

SPCOM/THETR 123-STORYTELLING



REQUIRED READING: Lipman, Doug. Improving Your Storytelling & Storytelling Packet both located at the MJC Bookstore

Class Time: 11:10am - 12:35pm M/W

How to Contact Me Throughout the Semester	
<p>Office: Founders Hall 220B Office Hours by appointment: Mon. 12:45-2pm, T 9-9:30pm You can make an appointment by signing your name to my appointment calendar on my office door, 220 B Founders Hall. Appointments are 15 min. duration time slots. Drop In Office Hours: Wed. 12:45 - 2 p.m.</p>	<p>Phone: (209) 575-6174 (voice mail) I only pick up my phone messages during the following hours: M/W from 1-2 pm and Tuesday 9-9:30 pm.</p>
<p>Class Homepage: http://virtual.yosemite.cc.ca.us/kgyuran/123.htm</p>	
<p>Email: gyurank@mjc.edu I log onto email M-TH, once a day, so you can expect a response within 24 hours. If you email me on Thursday after I have read email, I will not respond to you before Monday afternoon.</p>	

Course Description and Student Learning Outcomes

Storytelling is the art of using language, vocalization, and physical movement to reveal the images and meaning of a story to a live audience.

Student Learning Outcomes: When you leave this class, you should be able to:

1. demonstrate by oral discussion and written tests an understanding of storytelling principles.
2. determine a story's seven structural components.
3. select, analyze, and perform stories utilizing the performance skills of memorization, vocal projection, spatial awareness, and physical expression.

STORIES - 70 pts. total

Your course packet has detailed descriptions of the story presentations. Stories are arranged so the requirements become more difficult as the semester progresses. Stories include personal (3-5 min.), oral tradition (5-7 min.), fantasy (6-8 min.), & historical fiction/biography (7-9 min.).

Tellers are required to speak on their assigned day. You may trade telling dates ONLY if you check with me first. If you can't make your scheduled performance, you must contact me **prior** to missing your telling date preferably by speaking to me directly. If you do not tell on your assigned date and **if** there is time to make up your story, **6** pts. will be deducted from your score. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.** All reasonable attempts will be made to accommodate missed performances, however, time is limited & missing your telling date may result in a zero.

Telling Guides - 5 pts. each (20 pts. total)

You are responsible for writing a one-two page telling guide for the following stories: **personal, oral tradition, fantasy, and historical fiction/biography.** Telling guides are due the class session you are telling your story. Each guide has different guidelines, which are outlined in your course packet. Please review the guidelines **BEFORE** completing your telling guide. Guides must be typed, double-spaced with one-inch margins, using 12 pt. font. Use proper spelling, grammar, and organization. Please keep a backup copy of your work. Late or hand written telling guides will not be accepted.

SELF EVALUATIONS - 5 pts. each (15 pts. total)

A two-page self-examination essay must be turned in the class session following your story in which you will analyze your performance. Papers must be typed, double-spaced with one-inch margins, using 12 pt. font. Use proper spelling, grammar, and organization. For your protection, please keep a backup copy of your work. Two points will be subtracted each class period an evaluation is turned in late.

*Note: If I have trouble reading the first paragraph of any paper you submit in class, I will stop reading and you will earn a zero. Please double check your accuracy by proof-reading your papers. Free assistance with proof-reading is provided by the MJC Writing Center located East Campus: Founders Hall ____ (209) 575-6460, West Campus: Yosemite Hall 235 (209) 575-7847, as well as Tutoring Center located Library 10 (Located downstairs in the Library building).

PEER EVALUATIONS - 5 pts. each (30 pts. total)

You are responsible for evaluating two peers for the following stories: **oral tradition, fantasy, and historical fiction**. Peer evaluation forms are located in your storytelling packet and are graded based on depth and breadth of your feedback. These critiques are designed to test your knowledge of the subject matter in this class and if you can apply it to a specific performance.

