

GSTR100 Stories  
Parting the Invisible Shadows

Fall 2004  
Instructor: Dr. Tammy Horn

Class Info: MTWF 2:00-2:250 class room: Phelps Stokes Green Room  
MTWF 4:00-4:50 class room: Draper 215

Office: Draper 314  
Hours: 10-11; 3-4 MTW (and by appt.)  
Phone: 985.3763

“In the beginning, there was the Word.” The Gospel According to John

“My wish, my continuing passion, would be not to point the finger in judgment but to part a curtain, that invisible shadow that falls between people, the veil of indifference to each other’s presence, each other’s wonder, each other’s human plight.” Eudora Welty

### Course Description and Goals

Welty’s goal is an admirable one: GSTR Stories is a class that will ask students to “part a curtain, that invisible shadow...the veil of indifference” so that you may begin to appreciate “each other’s presence, each other’s wonder, each other’s human plight.” In order to accomplish this goal, you will need to develop a number of interrelated skills--reading, writing, critical thinking, oral communication--and become proficient at using the library and technological resources provided by the College. Because these skills create a foundation upon which you will build values, career, and identity, you should think of the course as the beginning of a long-term investment in time, energy, and thought.

### Required Texts and Materials:

Giardina, Denise. *Storming Heaven*. New York: Ivy, 1987. (EG)  
Bohner, Charles and Lyman Grant, eds. *Short Fiction: Classic and Contemporary*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 2002. (SF)  
Fee, John G. *Autobiography*. Online.  
Lunsford, Andrea and Robert Connors, eds. *The New St. Martin’s Handbook*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 1999. (SMH)  
Satrapi, Marjorie. *Persapolis*.  
Dell laptop computer

## On Reserve:

(will include more resources as the semester continues)

Feelings, Tom. *The Middle Passage*. New York: Dial, 1995.

Garner, James Finn. *Once Upon a More Enlightened Time: More Politically Correct Fairy Tales*. New York: MacMillan, 1995.

---. *Politically Correct Fairy Tales: Modern Tales for Our Life and Times*. New York: MacMillan, 1994..

Twain, Mark. "How to Tell a Tall Tale." Short Fiction: Class and Contemporary 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Ed. Charles Bohner. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1998.

## Course Policies

### Attendance

Attendance is required and monitored. Be on time and prepared. In order to get credit for attendance, you need to bring the required materials such as books and laptops. This policy is non-negotiable. Because laptops will be used for both group and individual activities, you must be prepared for class in order to participate in these.

\*\*\*\*When we are working in chat rooms on Web-CT, I will not count you absent if you are logged in at least five minutes after class has started!

Please do me the courtesy of notifying me of team trips before you go, family emergencies, sickness, or any event that would affect attendance in a significant way. Your presence is important to class, and I'd like to be kept up-to-date on matters affecting class.

Your final grade will be dropped by one letter grade if you have three or more unexcused absences. I am required to notify the office of the Associate Provost for Student Academic Services when students miss an excessive number of classes, and I usually do so after a student has missed three or more classes.

### Quizzes

Quizzes are listed on the syllabus and may include both grammar and literature. I do not allow make-ups for quizzes, but I will drop your lowest quiz grade at the end of the semester.

### Needs

If you have special needs (such as a learning disability), please inform me as soon as possible either after class or by email.

## Participation

This class offers a variety of ways to participate, even for those apprehensive about speaking up in front of a class. Sometimes, we become so involved, however, we forget about course etiquette. If you want to make a point, please raise your hand. Please be respectful of others' opinion, even when they differ with your own. Please don't interrupt others or engage in conversations during student presentations. I reserve the right to grade down on your own presentation/participation grade in those cases. Finally, you need to be on time and awake. Being tardy and dozing off can hurt your grade (that's considered negative participation).

## Plagiarism (Intellectual Theft)

This course stresses the need to develop academic integrity, which means giving credit to your sources regardless of where you find them. Academic integrity means that you develop a pattern of acknowledging internet material, your books, your friends, if necessary. There are a number of different ways writers do this: paraphrasing, quoting, and summarizing. The course will stress these forms of credit, but if you are confused, please don't hesitate to ask me or the CEC.

## II. Technology

WEB-CT is an electronic course software program that allows access to an online gradebook, chat room, discussion board, etc. etc. This technology extends the class dynamics beyond the classroom. It is important that you bring your laptops to class, especially on the days noted. If you don't have your computer, you will be considered absent.

In addition, we will be accessing Inspiration software. This software allows you to organize your ideas using visual images or traditional outlines and notes.

