

Course Number & Name: LIS 423 - Storytelling

Description: This course examines cultural origins and contemporary practices of oral storytelling. It explores the psychological and social value of stories and practical and ethical issues in selecting, adapting, and presenting story materials. Students observe and practice storytelling and develop a personal repertoire of stories. Readings, class discussion and exercises, and course assignments will acquaint them with a wide variety of story types, skills of story presentation, and the development of story programs.

- **Prerequisites:** None
- **Audience (level, environment/setting):** Introductory; Academic, public and school libraries. Non-library settings.
- **Student Learning Outcomes** [by number]: 1, 4, 7, 9
- **Topics/List of Lectures:**
 - Traditions of Oral Storytelling
 - Recording of history
 - Repositories of religious teaching
 - Social commentary
 - Cultural roles of storytellers and storytelling
 - Development of storytelling practices in libraries
 - Contemporary practices in educational and social venues
 - Story Types and Structures
 - Fables
 - Myths and creation stories
 - Legends and folktales
 - Circular and cumulative tales
 - The linear plot
 - Stock characters
 - Creatures of fantasy
 - The language of story
 - Selecting and Preparing Stories
 - Instruction in information gathering and research skills
 - Reference guides and web resources
 - Works for folklorists and story collections
 - Mapping, editing, adapting stories
 - Cultural authenticity
 - Copyright considerations
 - Coaching and rehearsal tactics
 - Developing Story Programs
 - Extending story themes
 - Use of story aids

- Story Presentation
 - Attending to audience
 - Pacing and phrasing
 - Voice
- **Suggested Textbooks/Readings**
 - MacDonald, Margaret Read. *The Storyteller's Start-up Book*. August House, 1993.
 - Livo, Norma J. and Sandra Rietz. *Storytelling: Process and Practice*. Libraries Unlimited, 1986.
 - Extensive reading list of other sources.
- **Course History:**
 - December 2004: discussed at curriculum retreat; move from two (LIS 530G) to three credits (voted in at February 2005 faculty meeting)
- **Document prepared by:** Maggie Bush, 1/05