

Intercultural Storytelling for Global Sustainability

3 Credits

Course Description:

Across cultures and around the globe, storytelling is an important way of communicating values, shared history, and identity/identities. The medium by which a story is shared provides additional context and information. In this course, students will examine the components and significance of storytelling from different cultural and international perspectives, with a particular focus on stories of sustainability in the global context.

Course Learning Outcomes

- Explore general principles of storytelling
- Examine how principles of storytelling are applied through a selected medium
- Develop skills in intercultural communication
- Apply storytelling principles to convey understanding of one or more dimensions of sustainability

Assignments and Grading

There are three main components to this course: an assignment about the principles of storytelling; a reflective writing assignment; and participation, largely participation in discussions.

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade
Participation	30%
Principles of Storytelling Assignment	30%
Reflective Paper	40%

Participation

Participation in graded discussion forums is a key part of this course. You will be asked to create a discussion post and comment on postings from your peers. Please see the course information page in Blackboard for discussion topics and due dates, and be sure to follow the directions in the discussion prompts.

Remember that a discussion in an academic forum is different from a comment section on a website. You may wish to draft your reply, and review it for content, tone, spelling, and so on. Please be sure to review the netiquette guidelines posted below.

Principles of Storytelling Assignment

In the medium you have been studying, the professor has laid out a process for developing a story in that medium. Plan a story that you would want to tell using your medium. It can be related to the SDG you will study, or another topic that is important to you.

Identify the medium-specific aspects that you would include in the story along with the principles of storytelling discussed and how these would be addressed in your story.

You may use worksheets or other planning documents that were included in the unit on your medium. Your final submission can be made in your medium, and/or can include these worksheets. You must also provide a narrative that discusses the points above. You don't need to talk about every aspect of your story, though you must provide enough detail to understand the content of the story you wish to convey, and the way you would use convey it in your medium.

As a guideline, if you are submitting only a written description, your narrative should be 5-10 pages long. If you are submitting the assignment in your medium, your accompanying narrative should include a discussion of any points needed to contextualize your submission. If you have any questions, please discuss them with your facilitator.

Reflective Paper Assignment

Each week of the program, you will be given reflection prompts to use to create a record of your developing thoughts about storytelling and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Your responses to these prompts will not be graded, however, they will assist you with writing your final reflection. For this reflective assignment, you will be asked to discuss the process of creating the story of your partner organization. Full details of this assignment will be posted in the Storytelling course in Blackboard at the beginning of week three.

Course Organization

Course content is organized in folders corresponding to a particular medium. In each of these folders, you will find a unit on the Principles of Storytelling, and a unit on how stories are told in that medium. The purpose of studying the medium is not to make you an expert in producing stories in that medium, but rather to give you the opportunity to explore and consider how stories are told through the medium. In your sections, you will have discussions that will allow you to interact with your peers who are looking at storytelling through other media, giving you an overview of the ways that storytelling principles are employed in different formats.

You will need to select one medium and work through the content in that folder. You will have access to all of the folders, and you are welcome to study multiple media, however, you are responsible for selecting one medium and completing the content in that folder. **You will need to sign up for that medium by completing the sign up sheet by the end of Tuesday.** If you really want a particular medium, sign up early as space is limited in each medium. If you do not sign up by 11:59 pm on Tuesday, you will be assigned a medium to study.

Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/StorytellingMedia>

Media Resources Folders on Blackboard provide lectures, readings, resources, and discussions to support your selected medium. You will work through that content on your own. The folders can be accessed at the bottom of the course or in the left course navigation menu. **Please note:** there may be assignments and discussions in these folders. They are there to support your understanding and help you apply the knowledge you gain. We encourage you to participate in the discussions and engage with your peers as you work through the materials. We also encourage you to read and work through the assignments to support your learning. However, neither the discussions nor the assignments in the Media Resources Folders will be graded. The only graded assignments are listed on this syllabus and on the main course page in Blackboard.

Schedule of Course Activities

Week 1

Participate in the Icebreaker and select your medium by the end of the day.

Readings: As listed for your selected Medium

Discussion: Initial post. At least two responses to your peers.

Week 2

Readings: As listed for your selected Medium

Discussion 2: Initial post. At least two responses to your peers

Discussion 3: Initial post. At least two responses to your peers.

Assignment 1 due

Week 3

You will be working on your SDG-themed course this week. No Intercultural Storytelling activities.

Week 4

Discussion Activity: Participate in a peer-feedback activity about developing your story with your international partner.

Assignment: Project proposal. Details provided by your SDG facilitator. You will submit a copy to your Intercultural Storytelling facilitator for feedback.

Week 5

Discussion Activity: No formal discussions. Your storytelling facilitator will be available to provide support for developing your storytelling project.

Week 6

Discussion Activity: Reflection on Intercultural Storytelling

Assignment 2: Reflection on the process of developing your Intercultural Storytelling project with your partner.

Netiquette

Before participating in the course activities, please review the [College guidelines for online communication](#).

ADA/504 Compliance Statement

Empire State College complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. These acts “ ... no otherwise qualified handicapped individual ... shall, solely by reason of his or her handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance (29 USC Sect. 706).” Regulations implementing Section 504 and ADA establish standards for employment practice, accessibility of facilities, and education programs with which institutions receiving federal funds must comply (34 CFR Part 104).

In accordance with these regulations, a qualified person with a disability who meets the academic and technical standards required to enroll in and participate in the Empire State College program shall be provided an equal opportunity to obtain a degree in the most integrated setting appropriate to that person’s needs. Empire State College makes reasonable accommodation to meet the needs of students with disabling conditions. Reasonable accommodation does not include academic adjustments that would fundamentally alter the nature, essential requirements or academic standards of the program.

To register with Accessibility and Services and Request Accommodation, please [fill out the form online](#) or email Disability.Services@esc.edu.

Academic Honesty Policy

Students are responsible for knowing and observing accepted principles of scholarly research and writing in all academic work including the writing and submission of their own posts in the discussion areas.

The college [Academic Integrity Policy](#) states that a serious or continued breaches of academic honesty may also constitute grounds for formal reprimand, academic warning or dismissal from the college.

Copyright Policy

[Copyright policy](#) provides guidance and a framework for administration, faculty, staff and students in creating, licensing and making use of copyrighted materials.

Withdrawal Policy

Specific to the SUNY COIL Global Commons: The Intercultural Storytelling for Global Sustainability Course and the International Perspectives on the UN Sustainable Development Goals courses are part of a 6-credit program and both courses must be taken together. Withdrawal from one course will result in removal from the program.

Students may [withdraw](#) from the program any time after add/drop until the last day of the term. During the add/drop period, you may drop your classes online. Withdrawing from one or more studies does not withdraw you from the college, only from the relevant study or studies.