The rules of netiquette apply in these electronic formats. Edit emails before sending them. Even though many regard emails as informal letters, they are still a method of communication. Avoid using all-caps because doing so suggests to the reader that you are screaming at them. Use emoticons to convey a joke or soften your tone.

## Course Assignments

### Reading/Writing

- |                            |                   |            |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| a. one review--Final       |                   | 50 points  |
| b. two essays              | (100 points each) | 200 points |
| c. two student conferences |                   | 25 points  |

\*three-page typed drafts required to receive credit

d. quizzes (10 points each) 50 points

Oral Communication/Listening

a. Group Project/Presentation 50 points  
c. character dramatization 25 points

Participation

a. homework 50 points  
b. in-class responses (approximately five) 25 points  
c. library/computer 25 points

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500 points possible

\*Although you will have done more assignments, your mid-term grade will be based on the essay about *Storming Heaven*.

Grading Scale:

100-90% A  
89-80% B  
79-70% C  
69-60% D  
59-and below F

## Extending Our Classroom

The Teaching and Learning Center (Draper 106) is staffed with many students who have had my Stories classes before. Setting up an appointment with these students may help you in the class. I've incorporated student conferences, but you should also visit the CEC at least twice through the course of the semester.

### Librarians and Guest Speakers

Hutchins Library is an integral component of this course. Our "official" library liaison is Janie Wilson. Guest speakers will also be invited throughout the course of the semester. You will need to be on-time those days. They deserve courtesy and respect used in normal classroom etiquette.

Part I: Novels: *Storming Heaven* and John G. Fee's *Autobiography*  
Part II: Oral Traditions: Fables, Fairy Tales, Myths  
Part III: Stories, *Persapolis*

The novel *Storming Heaven* is denoted by *SH*. During the last part of the semester, the stories assigned are located in *Short Fiction*, denoted by *SF*.

Unless otherwise noted, please write sentences 1-5 on grammar exercises in St. Martin's, being careful to write out the sentences with the corrections made in a legible manner. Any homework turned in with more than two errors will be handed back with a "no credit," until an appointment with me or the TLC has been made and an alternative assignment given. So, even if an exercise has ten sentences, just do the first five sentences—unless otherwise noted.

All essays, reviews, and summaries should be typed, double-spaced, **stapled!**, formatted to one-inch margins and use 12-point font in Ariel/Times/Courier. Again, sources should be credited on a works cited page. Late work is not accepted. Make arrangements to turn work in early. While I generally always grant extensions of deadlines if approached before a deadline, I rarely grant extensions the day an assignment is due.

Student conferences will be held in my office, Draper 314, unless otherwise noted. My extension is x.3763. If you miss the conference, show up with an incomplete draft, or cancel, you will receive two absences.

Week One-*Storming Heaven (SH)*

Sept. 01 Intro to class policies;  
SH, chaps. 1-2  
03 Diagnostic Essay; please bring pen, paper, dictionary, white-out

Week Two-*Storming Heaven*

Sept. 06 **Library orientation; please meet at Hutchins 228-229**; read *SH*, 3-8  
07 discuss *SH*; introduce literary definitions  
08 Due St. Martin's, Pronoun Reference, Chap. 37.1, 1-5; discuss *SH*  
10 *SH*: Part II; **Quiz #1**

Week Three-*Storming Heaven*

Sept. 13 *SH*: Part III; **bring laptops and cable cords**  
St. Martin's: Commas Chap. 38.1, 5-12  
14 Film—Phelps Stokes, *Matewan* 7:00-9:30 p.m. please check in Jaime Breckenridge; we will not meet for class.  
15 *SH*: IV; St. Martin's: Commas Chap.39.1, 1-5  
17 *SH*: discussion of essay topics;  
St. Martin's: Chap. 39.2, the paragraph. **Quiz #2**

Week Four—*Storming Heaven*

20 *SH*: **bring laptops and cable cords and notes for essay topic**

- 21 St. Martin's Chap. 40.1, 1-5  
St. Martin's: Commas Chap. 40.2, 1-5
- 22 Peer Review of Outlines, Diagrams, Maps for essay
- 24 Library research**  
St. Martin's: Chap.41.1, 1-5 due

Week Five—*Storming Heaven*

- 27 Student Conferences: please bring 2-3 page draft of essay
- 28 Student Conferences: please bring 2-3 page draft of essay
- 29 Papers Due; Autobiographies
- Oct. 01 John G. Fee's *Autobiography*, 1-75 (online)

