STORY: HOW IT WORKS IN OUR MINDS AND OUR LIVES
UF100-004 Fall 2013

Co-Leaders: Mac Test and Teresa Focarile

edwardtest@boisestate.edu, 208-426-2138, office LA 222
teresafocarile@boisestate.edu, 860-459-5704, office MC106B

Office Hours: By Appointment

Plenary Classes meet Thursdays from 1:30-2:45 in the Liberal Arts Bldg., Room 106.

Discussion Session Leaders: Your Discussion Session Leader is your first point of contact for any questions about the course.

D31 - Mary Lou Kinney (Mon. 9am-10:15am; ILC 201), marykinney1@boisestate.edu
D32 - Susan Shadle (Mon. 10:30am-11:45am; ILC 201), susanshadle@boisestate.edu
D33 - John Herrick (Mon. 12:00pm–1:15pm; ILC 201), johnherrick@boisestate.edu
D34 - Edward “Mac” Test (Mon. 1:30-2:45pm; ILC 201), edwardtest@boisestate.edu
D35 - Lisa Meierotto (Mon. 3pm-4:15pm; ILC 201), lisameierotto@boisestate.edu
D36 - Jon Bender (Mon. 4:30pm-5:45pm; ILC 201), jonbender@boisestate.edu
D37 - Jon Bender (Mon. 6pm-7:15pm; ILC 201), jonbender@boisestate.edu
D38 - Karen Wadley (Tues. 9am-10:15am; ILC 201), karenwadley@boisestate.edu
D39 - Teresa Focarile (Tues. 1:30-2:45pm; ILC 204), teresafocarile@boisestate.edu

Discussion Sessions meet according to your session, per BroncoWeb.

Blackboard URL: http://blackboard.boisestate.edu

Course Overview

STORY IS US. If we want to understand ourselves and our world, we need to understand Story and how it works -- where Story came from, how we can use it, and how it uses us. We will read, listen, watch, research, and take part in story-making projects. It's going to be fun. And challenging.

WE WILL ALL BE STORY-MAKERS. We'll have weekly plenary sessions -- with all of us together and with guests. And we'll have smaller, weekly discussion sessions, in which we discuss, brainstorm and create. We will work in teams to research and analyze important issues – and create documentaries to tell the Story of the people involved.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to explore the phenomenon of Story - how it engages the senses, triggers emotions and creates awareness of consequence and meaning - via
perspectives including biology, neurology, psychology, history, literature, film, music, art and theater.

This course helps to achieve goals of the Foundational Studies Program. After successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Create, shape and orally present an effective story, with beginning, middle, end, and a sense of consequence.
2. Critically research, explore, identify, analyze and discuss the elements of a story and how they function in the mind, in a text and in society.
3. Serve effectively on a collaborative documentary film-making team.

**Boise State's Foundational Studies Program** provides undergraduates with a broad-based education that spans the entire university experience. Story satisfies 3 credits of the Program's UF 100 requirement. It supports the following University Learning Outcomes, along with a variety of other course-specific goals:

1. Communicate effectively in speech, both as speaker and listener.
2. Engage in effective critical inquiry by defining problems, gathering and evaluating evidence, and determining the adequacy of argumentative discourse.
3. Think creatively about complex problems in order to produce, evaluate, and implement innovative possible solutions, often as one member of a team.

**Texts**
- *The Storytelling Animal*, by Jonathan Gottschall
- *Half the Sky*, by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn
- *The Crucible*, by Arthur Miller
- Other readings and video clips, to be announced in class or on Blackboard

You will also need to **purchase a Clicker** from the bookstore.

**Important Notes:**
1. Clickers will be used in plenary to take attendance. You are required to check Blackboard after class to make sure your clicker is working appropriately. **You have 48 hours after the plenary to contact the professors about a clicker that is not working.** After that time, you will not be given credit for attendance based on a malfunctioning clicker.

2. All posted pdf reading assignments will be checked for readability by a screen reader (the department will ask Academic Technologies for help with a review of these electronic materials). Whenever available, videos chosen for use in the course will be those that have been close-captioned by the content producer to provide access to students with hearing impairment. PowerPoints used in class lectures, insofar as they contain graphs or other visual representations of content, will be verbally described to students on an as-needed basis. We will add textual descriptions accessible by screen readers to images used on the course web site. Extra time on tests, oral examinations, or other accommodations will be provided to students as needed per the policies of the Disability Resource center.
3. Late assignments will be allowed only under extreme circumstances, i.e. an act of nature, serious illness, or family emergency. Proof such as a doctor’s note, etc., is mandatory. If approval is given to submit an assignment late, it must be done within a week of the scheduled assignment due date and the student is responsible for contacting the teacher to arrange this change. Any work not turned in will be assigned zero points.

