore**Character:** Dialogue / Point of View

Fairy Tale Improvs: Writing Prompts

READINGS: IYS: Your Relationship to Story (p. 75-94)**EFT:** English Fairy Tales (p.73-115)

Feb. 23

TOPICS: Elements of Enchantment

Improvs: Movement: Gestures, Facial Expression

Peer Telling: Traditional English Folk/Fairy Tale

READINGS: EFT: English Fairy Tales (p.147-186)**DUE: English Folklore Literary Exam**

March 2

TOPICS: Student Tellings**READINGS: EFT:** English Fairy Tales (p.187-224)**DUE: Traditional English Folk/Fairy Tale**

*

SPRING BREAK : MARCH 9 - NO CLASS

*

March 16

TOPICS: Tales of Enchantment: Victorian Literary Fairy Tales

Layering with Percussion / Music (H. Forest)

- READINGS: (MAC) “Nycteris” (p.304-342)**
IYS: Your Relationship to Listeners (p.137-154)
 March 23 **TOPICS: Metaphor and Meaning / Creating Vivid Imagery**
 Peer Telling: Ghost/ Mystery Tale
READINGS: (MAC) “The Light Princess ” (p.15-53)
IYS: Imagery (p.41-55); Your Relationship to Yourself (p.154-186)
- March 30 **TOPICS: Student Tellings / Oral Tradition Genres**
READINGS: Personal Choice For Genre Tale / Literary research
DUE: Ghost/Mystery Tale
- April 6 **TOPICS: Issues in Fairy Tales: Psychological, Mythic, Moral**
READINGS: (MAC) “The Shadows” (p. 54-80)
- April 13 **TOPICS: Epic: The “BIG” Story / J. Campbell’s Hero’s Journey**
READINGS: (MAC) “The Golden Key” (p. 120-148)
DUE: Literary Tales of Enchantment Research paper (6-8pg)
- April 20 **TOPICS: The Collected Works of George MacDonald**
 Peer Telling: Genre Tale
READINGS: (MAC) “Cross Purposes” (p.103-119)
DUE: MacDonald Literary Exam
- April 27 **TOPICS: Student Tellings**
DUE: Genre tale
- May 4 TOPICS: Where to go from here?**
LAST CLASS