Here is how the process will work:

- When others tell their stories in class, you need to be at least 1 minute early to class. I start EXACTLY on time. If you do not arrive in time to receive a peer evaluation, then you will forfeit these points.
- Being late to class will result in you missing your opportunity to evaluate a peer.
- Also, if you do not submit two peer evaluation forms when I collect them, you will again forfeit your chance to evaluate a peer, which will result in a 10 pt. deduction from your score.
- Peer reviews must be completed in class.

TESTS - 40 pts. total - Exams are based on textbook & class discussions. Refer to the semester outline for ch. specifics. You will need to bring an 815-E scantron, blank piece of paper, and a #2 pencil.

PARTICIPATION - 15 pts.

The course is comprised of classroom discussions, activities, and performances. You are encouraged to bring your personal insights into the classroom and use class concepts to understand and evaluate your own experiences. Full participation includes the following:

15 Pts.: You will earn $\frac{1}{2}$ pt. each class session when you do ALL of the following:

- Verbally participate in EVERY class by demonstrating your knowledge of the course concepts as outlined in the reading/online postings and/or providing examples that reinforce class concepts.
- Ask a question that clarifies course concepts/projects.
- Help create a supportive atmosphere in class by treating everyone with respect.

If you are silent, late, or absent in class, you will not earn participation point for that class session.

Tardy: If you are late more than 4 times, you will be dropped. Repeatedly being late to class is disruptive and disrespectful.

Absence: If you miss more than 4 classes, you will be dropped from this course. There are NO exceptions.

*Electronic devices are prohibited in my class. Please turn them off and put them away at the beginning of class time. If you have an emergency that requires you to leave on a phone, then I expect you to talk with me about your situation. Otherwise, put phones, computers, etc. away. If you communicate on an electronic device in my class, you will be asked to leave. Your participation points will be deducted accordingly.

OUTSIDE STORY TELLING PERFORMANCE - 10 pts.

You will need to perform outside of our classroom. You will arrange where you will perform, but you must get this venue approved by me BEFORE your performance. After your performance, you will write a paper assessing your experience. Papers are due one week after you perform.

EXTRA CREDIT

COACHING PROJECT: Coaching is a confidential process through which two peers work together to expand, refine, and build new skills. If you are interested in working with someone in the class in a

coaching capacity, you can earn up to 10 pts. of extra credit. More information is available on the website. There is no other extra credit in this class.

CLASS CONDUCT & POLICIES

1. **Due Dates:** All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Points will be deducted for late projects. See course packet for specific point deductions for each project. I will not accept any late project **one week** after the due date or the week before finals.
2. **Unique Academic Needs:** If you have a physical, psychiatric/emotional, medical, or learning disability that may affect your ability to carry out assigned course work, please contact the staff in Disability Services (DS), in Journalism 160, phone 575-6225. DS will review your concerns and determine, with you, what accommodations are appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential. Please feel free to let me know how I can help.
3. **Academic Integrity:** You're too smart to cheat. Furthermore, I trust you. However, if you are thinking about it, please familiarize yourself with the college policies. At the minimum, you will receive a failing grade for the assignment. As a reminder, plagiarism is misrepresenting someone else's ideas or wording as one's own. There is no need to cheat. I'm more than willing to help you succeed in class.
4. **Inappropriate Behavior:** I will not tolerate rude or inappropriate behavior. If I determine your conduct is not conducive to our class climate, I will excuse you from the next class session. If the behavior persists, I will file disciplinary actions.
5. **Schedule:** We will try to stay to the schedule; however, we may alter the schedule if necessary. If you are absent, it is **your** responsibility for finding out what you have missed.
6. **Grade Appeal:** If you want to discuss a grade you have earned on a project, you must set up an appt. with me. After you have read my feedback, make notes about what you would like to discuss at our scheduled meeting. At this meeting, we will discuss your notes and your understanding of my expectations for the project. Please do not attempt to conduct this portion of the appeal via email; you must talk to me in person. This policy is not intended to provide obstacles. It is designed to ensure a fair and amicable process. Finally, all grade appeals should be made *no later than one week* following the *return* of the assignment.
7. **Withdrawing:** It is your responsibility to withdrawal through our Admissions Office. Failure to do so may result in receiving an F in this course.

