

# STORYTELLING

Kim Gyuran – Instructor

Class Time: T/TH 11:10 am – 12:35 pm

Fall 2013

Homepage: <http://gyurank.faculty.yosemite.edu/123.htm>



## Kim's Philosophy

I've been teaching for over **25** years and LOVE IT. I will work diligently to return projects and exams back by the next class period. I'll strive to make Storytelling a rewarding experiences.

My mission is to construct an engaging, challenging, & entertaining environment in which you learn how to tell stories. I am committed to creating an environment that thrives on collaboration and mutual respect. I will need your help to reach this goal. Although we may not always agree (and it would be boring if we did!), I expect that you will respect, listen, and learn from the experiences and contributions of every class member.

Your success is up to you. **I'm an enthusiastic resource, but your achievements will be determined by you.** Reading the textbook and assignments BEFORE class and thoughtfully considering the material is crucial. So is asking questions, actively participating in class, and giving feedback to others.

My door is open if you have a question or a concern. This is a personal invitation to chat with me. There may be times that the material or your stress level seems overwhelming, but it's vital that you do not succumb to your fears or stress. Keep in mind that you are not alone. I have a "can do" spirit, I hope you do too.

## COURSE 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. identify a story's seven structural components.
3. perform stories utilizing the skills of memorization, vocal delivery, spatial awareness, and physical expression.

*Education is the ability to meet life's situations.*

## How to contact me



**Phone: (209) 575-6174**

I only answer my phone or pick up my messages during office hours.

**Office: Founders Hall 220B**

**Student Office Hours  
by appointment for this class:**

**Tues. 12:40-1pm & 9-9:30 pm;  
Thursday 12:40-2 pm**

15 min. appointments can be made by signing your name to the calendar on my office door, Founders 220 B.

**email: [gyurank@mjc.edu](mailto:gyurank@mjc.edu)**

- Email me if you want to:
  - ask a simple question.
  - inform me you'll miss a class.
- Do not use email to:
  - discuss your grade.
  - send projects.
  - ask long, detailed questions.
  - reschedule your performance.



It is my hope that **WE** will make this semester rewarding in countless ways!

“Stories have to be told or they die, and when they die, we can't remember who we are or why we're here.”

— [Sue Monk Kidd](#), *The Secret Life of Bees*:

## PROJECTS DESCRIPTIONS

Detailed descriptions of the projects are in the course packet.

### 1. STORIES (70 pts. total)

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.),
- ✓ published biography (7-9 min.)

Tellers are required to speak on their assigned day. 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.

### 2. TELLING GUIDES (5 pts. each)

You'll write a one-two page telling guide for each story. Telling guides are due in class before you tell your story. Each guide is different. 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 under any circumstance.**

### 3. SELF EVALUATION (5 pts. each)

You will evaluate your performance for the following stories: *personal, oral tradition, & fantasy*. Self-examination papers help you analyze your performance and must be turned in the next class session following your story. Self-evaluation forms are located in your course packet. Use proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation. 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.**

Proof-read your papers. **Free** assistance with proof-reading is provided by the MJC Writing Center located on **East Campus: Classroom Annex 103 (209) 575-6682** or **West Campus: Yosemite Hall 235 (209) 575-7847**. Check the website for more information!

[http://www.mjc.edu/prospective/resources/campus\\_resources/centers.html](http://www.mjc.edu/prospective/resources/campus_resources/centers.html)

## REQUIRED PURCHASES

- ✓ Lipman, Doug. Improving Your Storytelling
- ✓ Storytelling Course Packet
- ✓ Four 815-E scantrons.  
(course materials can be acquired at the MJC Bookstore)

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## GRADING

I grade by points and you only **ADD** them! Figure out your grade at any time during the semester by:

- 1- Adding the total number of points you have earned.
- 2- Dividing that number by the total number of points possible at that time.
- 3- Multiplying that total by 100, which will give you 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, Student A has earned 21 pts. The total number of points at this stage in the semester is 25. When she divides 21 by 25, she gets .84. Then she multiplies .84 by 100, which equals 84%. She is earning a B **at this point** in the semester. If you need help, I'm happy to lend a hand!

**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

**Grades are earned not negotiated.**

#### **4. 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. I will administer a makeup exam comprised of all essays questions. You'll need to arrange a time with me before taking a makeup exam during my office hours. Each student is allowed to makeup one exam.

#### **5. PEER EVALUATIONS (5 pts. each)**

You will evaluate two peers for the following stories: *oral tradition, fantasy, and biography*. Peer evaluation forms are located in your course packet and are graded on depth and breadth of your feedback. These critiques are designed to test your knowledge of the subject matter 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 2 min. early. I start EXACTLY on time. If you do not arrive in time to receive a peer evaluation, then you will forfeit these points.
- ✓You will NOT evaluate a peer the day you tell.
- ✓If you do not submit two peer evaluation forms when I collect them, you will forfeit your chance to evaluate a peer and 10 points.
- ✓Peer evaluations must be completed and submitted in class the same day you evaluate your peer to earn credit.

#### **6. OUTSIDE STORYTELLING PERFORMANCE (10 pts.)**

You will perform outside of class. You arrange where you will perform, but you must get the 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 tell.

#### **7. 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.

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

- ✓Create a supportive atmosphere by treating everyone w/respect.
- ✓Come to class on time with your electronic devices put away.
- ✓Verbally participate by demonstrating your knowledge of the course concepts, asking questions, or giving constructive feedback.

