**FLR 250 (CRN 13338), INTRODUCTION TO FOLKLORE LECTURE**  
**FALL 2013, 12:00-12:50 MWF, 129 MCK**

**Professor:** Dr. Lisa Gilman  
**E-mail:** lmgilman@uoregon.edu  
**Office Phone:** 541-346-3967  
**Office Hours:** Tuesdays at 2:30 -3:30 pm, Wednesdays at 2:00-4:00 pm, and by appointment.  
**Office:** 447 PLC

**Discussion Section schedule and GTF leaders**  
Wed. 4-4:50 (353 PLC) & 5- 5:50 (240b MCK)—GTF Sanna Parikka email: sannakat@uoregon.edu  
Thurs. 8-8:50 (240b MCK) & 9-9:50 (123 MCK) GTF Emily Ridout email: eridout@uoregon.edu  
Thurs. 3-3:50 (471 MCK) & 5-5:50 (101 VIL) GTF Vanessa Cutz email: vcutz@uoregon.edu

**Communication.** Email is the preferred method of communication between instructors and students, though students should use phone as necessary. Allow 24 hours for instructors to respond to emails.

**Course Description:** This course introduces students to the central concepts, vocabulary, theories, and methods of the discipline of folklore. We explore how folklore forms operate within specific groups of people who identify themselves along regional, ethnic, racial, occupational, gender, political and/or class lines in order to elucidate the role of folklore in the construction and negotiation of identities. We consider different types of folklore forms, the meanings they have for people involved, how they function, and relationships between folklore and social issues. Through lecture, discussions, readings, and assignments, students will strengthen critical thinking and research skills as well as their ability to communicate orally and in writing.

**Required Readings:** Be sure to do the readings before the class for which they are assigned.  
**All readings are available electronically on Blackboard.**

1. Login to FLR 250 through your Blackboard account [https://blackboard.uoregon.edu]
2. Click on "Course Documents," then "Assigned Readings"
3. The readings are listed in the order they are assigned by author(s). In a few cases, a reading consists of more than one file. Be sure to read all files.

**Grading and Course Requirements:**

- **Discussion Grade (25% of final grade):** Details will be distributed in discussion section syllabus.
- **Midterm (25% of grade, 10/30):** short-answer/essay midterm covering the first half of class.
- **Interview Projects (25% of grade, Due Week 8 in Discussion Sections):** Each student will conduct one or more recorded interviews with one person who is very involved in a particular type of folklore behavior. Students transcribe interview and write an 8-10 page paper describing and analyzing the person’s involvement with folklore using class themes. Students will deposit the recording, transcription, and paper in the Randall V. Mills Folklore Archives. (Guidelines to be distributed in class)
- **Final Exam (25% of grade, Dec 10 at 10:15 am – 12:15 pm, 129 Mck):** short-answer/essay exam over the whole term.

**Tests and papers will be graded on a 100% scale:**

- 90-100% = A  
- 80-89% = B  
- 70-79% = C  
- 60-69% = D  
- 0-59% = F

**Academic Honesty/Plagiarism**

All work submitted must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. We (your professor and GTFs) will not tolerate any dishonesty or plagiarism. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases from books, articles, websites, archives, interviews etc.) must be properly acknowledged and documented. Violations will be taken seriously and are noted on student disciplinary records. For information about plagiarism and how to avoid it, see: [http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/](http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/) If you are in doubt regarding any of these issues, please consult with the GTF or the instructor before you complete any relevant requirements. For information about consequences of academic dishonesty, see UO Student Conduct Code: [http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/StudentConductCode/tabid/69/Default.aspx](http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/StudentConductCode/tabid/69/Default.aspx)
Attendance

- Class periods (lecture and discussion sections) are used for discussions, lectures, small group assignments, writings, and other activities. Attendance is mandatory and fundamental to your success.
- If you have to miss class, it is your responsibility to obtain notes and materials. If your absence is due to excusable circumstances, you may meet with your GTF or instructor (either during office hours or a scheduled appointment) to review missed materials.
- Excusable circumstances include: death in the family, serious illness, ill children, observance of a religious holiday, and other university recognized conflicts. Be prepared to provide documentation.
- If excusable circumstances prevent your attendance at an exam or your turning in an assignment on time, inform your GTF or the professor before or within 24 hours after the exam via e-mail, telephone, or a dated note in the professor’s mailbox (this requirement will be lifted in extreme circumstances).

STUDENTS CANNOT MAKE-UP EXAMS DUE TO UNEXCUSED ABSENCES. LATE PAPERS (not due to excusable circumstances) WILL DROP ONE LETTER GRADE EACH DAY THEY ARE LATE.