**Week Six: Autobiographies**

- Oct. 04 Fee's *Autobiography*, (online)  
St. Martin's Chap. 41.2, 1-5
- O 05 Burnside's dissertation, *Philanthropists and Politicians*, 85-118 (on reserve)
- O 06 *Liz's Circus Story*, film
- O 08 2-page typed autobiographical event due (worth ten points)

**Week Seven: Midterm & Oral Storytelling Traditions**

- O. 11 no class; Reading period
- 12 no class; Reading period
- 13 Twain, "How to Tell a Story" (on reserve list at Hutchins Library; please make your own copy and bring to class); **quiz #3**
- 15 Twain, "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," *Short Fiction*, 241-245; St. Martin's: Chap. 41.3, 1-5

**Week Eight: From Oral to Written Stories**

- 18 Fables: Aesop (see reserve list); St. Martin's: Chaps, 41.4, 1-5
- 19 Fairy Tales: "The Frog Prince" Politically Correct Fairy Tales (on reserve); St. Martins, Chap. 45.1, 1-5
- 20 Dinesen, "The Blue Jar," 314-15 (SF); St. Martin's, Chap. 45.2, 1-5
- 22 Native American mythology, Silko, "Yellow Woman" 1035-1041 (SF)

**Week Nine Narrative Genres**

- O 25 Silko: "Through the Stories We Hear Who We Are, 1303-05 (SF)
- 26 Chat Room Discussion. In-class. St. Martins, 48.1, 1-5
- 27 Alexie, "Because My Father Always Said," 48-54  
St. Martins, 48.2, 1-5
- 29 Jackson, "The Lottery," 529-535 (SF)

**Week Ten Narrative Genres**

- Nov. 01 Modern Mysteries: John Sayles, "I-80 Nebraska, M.490-M.205", pages: 995-1007; **Quiz #5**

- 02 Latin American Traditions: Marquez, "Tuesday Siesta," 421-425;
- 03 Jewish Traditions: Paley, "A Conversation with My Father," 901-904  
St. Martins, 48.3, 1-5
- 05 **Discussion Board (students who log in five minutes after class has started will be counted absent)**

**Week Twelve—**

- N 08 Bambara, "The Lesson," 117-122; St. Martins, 48.4, 1-5
- 09 Johnson: "Car Crash While Hitchhiking," 561-565;
- 10 Jackson, "The Lottery," 529-535;  
Kureishi, "My Son the Fanatic," 639-646 (SF)
- 12 Asian traditions: Mishima: "Patriotism," 786-801 (SF) ;  
St. Martins, 48.5, 1-5

**Week Thirteen—New Genres**

- Nov 15 Asian Stories: Amy Tan, "A Pair of Tickets," 1066-1078; St. Martins, 48.6, 1-5
- 16 Muslim/Graphic Novel: Satrapi's *Persapolis*, 1-70  
St. Martins, 48.7, 1-5
- 17 Muslim/Graphic Novel: Satrapi's *Persapolis*; St. Martins, 48.8, 1-5
- 19 **Quiz #6; Student Dramatizations Practice**  
St. Martins, 49.1, 1-5

**Week Fourteen: Readers' Theatre**

- Nov 22 Student Dramatizations  
St. Martin's: 51.2, 1-5
- 23 Student Dramatizations  
St. Martin's: 51.3, 1-5

**Week Fifteen: Essay #2**

**Student Conferences** will meet in **Draper 314**

**\*\*\*A draft is defined as having an intro, body, and conclusion. You want to bring approximately three pages (typed, double-spaced, etc.)**

- Nov 29 **In-class writing**; St. Martin's, 52.2, 1-5
- 30 **Peer Group Workshop**: You must have a complete draft to be counted present; St. Martins, 52.2, 6-10
- Dec 01 Student Conferences
- 03 Student Conferences

Week Sixteen—Finals Exams

- Dec. 06 Essays Due; St. Martin's, 53.1, 1-5  
07 Prep for Finals; St. Martin's, 53.2, 1-5  
08 Topics for finals will be handed out; St. Martin's, 53.3, 1-5

Your final will be chosen from topics discussed the last week of class. Since finals are asked to be comprehensive, you should expect to think about the material covered in this class, the genres discussed, the research methods taught, and be able to apply them to the stories of your own lives. In what ways have the stories read and heard in this class help you “part the shadows” that may come between you and someone else? How can your own story assist you in achieving the same goal?

GSTR 100 P 10:00 Dec. 16

GSTR 100 T 8:00 Dec. 15