#### **CLASS POLICIES**

1. **Due Dates:** All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Points will be deducted for late projects. I will not accept any late project one week after the due date or the week before/during 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 152, phone 575-6225. DS will review your concerns and determine, with you, what accommodations are appropriate. All information is confidential. Please feel free to let me know how I can help too.

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 claiming someone else's ideas or wording is your own. There is no need to cheat. I'm more than willing to help you succeed in class.

4. **Schedule:** We will try to stay to the schedule; however, we may alter it if necessary. If you are absent, it is your responsibility for finding out what you missed.

If you do not contribute positively, stay silent, arrive late, or use an electronic device in class, you will not earn participation point for that class session. You will also not earn them if you are absent.

**Tardy/Leaving early:** If you are late and/or leave early more than **4 times**, you will be dropped. This behavior is disruptive and disrespectful. If you are late, enter quietly and participate actively once you understand our conversation. Do not disrupt your classmates. Arriving late or leaving early will result in a zero for your participation score for that class period.

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

### SKYDRIVE

You need to set up a SkyDrive account. This is a free cloud service. Register for an account at <https://skydrive.live.com> If you have a Microsoft or Hotmail email acct., then you have access to SkyDrive!

### EXTRA CREDIT

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 online. There is no other extra credit in this class.

“The purpose of a storyteller is not to tell you how to think, but to give you questions to think upon.”  
— [Brandon Sanderson](#), *The Way of Kings*

### **Important Dates!**

**9/8:** Last day to add full-term classes in person w/o Dean's signature

**9/8:** Last day to withdraw from full-term class without a "W" in the Admissions Office until 5 pm or online until 11 pm.

**9/23:** Last day to file Request for Refund for classes dropped by 9/9

**9/24:** Last day to file for Pass/No Pass for Full-Term Classes.

**11/14:** Last day to withdraw from Full-Term Classes at Admissions (5 pm on East/West Campus), or PiratesNet until 11:00 pm.

*The End*

**5. 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.

**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 withdraw through our Admissions Office. Failure to do so may result in receiving an F in this course.



# SEMESTER OUTLINE

Class Date	Assignment/Exam	Read <b>BEFORE</b> class
Aug. 27	<u>Introduction : What is Storytelling</u>	
Aug. 29	<u>Discovering Personal Stories</u> (Quiz today!)	Lipman, Ch. 1 & course packet pg. 4
Sept. 3	<u>Developing Personal Stories</u>	Read Lipman, Introduction
Sept. 5	<u>Telling Personal Stories</u>	
Sept. 10	<u>Providing Constructive Feedback &amp; SkyDrive</u>	
Sept. 12	<b>Oral Tradition Stories/Coaching</b> <b>Test 1 (covers Intro., Ch. 1, packet, class notes)</b>	Read Course packet pgs. 6-7
Sept. 17	<b>PERSONAL STORIES DUE</b>	
Sept. 19	<b>PERSONAL STORIES DUE &amp; SELF EVALUATIONS DUE</b>	
Sept. 24	<b>PERSONAL STORIES DUE &amp; SELF EVALUATIONS DUE</b>	
Sept. 26	<u>Learning Stories by Heart</u> <b>SELF-EVALUATION DUE</b>	Read Lipman, Ch. 6
Oct. 1	<u>Structure &amp; Meaning</u> Blank Peer Evaluation forms due by 1pm in FH 220B	Read Lipman, Chpts. 7-8
Oct. 3	<u>Writing a Telling Guide</u>	
Oct. 8	<u>Channeling Anxiety</u>	Read Lipman, Ch. 16
Oct. 10	<b>Fantasy Stories /Imagery</b> <b>Test 2 (covers Chpts. 6-8, packet, class notes)</b>	Read Packet pgs. 8-9 & Lipman, Ch. 2-3
Oct. 15-17	<b>ORAL TRADITION STORIES DUE</b> <b>PEER &amp; SELF EVALUATIONS DUE</b>	
Oct. 22-24	<b>ORAL TRADITION STORIES DUE</b> <b>PEER &amp; SELF EVALUATIONS DUE</b> Blank Peer Evaluation forms due by 1pm in FH 220B	
Oct. 29	<u>Understanding the Audience</u> <b>SELF EVALUATIONS DUE</b>	Read Lipman, Ch. 12
Oct. 31	<u>The Four Tasks</u> <b>Test 3 (covers Chpts. 2-3, 16, &amp; class notes)</b>	Read Lipman, Ch. 11
Nov. 5	<b>FANTASY STORIES &amp; PEER EVALUATIONS DUE</b>	
Nov. 7, 12, 14	<b>FANTASY STORIES DUE</b> <b>PEER &amp; SELF EVALUATIONS DUE</b>	
Nov. 19	<u>Biography Overview/ Characterization</u> <b>SELF EVALUATION DUE</b> <b>Test 4 (covers Chpts. 4, 11-12, packet, class notes)</b>	Read Packet pgs. 10-11 & Ch. 4 Blank Peer Evaluation forms due by 1pm in FH 220B
Nov. 21	<b>Thanksgiving Break!</b>	
Nov. 26	<u>Characterization</u>	
Nov. 28	<b>BIOGRAPHY STOIRES &amp; PEER EVALUATIONS DUE</b> <b>OUTSIDE PERFORMANCE PAPERS DUE</b>	
Dec. 3-5	<b>BIOGRAPHY STOIRES &amp; PEER EVALUATIONS DUE</b>	
Dec. 12	from 10:30 am - 12:50 pm <b>BIOGRAPHY STOIRES &amp; PEER EVALUATIONS DUE</b>	