

Global Narratives

TA 040e

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Tuesdays 7:00-8:30 PM PST/8:30-10 AM/IST

First Class: January 6, 2015

Final Class: March 10, 2015

Overview:

This class addresses the growing need for international exchanges around culture and the aesthetic dimensions of intercultural engagement. With a focus on storytelling and performance techniques, writing and examination/analysis of text-based sources, including films and text/global media-based literature, within a global framework, the class complements and expands current Science/Humanities/Social Science communication modules and classes.

This class calls upon the student to investigate his/her own viewpoints, assumptions, convictions in regard to themselves and the world around them and giving voice to them in the safeguard of the classroom through guided instruction from the professors. From initial or exploratory self-revealing narratives of the individual, the class focuses on formal analysis of various global texts from Aeschylus and the Greeks, to India and Ramayana, Shakespeare and Eastern traditions of performance and storytelling.

Through the latest upgrades in HD video conferencing, voice and content communication technology, the class connects students in two parts of the world together through storytelling in real-time.

This class is designed to contextualize the personal narratives of students in a pro-active search for an authentic voice mediated by the ancient ground of global narratives.

Grading:

80% Writing/Performance/Attendance

20% Final Exam on material

Syllabus:

Students will write several stories and perform them with their classmates over the ten-week class. At the end of term (March 11) students will select the most relevant/engaging narrative and present

them back for a final fully produced Ted talk-performance.

January 6: Introductory class with IITGn/Caltech 1. Write a personal credo and begin reading Campbell's *Hero's Journey*

January 13: Performance Workshop continues Campbell 2. Personal story-writing. Watch Pasolini's *Oedipus* Film

January 20: Greeks/Chuck Mee Read *Big Love* Greeks in the present Day

January 27: Read excerpts from *Ramayana/ Hamlet* and watch the film *Haider*.

February 3 More Ramayana 3. Story

February 10 Ramayana and alternative narratives

February 17 Read *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll. Attend *Alice Through the Wormhole* Dress Rehearsal Skype--class. Story 4.

February 24 Eastern Performance Models Read Chikamatsu. Story 5.

March 3 Final review of material and Final Exam--Rehearse final presentations.

March 10 Final presentations of stories...

Stories include: 1) Credo 2) Personal story 3) A story based on the adaptation of the *Hero's Journey* by Joseph Campbell 4) A story about their current academic passions/scientific/academic research 5) A story in response to global literature and how they figure in to the metaphorical nature of existence.

TEXTS:

--Campbell, Joseph. *The Hero's Journey*. Harper Collins (1993)□

--Richman, Paula, ed. *Many Rāmāyaṇas: The Diversity of a Narrative Tradition in South Asia*. Oxford University Press (1997).

--Chatman, Seymour Benjamin. *Story and Discourse: Narrative Structure in Fiction and Film*. Cornell University Press (1978).

--Selected plays of Charles

Mee: <http://www.charlesmee.org/plays.shtml>

--Hamlet by William Shakespeare/ *The Love Suicides at Amijima* by Chikamatsu

FILMS:

Haider

Oedipus

Sita Sings the Blues