

**Live Storytelling**  
***A series of weekend intensive workshops and a show***  
**JOU 4930**  
**Class #15417**  
**Spring 2021**  
**February 5-7//March 12-14//April show**

**Instructor: Taylor Williams**  
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**Course description:** This class puts students into the heart of the art and craft of personal storytelling. The class takes a weekend intensive approach to allow students to go deep into the learning, and 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 are applicable in the professional world and in everyday life. This class is a collaboration between WUFT, INC, and Guts & Glory GNV.

\*Due to Covid-19, the show may be presented in a virtual format.

**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.

In addition to the weekend intensives, students will receive weekly emails with learning opportunities, and will be required to submit a discussion post as a way to stay engaged with the material throughout the semester.

Following Weekend Intensive 1, students will schedule short individual coaching sessions with Taylor to check in on the progression of their story, which will occur closer/as a part of Weekend Intensive 2.

Taylor will also be available for office hours at designated times during the semester.

## **Recommended reading and listening:**

Box, Heather, and Mocine-McQueen, Julian. *How Your Story Sets You Free*. (2019). San Francisco, California: Chronicle Books.

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://www.storydistrict.org>

<https://thenocturnists.com/whoweare>

<https://getmortified.com/live/>

<https://themoth.org/video-channel>

<https://storycorps.org/>

<https://www.npr.org/series/497565015/been-there>

<https://www.wuft.org/news/category/podcast/>

## **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 to first meeting - 5 pts
- Weekly check-in assignment - 1 pt each, 10 total
- Attendance and participation in both weekends - 20 pts each
- Setting up and following through with a personal coaching call with Taylor - 10 pts
- Final project: a story recorded video in place of our live show - 30 points
- Final group meeting - 5 points

**Attendance:** Being physically (virtually) 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.

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via [ufl.bluera.com/ufl/](http://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). [Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here](#).

**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/>

**Diversity:** The University of Florida's College of Journalism and Communications Department of Journalism embraces a commitment toward an intellectual community enriched and enhanced by diversity along a number of dimensions, including race, ethnicity and national origins, gender and gender identity, sexuality, class and religion. We expect each of our journalism courses to help foster an understanding of the diversity of peoples and cultures and of the significance and impact of mass communications in a global society.

**Students with disabilities:** Students requesting accommodations can register with the Disability Resource Center - [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc) or by calling 352-392-8565

We will have face-to-face instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course. In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

- You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.
- This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.
- Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
- Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms ([Click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus](#)), please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. [Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms](#).
  - Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. [Find more information in the university attendance policies](#).

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who unmute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

## Health and Wellness

*U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

*Counseling and Wellness Center:* [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

*Student Health Care Center:* Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

*University Police Department:* [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

*UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:* For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#)

## Academic resources

*E-learning technical support:* Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

*Career Connections Center:* Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

*Library Support:* Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

*Teaching Center:* Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

*Writing Studio:* 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

*Student Complaints On-Campus:* [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.](#)

*On-Line Students Complaints:* [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.](#)

**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.

### **About Taylor:**

Taylor Williams is the creative director of Guts & Glory GNV and the lead facilitator of Guts & Glory Creative Consulting. She has been studying and performing improv comedy and storytelling for over 11 years, and a motivational speaker for 15. She got her start in New York City where she trained with Upright Citizens Brigade and worked as a commercial actress. She offers trainings and keynotes around communication, storytelling, public speaking, and company culture. She holds an advanced certificate in Design Thinking and Communicating for Impact from IDEO U, allowing her to use human-centered design in the consulting work she offers to clients. She recently gave a TEDxUF talk about public speaking, and is now working on a book on the same topic. She is an adjunct lecturer at the University of Florida at the Innovation Academy (Creativity and Design Thinking for Innovation) and in the College of Journalism in the undergraduate, graduate, and online programs (focusing on storytelling, communication, personal branding podcasting,) and serves as a consultant with UF MBA programs. Taylor is a graduate of UF, with a BA in business and an M.Ed., Ed.S. in mental health.