

**MAS 623 Storytelling & Readers Theater 2 Credits/3 CEUs
Monday through Friday 1:00-4:30 June Intersession, 2008**

Instructor Name	Robert Fish, Ph.D.
Office Hours	Mondays, Wednesday, 9:30-11:30. Other hours by appointment.
Telephone	251-3535, ext. 2110
E-Mail	fishrs@unityonline.org
Required Texts	Bennett, G.C. (2003) Readers Theatre Comes to Church. Colorado Springs, CO
Other Required Reading	
Recommended Reading	Coger, I.C., White, M.R. (1967) Readers Theater Handbook: A Dramatic Approach to Literature. Glenview, IL.

Course Description

From the rhapsodes of ancient Greece to Garrison Keillor, the storyteller has a special role in engaging a listener and conveying a lesson in a dramatic form. This course examines storytelling and readers theatre. It explores the unique and dynamic relationship between a speaker telling a story and his or her audience. Participants will select stories from their personal experiences, shape and rehearse them, and share them with the class. Participants will also work in teams to create and perform a readers theatre script of their choosing.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Compare and contrast the changing role of storytelling from ancient Greece to the modern day.
2. Analyze the critical elements of storytelling in various forms and media.
3. Select and edit a story to integrate essential storytelling elements.
4. Create, deliver or write, and evaluate storytelling for technical elements and audience impact.
5. In groups, script, cast, direct, and perform a readers theater script of their choosing.

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Master of Divinity:

MD-1. Develop and demonstrate the pastoral skills necessary for successful ministry.

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Certificate in Unity Ministry:

C-1 Develop and demonstrate the pastoral skills necessary for successful ministry.

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Master of Arts in Religious Studies:

MA-1. Develop mastery in the study of religion.

Class Schedule

Day	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment	Paper/Exam/Activity
Mon.	June 23	1. Introduction 2. Story structure 3. Selection of groups for readers theater	Bennett, pp. 8-17.	Lecture and discussion (small & full group)
Tues.	June 24	1. Class exercises in storytelling 2. Story delivery techniques 3. Finding material for readers theater	Bennett, pp. 18-31.	Individual exercises, discussion
Thurs	June 26	1. Class exercise in storytelling 2. Types of scripts for readers theater	Bennett, pp.33-48.	Individual exercises, discussion
Fri	June 27	1. Class exercise in storytelling 2. Casting and directing readers theater	Bennett, pp. 49-61	Individual exercises, discussion
Mon	June 30	1. Class exercise in storytelling 2. Group work in readers theater	Bennett, sample scripts	Individual exercises, discussion
Tues	July 1	1. Group rehearsals of readers theater programs--early stages 2. Telling stories		Individual exercises, discussion
Thurs	July 3	1. Group rehearsals--mid-stages 2. Telling stories		Individual exercises, discussion
Fri	July 4??	Hold class or not??		Rehearsals, discussion

Assignments for the Master of Divinity:

Three stories (two oral, one written), participation in a readers theater program, reflection paper

Grading

Assignment	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective
Three stories	20 points each (60 total)	MD-1
Participation in readers theater program	20 points	MD-1
Reflection paper	20 points	MD-1

Final Grade Determination:

- 90 - 100 points A
- 80 - 89 points B
- 70 - 79 points C

Assignments for the Certificate in Unity Ministry:

Three stories (two oral, one written), participation in a readers theater program, reflection paper

Grading

Assignment	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective
Three stories	20 points each (60 total)	C-1
Participation in readers theater program	20	C-1
Reflection paper	20	C-1

Final Grade Determination

- 90 - 100 points A
- 80 - 89 points B
- 70 - 79 points C

Assignments for the Master of Arts in Religious Studies:

Three stories (two oral, one written), participation in a readers theater program, reflection paper

Grading

Assignment	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective
Three stories	20 points each (60 total)	MA-1
Participation in readers theater program	20	MA-1
Reflection paper	20	MA-1

Final Grade Determination

90 - 100 points A

80 - 89 points B

70 - 79 points C

Expectations of Students

Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned material and being prepared to discuss it.

Classroom Protocol

Late Assignment Policy

Papers received after the due date may be assessed a penalty.

Attendance Policy

While attendance has no direct impact on the final grade, there is a strong correlation between attendance and success in the class. Students missing a class are responsible for obtaining the handouts, information and/or directions from another student.

Academic Honesty

Unity Institute assumes that all students desire to pursue their academic and transformational work with honesty and scholarly integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, facilitating academic dishonesty and misrepresentation of self or other students are prohibited. Students may seek the assistance from others as long as the student submitting the assignment is actually doing the work.

If a faculty member discovers a student violating academic honesty the following penalty may be applied, depending upon the severity of the infraction:

1. A reduced grade for the assignment.
2. A grade of zero for the assignment.
3. An "F" for the course.

4. Remand the decision to the full faculty.

A report will be sent to the faculty, the Dean, as well as kept in the student's permanent file.

For further information about academic honesty, students are directed to review the Unity Institute Catalog and Unity Institute Student Handbook.

Special Concerns

If students have any special concerns and/or challenges that may affect their performance in this course, they are encouraged to speak with the instructor immediately so that any accommodations, if necessary, may be made.

Selected Bibliography

Aftel, M. (1996) *The Story of Your Life: Becoming the Author of Your Experience*. New York.

Armstrong, D. (1992) *Managing by Storying Around: A New Method of Leadership*. New York.

Peters, T., Waterman, R. (1982) *In Search of Excellence: Lessons From America's Best-Run Companies*. New York.

Simmons, A. (2001) *The Story Factor: Secrets of Influence from the Art of Storytelling*. Cambridge, Mass.

Vogler, C. (1992) *The Writer's Journey: Mythic Structure for Storytellers and Screenwriters*. Studio City, California.