GRADING

My grading system is easy. I grade by points and you only ADD them! If you want to figure out your grade at any point during the semester, all you need to do is total up the number of points you have earned and divide them by the total number of total possible points for the projects assigned at that point in the semester. Then you'll multiple your total by 100 and you'll get a percentage. I go by a straight scale 100-90% = A, 89-80% = B, and so forth.

For example, at the end of the first month, let's say you earned 39 pts. and the total number of points at this stage in the semester is 45. If you divide 39 by 45 you get .8666. Then multiply this number by 100. This equates to 86.6%. You are earning a B at this point in the semester. If you need assistance calculating your grade, contact me. I would be happy to help you.

Final Grading Scale - There is no grading curve. The final grade you earn will be based on the following scale: 200-180 = A 179-160 = B 169-140 = C 139-120 = D 119-0 = F

Semester Outline - download the rest of the semester outline from our homepage

Class Date	Assignment/Exam	Read chapter(s) before class
Jan. 9	Introduction : What is Storytelling	
Jan. 11	Discovering Personal stories	Lipman, Ch. 1 & course packet pg. 4
Jan. 16	HOLIDAY	

Jan. 18	Developing Personal stories	Lipman, Introduction
Jan. 23	Telling Personal stories	
Jan. 25	Providing Constructive Feedback & Coaching Test 1 (covers Ch. 1, introduction, & class notes)	
Jan. 30	PERSONAL STORIES DUE	
Feb. 1	PERSONAL STORIES DUE SELF-EVALUATION DUE	
Feb. 6	PERSONAL STORIES that may be left SELF-EVALUATION DUE Oral Tradition Stories Discussed Channeling Anxiety	Lipman, Ch. 16 & course packet pg. 5-6
Feb. 8	Learning Stories by Heart	Lipman, Ch. 6
Feb. 13	Structure & Meaning Peer Evaluation forms are due by noon in my office	Lipman, Chpts. 7-8
Feb. 15	Writing a Telling Guide Test 2 (covers Chpts. 6-8, and class notes)	
Feb. 20	HOLIDAY	
Feb. 22	ORAL TRADITION STORIES DUE PEER EVALUATIONS DUE	
Feb. 27-29 & March 5	ORAL TRADITION STORIES DUE PEER & SELF EVALUATIONS DUE	
March 7	Fantasy Stories Discussed/Imagery Discussion SELF-EVALUATION DUE	Packet pgs. 7-8 & Lipman, Ch. 2
March 12	Imagery Peer Evaluation forms are due by noon in my office	Lipman, Ch. 3
March 14	Understanding the Audience Test 3 (covers Chpts. 2-3, 16, and class notes)	Lipman, Chpts. 11 & 12
March 19	Characterization - part 1	Lipman, Ch. 4
March 21	FANTASY STORIES DUE PEER EVALUATIONS DUE	
March 26-28 & April 2	FANTASY STORIES DUE PEER & SELF EVALUATIONS DUE	
April 4	Historical Fiction/Biography Overview SELF EVALUATION DUE Peer Evaluation forms are due by noon in my office Test 4 (covers Chpts. 4, 11-12 and class notes)	
April 9	Characterization - part 2	
April 11	OUTSIDE PERFORMANCE PAPERS DUE HISTORICAL FICTION STORIES DUE PEER EVALUATIONS DUE	
April 16-18	HISTORICAL FICTION STORIES DUE PEER EVALUATIONS DUE	
April 25	from 10:30 am - 12:50 pm HISTORICAL FICTION STORIES DUE PEER EVALUATIONS DUE	

The End