

Live Storytelling
A series of weekend intensive workshops and a live show
JOU 4930-13DH
Class #15926
Spring 2020
Meeting space:TBD
Workshop dates: February 7-9 & April 3-5
times TBD

Instructor: Taylor Williams
352-318-3158
gutsandglorygnv@gmail.com
[@gutsandglorygnv](https://www.instagram.com/gutsandglorygnv)

Recommended reading and listening:

Anderson, Chris. *TED Talks*. (2016). New York, New York: Mariner Books.

Burns, Catherine. *All these wonders: true stories about facing the unknown*. (2017). New York, New York: Crown Archetype.

Cuddy, Amy. *Presence*. (2015). New York, New York: Little, Brown, and Company.

Gallo, Carmine. *Talk Like TED*. (2014). New York, New York: St. Martin's Press.

Leonard, Kelly and Yorton, Tom. *Yes, And*. (2015). New York, New York: HarperCollins.

Ryan Madsen, Patricia. *Improv Wisdom*. (2005). New York, New York: Random House.

<https://www.thisamericanlife.org/>
<https://www.npr.org/podcasts/510308/hidden-brain>
<https://storycorps.org/>
<https://www.npr.org/series/497565015/been-there>
<https://www.wuft.org/news/category/podcast/>

Course description: This course focuses on putting the student on both sides of the story - as both the storyteller and the reporter of the story. Students have the opportunity to explore “the story behind the stories.” The class takes a weekend intensive approach to allow students to go deep into the learning. **The class culminates with a pop-up live show at an off-campus venue.** The course will discuss a range of topics to explore technical aspects of storytelling, how to engage others in the storytelling process, and different forms of storytelling that we learn from our community. This class is a collaboration between WUFT, INC, and Guts & Glory GNV.

Course objectives & goals:

- To encourage students to connect with their own emotions and motivations, explore their own biases, and learn how to become an effective storyteller themselves
- To encourage students to build community relationships grounded in trust and truth

- To put students both in the reporter/observer/listener seat, as well as in the role of the storyteller.
- To provide an opportunity for each student to come out of the experience with a quality “product” of a story, shared in a live experience

Format: Throughout the series of two weekend workshops, the students will build their own personal stories, while learning about story formats and public speaking techniques. Students will have time to work on story building, writing, and editing, in preparation for a live performance. The student will be able to use the acquired skills from the class, such as deep listening, empathy, and vulnerability.

The weekend workshops will include the following topics:

Introduction, syllabus, meet and greet

Why story?

Where do stories come from in our own lives and why do they matter?

Using emotion as connection: empathy, vulnerability, and transparency

“The soul of a story” - basic structure

Society, diversity, and tokenization: how story shows worldview and culture

Healing trauma through writing and telling

Motivational interviewing and asking powerful questions

Deep listening, releasing the agenda, and “YES, AND”

“Talk like TED:” why the TED talk model won the world

Performance anxiety, stage fright, and why improv is your new best friend

Effective and powerful feedback and reflection

The art of feedback and how to incorporate suggestions

Group read-through

The art of the live performance

Tips for memorization

Live storytelling event

Assignments and grading: students will be graded on a points system

- Attendance (critical to your success!) 40 points (10/day)
- Active participation in the mini-workshops/classes 20 points (5/day)
- Writing and co-crafting your story for performance - writing, interviewing, editing, etc. 10 points
- Practicing your story in an in-class read-through 5 points
- Processing and feedback in read-through 5 points
- Attendance and performance at the live show. (This is the fun part!!) 10 points

Attendance: Being physically present for this class is important. We will be learning from the process and from each other experientially. We all have real life events happening where things don’t go as planned, but attendance will be the bulk of your grade. It’s the point of what we’re doing! Missing more than 1 day of the workshop will be an automatic C.

Honor code: Violations of the honor code include plagiarizing material from other sources or fabricating material, as well as other forms of cheating. Violations WILL result in a failing grade. You will be dismissed from your program and reported to the Honor Court. Who wants that, right? You're smart. You're original. You work hard. So don't ruin that. Here's the whole code for UF students - <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

You experience is your own best teacher. This class is meant to be both professional and exploratory. Treat yourself with respect and really indulge in the work (and the fun!) of this class.

Journalistic integrity still applies to storytelling! Seek truth, minimize harm, serve the public, be accountable and transparent.

About Taylor: Taylor Williams is the creative director of Guts & Glory GNV. She has been studying and performing improv comedy and storytelling for over 10 years. She got her start in New York City where she trained with Upright Citizens Brigade and worked as a commercial actress. Taylor facilitates workshops using the takeaways from improv, storytelling, and mindfulness to help organizations listen more deeply, connect with authenticity, and have more FUN. She offers trainings and keynotes around communication, storytelling, public speaking, and company culture. She holds a certificate in Design Thinking from IDEO U, allowing her to use human-centered design in the consulting work she does. She regularly hosts TEDxUF and Sofar Sounds Gainesville shows, and teaches for the CJC and the Biz schools at UF.