Respectful Learning Community

This is a very large class, and we will work together to maximize everyone’s learning experiences. We address some controversial and sensitive issues, so it is important that we all contribute to creating an environment in which everyone feels free to express their opinions while simultaneously respecting a plurality of perspectives. In order to ensure that everyone is free from unnecessary distractions and disruptions, it is imperative that all students and instructors follow the following rules:

- Arrive to class before class begins.
- Turn off cell phones (no answering phones or text messaging during class).
- Put computers away (see instructor if you have special needs that require you to use computer).
- Listen, speak, and pay attention respectfully to others (no private conversation during class time).
- Come prepared: do assigned reading before the class period in which it will be discussed.
- Wait until the end of class and whoever is talking has finished before putting books/papers away.
- Do not leave until class is finished.

Students who fail to comply will be given one warning, after which they may be asked to leave the class.

Special Needs/Disability: We will do everything possible to assist those with special needs. Please meet with me and/or your GTF in the first week of class to discuss how we can accommodate you.

SCHEDULE OF CLASS READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND TESTS

WEEK 1: WHO ARE THE FOLK AND WHAT IS FOLKLORE?

Monday 9/30: Introduction

Wednesday 10/02: Who are the folk and what is folklore?
Readings:
- Follow the link and read “What is Folklife” on the website of The American Folklife Center http://www.loc.gov/folklife/ and browse the website to familiarize yourself with the types of materials that interest folklorists.

Friday 10/04: The folklore of students
WEEK 2: THE STORIES WE TELL (AND READ)

**Monday 10/07: Tale types and variants: the case of “Cinderella”**


- Perrault, Charles. Cinderella, or the Little Glass Slipper.
- Grimm, Jacob and Wilhelm. Ash Girl (Aschenputtel)
- Jameson, R.D. Cinderella in China.

**Wednesday 10/09: Morphology of the folktale**

*Readings:*

**Friday 10/11: Narratives of Oregon**

*Readings:*

**WEEK 3: STARTING FIELDWORK PROJECTS**

**Monday 10/14 Folksore fieldwork ***Guidelines for interview project distributed***


**Wednesday 10/16: Folklore fieldwork in Oregon**

*Video:* Spirits in the Wood : The Chainsaw Art of Skip Armstrong.

**Friday 10/18: Fieldwork workshop day:** class time used to initiate fieldwork projects. GTFs are available during class time in their offices to troubleshoot, answer questions, and otherwise help you get started.

**WEEK 4: CONTEMPORARY LEGENDS**

**Monday 10/21: Contemporary legends and the things we fear**


**Wednesday 10/23: Rumors, contemporary legends, and social divisions**

*Readings:*

**Friday 10/25: Legend trips**

*Readings:*
- YouTube: After reading the article, search for clips about the San Antonio train track legend and watch [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMZC2mIsQ&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMZC2mIsQ&feature=related) (link on blackboard)
WEEK 5: MIDTERM/HALLOWEEN

Monday 10/28: Midterm Review

Wednesday 10/30: Midterm

Friday 11/1: Halloween
**Readings:**

WEEK 6: MATERIAL CULTURE/QUILTING

Monday 11/4: Quilting, kinship, and aesthetics

**Video:** Kathleen Ware: Quiltmaker by Sharon Sherman

Wednesday 11/6: Quilting in the lives of African American quilters

Friday 11/8: The Names Project and the stigma of HIV/AIDS

WEEK 7: FESTIVALS AND REGIONAL IDENTITY IN THE U.S.

Monday 11/11: Powwows
**Readings:**

Wednesday 11/13: Latino festival

Friday 11/15: Mardi Gras

**Video:** Dry Wood by Les Blank
WEEK 8: DANCE, AUTHENTICITY, AND ISSUES OF REPRESENTATION

***INTERVIEW PROJECTS DUE IN DISCUSSION SECTIONS THIS WEEK***

Monday 11/18 : Hula and tourism in Hawaii

Wednesday 11/20: Hula in California
Video: American Aloha: Hula Beyond Hawai‘i by Lisette Flanary and Evann Siebens

Friday 11/22: Lecture and discussion about American Aloha

WEEK 9: FOLKLORE AND DISABILITY/THANKSGIVING

Monday 11/25: Abilities and contact improvisation in Eugene

Wednesday 11/27: Thanksgiving and regional foodways

Friday 11/29: ***NO CLASS. THANKSGIVING BREAK***

WEEK 10: WHAT DO FOLKLORENS DO?

Monday 12/2: Public folklore – guest lecture by Riki Afanador, Executive Director, Oregon Folklife Network

Wednesday 12/4: Folklore and organizational management
Reading: Jones, Michael Owen. 1994. A Folklorist’s Approach to Organizational Behavior (OB) and Organizational Development (OD). In Putting Folklore to Use, ed. Michael Owen Jones, pp. 162-86. Louisville: The University of Kentucky Press.

Friday 12/6: Wrap-up

FINAL EXAM
Tuesday DEC 10 AT 10:15-12:15 pm in 129 MCK