

Storytelling • LIS 2326
Summer Term 2012

Course Instructor: J. Joseph Prince, MLIS
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Email Communication: I will make every attempt to respond to emails within 24 hours, with the exception of weekends. Please sign your email with your full (first and last) name and strive to be professional in your writing.

Phone Communication: Please call in the event of an emergency.

General Communication: You may call me Joe. If you are uncomfortable with this informal address, you may call me Professor Prince.

One of my primary goals in this course is to help you, the student, develop a skill-set that will serve you well as you move forward in your professional career. If you have questions or concerns about grades, projects, academic progress, or any other issue, please contact me as concerns arise rather than waiting.

Office Hours

May - June 6: Wednesdays, 5:00-5:45 601C and by appointment

After June 6: Wednesdays, 3:00-5:45 601C and by appointment

601C is located on the 6th floor of the Information Sciences Building, 135 North Bellefield Avenue in Pittsburgh.

Course Description

The historical role of the storyteller as preserver of culture and the contemporary role as performer in the context of traditional and contemporary sources of stories and techniques of presentation.

Course Objectives

- develop an understanding of storytelling and its historical and cultural impact on society
- cultivate an appreciation for the importance of storytelling in learning and cognitive development
- examine storytelling through a cross-cultural lens and identify/analyze motifs and themes
- develop the skills necessary to become a competent and confident storyteller

Accommodations

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both the instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890 or 412-383-7355 (TTY) as early as possible.

Required texts

- Greene, Ellin. *Storytelling: Art and Technique*. Santa Barbara, CA: Libraries Unlimited. 2010 edition.
- Haven, Kendall and MaryGay Ducey. *Crash Course in Storytelling*. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited. 2007.

Teaching and Learning Methods

This is a blended course, which means the class is conducted both on-campus (OC) and online (OL). The course will meet with only students *only* during Fast Track Weekend on Saturday, July 7, from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

On-Campus Meeting Dates and Times

MAY: Wednesday, May 16, May 23, May 30; 6:00-8:50 PM

JUNE: Wednesday, June 6, June 13, June 20, June 27; 6:00-8:50 PM
...and... Sunday, June 10: Summer Reading Extravaganza • Schenley Plaza
...and... Tuesday, June 12: The Moth • Rex Theatre • 1602 S. Carson Street

JULY: Wednesday, July 11, July 18, July 25
...and... date TBA: The Moth • Rex Theatre • 1602 S. Carson Street

No on-campus class meeting Wednesday, July 4 (Independence Day)
No on-line chat the week of July 1

Saturday, July 7, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM, Fast Track Weekend class, ONLINE STUDENTS ONLY.

Online Class Meeting Dates and Times

In addition to Saturday, July 7 Fast Track Weekend class for online students, online students will meet several times synchronously via chat and/or videoconference on Wednesday nights from 9:00 PM - 9:30 PM. Please notify the instructor if you have two classes scheduled to meet at the same time on Fast Track Weekend. We'll work together to arrange for you to attend both.

Academic Integrity

Librarianship is predicated on copyright and protection of intellectual property. You are expected to submit work that is your own and maintain exemplary standards with regard to academic integrity. Information professionals are responsible, ethical users of information, and you are expected to adhere to these standards as you would in any workplace. Potential violations of academic integrity, including plagiarism, will be handled according to the University of Pittsburgh Guidelines on Academic Integrity and the School of Information Sciences policy on Academic Integrity. Both student and faculty obligations are available at <http://www.ischool.pitt.edu/about/academic-integrity.php>.

Panopto Class Video

Panopto is an integrated video and slide presentation recording of the class, available for viewing and listening online. I will post Panopto links in the weekly folders in CourseWeb as soon as they are available. You may either wait for this link and go directly to each week's video, or use the generic link below. Our course can be selected from the master list. Please note that the user name and password are the same for everyone. This information is listed below.

- Panopto requires Silverlight for proper operation. You may download Silverlight for free at <http://www.silverlight.net/getstarted>.
- The generic link to access Panopto videos for this class is <http://dvssilver.sis.pitt.edu/CourseCast/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=/Coursecast/Student/Default.aspx>. Login name: sis Password: ischool,online
- All courses will be available as a podcast. To download or play this application, click "podcast" on the Panopto screen and select a media player. You are also able to subscribe to the podcast, which will automatically download each week. Click RSS and select where the subscription will go.

CourseWeb

Although there are no weekly postings for this course, all activities, PowerPoints, readings, and assignments will be posted on CourseWeb in weekly folders. I encourage you to check this resource regularly, if not daily. Online students will use CourseWeb for logistical purposes and to participate in virtual chat. I will maintain a Logistics Folder on a single discussion board. If you have a question that will benefit the entire class, I encourage you to post it on this discussion board.

Because online students will not be able to participate in on-campus discussions, and because participation is a part of your grade, each week you will participate in an electronic discussion on the discussion board. On-campus students are welcome to respond to any online discussion, though it is not necessary.

Storytelling Community

Storytelling requires a great deal of courage. In this course, each of you will be performing - live and in person - in front of your classmates. Therefore, it is important to create a community of respect and trust among the storytellers. We will operate under some ground rules that will follow us every day throughout the semester.

