The Social Life of Spoken Words
THET 408/608, ANTH 468 (?)
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The objective of this course is to explore storytelling and linguistic/physical performance as it functions in social life and to examine how and why different genres of narrative are performed – some with an artistic goals, some political and educational, others with higher personal stakes. Case studies include traditional oral narrative, folktales, religious stories, slam poetry and spoken word, enacted/theatrical storytelling, stand-up comedy, personal and legal testimony, and criminal courtroom trials. We analyze relationships between liveness and recording, repertoire and archive, truth and fiction, genuine and fake, art and real life.