4. The BSU Student Conduct Code (SCC) defines plagiarism as the misrepresentation of someone else’s work as one’s own. That includes using the words or ideas of a writer without proper acknowledgement or using the academic work of another student while presenting it as original. The BSU SCC defines cheating as including any action where an individual or group either carries out or attempts to carry out dishonest work and/or where an individual or group either assists or attempts to assist an individual or group to carry out dishonest work. The consequence of plagiarism and/or cheating is failure of the assignment.

5. Accommodations: To request accommodations for a disability, contact the Disability Resource Center, Admin 114, (208) 426-1583. Students are required to provide documentation of their disability and meet with a Disability Specialist prior to receiving accommodations. Information about a disability or health condition will be regarded as confidential.

6. Course schedule is subject to change.

**Assignments**

**Attendance**
Attendance will be taken at each plenary (using clickers) and each discussion session (by Discussion Session Leader). *You must follow up no later than 48 hours after the class if you have questions/concerns about your point for a specific class meeting.*

**Discussion Session Participation**
One point will be granted for each discussion session in which you participate. Participation can be either in your editorial teams and/or in the larger class discussions. Your Discussion Session Leader will assign the participation point after each class.

Note that inattentiveness in class is cause for your Discussion Session Leader to not grant a participation point. *You must follow up no later than 48 hours after the class if you have questions/concerns about your point for a specific class meeting.*

**Reading Responses**
Three times throughout the semester (weeks 4, 7, and 10), questions will be posted on Bbd which require a one paragraph thoughtful response. These responses should be typed, posted on your discussion session’s Bbd discussion board, AND printed and brought to discussion session. Comments from this assignment will also be used to start or contribute to discussions in discussion session.
Reading Responses
Three times throughout the semester (weeks 4, 7, and 10), questions will be posted on Bbd which require a one paragraph thoughtful response. These responses should be typed, posted on your discussion session’s Bbd discussion board, AND printed and brought to discussion session. Comments from this assignment will also be used to start or contribute to discussions in discussion session.

Personal Story
You will tell a personal story to your discussion session. The specifics of this assignment are posted on Bbd and will be discussed in plenary and in discussion session.

Final Project
Working with a team, you will create a short documentary about a current issue. The specifics of this assignment are posted on Bbd and will be discussed in plenary and in discussion session.

Course Requirements for Grading:
Attendance/Participation 15%
Blackboard Quizzes 20%
Reading Responses 15%
Personal Story 15%
Final Project 35%
**Course Schedule**

Please complete the assigned reading *prior to your discussion session meeting time that week*. Dates listed are days the plenary meets.

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<tr>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/29</td>
<td>Class Introduction</td>
<td><em>Storytelling Animal</em>, Preface, Ch. 1</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>9/5</td>
<td>Evolution of Story</td>
<td><em>Storytelling Animal</em>, Chapter 2 &amp; 3</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>9/12</td>
<td>Story in our Minds</td>
<td><em>Storytelling Animal</em>, Chapter 5 &amp; 8</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>9/19</td>
<td>Traditional Stories</td>
<td>Short Stories posted on Bbd</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>9/26</td>
<td>Intro to Critical Inquiry</td>
<td>Readings posted on Bbd</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>10/3</td>
<td>Critical Story: Environmentalism</td>
<td>Readings and clips posted on Bbd</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>10/10</td>
<td>Critical Story: Environmentalism</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>10/17</td>
<td>Critical Story – Women’s Rights</td>
<td><em>Half the Sky</em>, Ch. TBD</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>10/24</td>
<td>Critical Story – Women’s Rights</td>
<td><em>Half the Sky</em>, Ch. TBD</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>10/31</td>
<td>Critical Story – Native Americans</td>
<td>Readings and clips posted on Bbd</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>11/7</td>
<td>Story on Stage</td>
<td><em>The Crucible</em>, by Arthur Miller</td>
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<td>11/14</td>
<td>Story and the Everyday</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>11/21</td>
<td>Story and Animation</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>12/5</td>
<td>Story and Science</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>12/12</td>
<td>Documentary Presentations</td>
<td><em>Storytelling Animal</em>, Chapter 9</td>
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