- No electronic devices should be used during lectures and performances. This includes cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc.
- Respect the art of teaching and the art of performance: extraneous conversations, comments, and disruptions are unprofessional, unnecessary, and unforgivable.
- Remove distractions - no knitting/crocheting, reading materials, etc. A disengaged audience can be a confidence killer. This will probably be the most forgiving audience to which you will ever perform, so mutual respect is necessary.

Software

Please make every effort to use the Office 2010 version for any Office-based documents that you submit. A student copy is available free to all students. For more information, see <http://technology.pitt.edu/software/browse.html>. On-campus students must submit paper copies of assignments in class. On-campus students must post PDF copies of assignments to the appropriate discussion board folder.

Multimedia

Many of our activities will incorporate digital technologies and Web 2.0 applications. To support the outcome of these learning experiences, please obtain access to a computer microphone, speakers, and webcam.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance to the physical class (on-campus students) and the virtual class (online students, via chat and discussion boards) is mandatory. If you are unable to attend class, physical or virtual, please email Joe Prince (jprince@pitt.edu). Your attendance is ten points of your grade - one point per class.

Participation is a critical skill to develop in the professional realm. Your contributions to class are essential for both your understanding of the material and for the understanding of those around you. Humans learn as much (and possibly more) through robust conversation than they do from texts, lectures, and readings. Contribute to the learning environment, both by reading the assigned texts and articles and by sharing your reflections and evaluations with your classmates, either in class or online in the virtual chats or discussion boards. Your participation is ten points of your grade - one point per class.

Assignments

Being a librarian requires you to juggle multiple projects at once; therefore, it is essential for you to develop the ability to manage several assignments simultaneously. The assignments in this course are designed to help you build a solid knowledge of storytelling in library settings and to help you develop confidence as a storyteller. These objectives will be achieved through various formats. A detailed description of each assignment, including expectations and rubrics, will be provided for you. Because of the depth of some assignments, a manageable sequence of stages will be provided for you.

Additional expectations about assignment submission:

- All assignments are due by 6:00 PM on the due date, Pittsburgh time.
- Your full name (first and last) must appear on all assignments
- Final copies of papers must have both your last name and the pages as either a header or a footer
- Online students must submit PDFs of assignments on appropriate discussion board threads. Unless arrangements have been made in advance with me, please do not email me assignments or use the File Exchange on CourseWeb.

Late Assignments

In the professional world, deadlines are fast, furious, and firm. Generally speaking, overdue projects are unacceptable and may, in the long run, cripple your reliability and call into question your professionalism. Unless previous arrangements for unique circumstances have been made with me (well in advance - **not** at the last minute), the following policy will apply to late assignments:

- Between 1 and 12 hours late: 10% grade reduction
- Between 12 and 24 hours late: 20% grade reduction
- After 24 hours: zero points will be awarded for the assignment

In the event of unexpected and sudden impediments, such as illness or death in the family, please contact me immediately for arrangement of deadline extensions.

Acknowledgment

The structure of this course owes enormous debt to Dr. Rebecca Morris, assistant professor at Simmons College. Some projects and lectures are variations or adaptations of her research and her assignments. They have been adapted with Dr. Morris' express permission.

Graded Assignments, Point Values, Due Dates

Assignment Number	Project Description	Point Value	Due Date
1	Class Participation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class/chat attendance• Active participation in class and discussions (OC)• Active participation in chat and electronic discussion (OL)	20	ongoing
2	Storytelling/Public Speaking Warm-up Techniques	5	cyclical

Assignment Number	Project Description	Point Value	Due Date
3	Story Collection	20	6/6
4	Paper: Stories Within A Story	20	7/11
5	Storytelling Program	10	6/13
6	Storytelling Performance #1 Three stages: a.) Tell about your story b.) Video practice and YouTube annotation/reflections c.) Tell your story	20 Part a: 5 Part b: 5 Part c: 10	Part a: 6/6 Part b: 6/13 Part c: 6/20 (OC) 7/7 (OL)
7	Storytelling Performance #2 Four stages: a.) Interview yourself b.) Tell about your story c.) Video practice and YouTube annotation/reflections d.) Tell you story	25 Part a: 5 Part b: 5 Part c: 5 Part d: 10	Part a: 6/27 Part b: 6/27 Part c: 7/11 Part d: 7/18 and 7/25 (OC) 7/18 (OL)
8	Final Reflection	10	7/25

Grading Scale

A+	100%
A	93-99%
A-	90-92%
B+	88-89%
B	83-87%
B-	80-82%
C+	78-79%
C	73-77%

Weekly Schedule

Due to enrollment numbers, it is possible that this may change. I will keep you apprised of any changes to the schedule.

Week	Lecture Topics and/or Learning Activities	Assignments Due
1 5/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storytelling activity • Course overview and syllabus 	
2 5/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storytelling: What is it? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Folktales and fairytales • Motifs 	Project 2 (cyclical basis)
3 5/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storytelling programs in classrooms and libraries 	
4 6/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital storytelling • Copyright and ethics 	Project 3 Project 6a
5 6/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storytelling in popular culture 	Project 5 Project 6b
6 6/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storytelling performances 	Project 6c (OC only)
7 6/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal narratives • Family storytelling 	Project 7a & 7b
8 7/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storytelling for healing • The future of storytelling 	Project 4 Project 7c
9 7/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storytelling performances 	Project 7d
10 7/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storytelling performances 	Project 8

FastTrack Weekend • ONLINE STUDENTS ONLY

7/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm-up techniques • Storytelling performances 	Project 2 Project 6c
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