

READ5830-050 STORYTELLING INSTITUTE

DIANE WOLKSTEIN
TOPIC: SACRED STORYTELLING

JUNE 7-10, 2009
SYLLABUS

Instructor of record: Saundra Kelley
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CATALOG DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to develop and refine the student’s ability as a storyteller.

OVERALL COURSE OBJECTIVE: This Institute will be an exploration of both content and technique in the telling of sacred tales from many traditions. We will encounter stories from Biblical, Buddhist, Taoist, Hasidic, tribal and Sufi backgrounds.

SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Class members will tell stories from their own birth and adopted traditions, and also one another’s
- We will consider the universal and culturally specific aspects of particular tales; what outward and inward facets of a story make it Christian rather than Taoist, Hasidic rather than Sufi?
- We will experiment with different modes and styles of presenting sacred stories and we will explore critical aspects of the storyteller’s voice and persona

VOICE, MOVEMENT, SONG, BREATH EXERCISES
WILL BE DAILY OFFERINGS TO GROUND PARTICIPANTS IN STORY

REQUIREMENTS:

- Prepare at least two stories from your own birth tradition to share with the group that are no longer than 10 minutes in length.
- Be prepared to move beyond your present understanding of sacred story
- Attendance is necessary at all times due to the short time frame in which we have to work.

ASSIGNMENTS:

One round of informal peer coaching/telling	50 points
Participation	100 points
Reflective Journal	100 points
Final paper	<u>150</u> points
	400 total points

GRADING SCALE: A = 380 – 400, A- = 360 – 379, B+ = 348 – 359, B = 332 – 347, B- = 320 – 331, C+ = 308 – 319, F = 307 and below.

Reflective Journal-**Introspection**

This writing explores moments in the workshop of personal growth and awareness. Students will keep a running commentary in journal form. After each session students are encouraged to reflect upon the material explored in the workshop and write about personal insights, surprises, challenges, and growth. A photocopy of the journal may be mailed to the instructor or an electronic version emailed. If emailed, the subject should read ETSU Journal.

Reflective Essay-**Application**

This essay transforms personal reflections on the experiences and skills obtained through the workshop into explorations on their application in repertoire development, educational curriculum goals in a school setting or in public performance. In a four-six page essay students will describe specific ways in which any aspect of the weekend's material could be utilized in the context of their own professional practice. The essay should reflect an awareness of the social context of storytelling; how language choice and story selection impacts listeners.

Requirements for the essay:

1. 4-6 pages, typed, double-spaced, page numbers bottom right or bottom center
2. Free of errors of grammar and spelling
3. Additional cover page with title, author's name, and course/section number of class
4. 12-point type, Times New Roman or Courier font. Top and bottom margins no more than 1" and left/right margins no wider than 1.25.
5. The essay can be mailed to the instructor or sent as a Word document attachment. If Emailed, the subject should read ETSU Essay.