

**Open Electives
Communicative English
2024-2027**

Semester 3: Telling tales: Unleash your inner storyteller

We were perhaps better storytellers when we were younger. Now, the world is too much with us, and our bodies have become places where stories come to die. In this course, we will learn to develop a nose for stories, and then the voice to tell them. If we believe that there is no such thing as a bad story, only bad storytellers, let's see what we can do to tell better. If you like to believe that there is a story in everything from a grocery list, to a piece of gossip, to train timetables, to waiting at a bus stand - come find out what you can do with the things you see.

Assessment will include working on a couple of stories from memory, revising drafts, and narrating them. Peer feedback for stories written and narrated.

Readings: The night the bed fell, James Thurber
Selections from Jeeves and Wooster, PG Wodehouse
Du Saraswati, Santimmi Ramayana

Suggested Reading:

1. Wiseman, Eva. "The Way We Tell Stories of Our Lives Can Shape Our Memories." the Guardian, May 22, 2022. <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2022/may/22/the-way-we-tell-stories-of-our-lives-can-shape-our-memories>.
2. Reporter, Guardian Staff. "Master the Art of Presenting: Tell a Story, Keep It Brief." the Guardian, February 16, 2017. <https://www.theguardian.com/small-business-network/2017/feb/16/master-art-presenting-tell-story-brief-audience>.
3. Gopnik, Adam. "Can Science Explain Why We Tell Stories?" The New Yorker, May 18, 2012. <https://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/can-science-explain-why-we-tell-stories>.
4. Groopman, Jerome. "Why Storytelling Is Part of Being a Good Doctor." The New Yorker, July 18, 2022. <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2022/07/25/why-storytelling-is-part-of-being-a-good-doctor-all-that-moves-us-jay-wellons>.