Required Texts:


Course Packet containing photocopied essays (available at the U.O. bookstore; telephone: 346-4331).

Various essays available on Blackboard and on J-STOR through the Knight Library webpage.

Online essays on Blackboard, listed under “Course Documents”:
* Login to FLR 250 through your Blackboard account (https://blackboard.uoregon.edu);
* Click on “Course Documents”;
* The readings are listed in the order in which they are assigned, with optional readings listed at the bottom of the page.

Course Description:

Participants in this class will meet weekly to discuss the history and theoretical assumptions of folklore studies. Class members will be exposed to the various aims, concerns, and debates in folklore scholarship. The objectives of this course are to introduce participants to the kinds of intellectual frameworks, data, and research questions that have been employed to document, analyze, and represent those traditional expressive behaviors and forms identified as folklore. Readings reflect various schools of analysis and survey important, interesting, or representative works. Recurrent concepts include tradition, genre, structure, transmission, comparatism, culture, performance, context, gender, ethnicity, class, politics, identity, community, representation, creativity, and the individual. The seminar also introduces students to various University of Oregon faculty members, their research, and their fields of expertise relating to folklore studies.

Grades will be determined on the basis of an annotated bibliography (20% of grade), a take-home examination (25%), attendance, discussion, and one class presentation and write-up on an assigned reading (10%), an in-class final examination (20%), and a research paper (25%). Details for fulfilling these requirements will be discussed in class.
Learning outcomes:

- Identify, explain and apply basic concepts in folklore scholarship
- Identify, explain, and analyze diverse folklore forms in relationship to the historical, cultural, and social contexts in which they are performed, employing appropriate theoretical and methodological approaches
- Demonstrate the ability to undertake original research by (a) locating and assessing current scholarly work in their subject area; (b) framing their own arguments clearly, cogently, and logically, offering convincing evidentiary support for their claims; and (c) explaining how their claims build on, refute, or add to existing scholarly debate and knowledge

Attendance:

Class periods are used for discussions, lectures, small group assignments, writing, and other activities. Attendance is therefore mandatory and fundamental to your success in this course. If you have to miss class, it is your responsibility to obtain notes and materials. Excusable circumstances include: a death in the family, a serious illness with a doctor's note, ill children, observance of a religious holiday, and other university recognized conflicts.

Classroom Respect and Basic Course Rules:

- Arrive to class before class begins
- Put computers away (please see me if you have a documented disability that requires classroom computer use)
- Do not eat during class
- Be respectful in the classroom (raise your hand when asking a question, no private conversations during class, etc.)
- Lectures may not be audio recorded or copied in any manner unless you have documented a communication-related disability with the University and have received permission from the course instructor

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism:

All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this class. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases from books, articles, websites, archives, interviews etc.) must be properly acknowledged and documented. Any violations and plagiarism will be taken seriously and are recorded on student disciplinary records. To learn more about plagiarism and how to avoid it, consult the UO library’s guide on plagiarism: http://library.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/index.html. If you are in doubt regarding any aspect of these issues as they pertain to this course, please consult with me before you complete any relevant requirements. To learn about the consequences of academic dishonesty, consult the UO Student Conduct Code: http://nodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/StudentConductCode/tabid/69/Default.aspx.
Disability:

I will do everything possible to assist those with special needs. Please meet with me in the first week of class to discuss how I can accommodate you. It is also recommended that you work with the Accessible Education Center (formerly Disability Services) to ensure that your needs are accommodated appropriately in all of your classes. Their website includes information about the many services they provide: http://aec.uoregon.edu/

Course Outline and Readings

Tues., Sept. 30: Course Overview.

Tues., Oct. 7: The History of Folklore Studies.


Georges and Jones, Folkloristics, Chap. 1 ("Folklore and Its Study"), and Chap. 10 ("Conclusion"), pp. 1-27, 313-329.

Georges and Jones, Folkloristics, Chap. 2 ("Folkloristics as a Historical Science"), and Chap. 3 ("Survival, Continuity, Revival, and Historical Source"), pp. 31-89.


Special Issue, *Journal of American Folklore* 108. [J-STOR]

Tues., Oct. 14: Folklore Genres, Types, and Transmission; Folklore as Cultural Expression (Identity, Worldview, Intercultural Contact); Folklore and Human Psychology.

**READING:** Oring, Elliott. 1986. Folk Narratives. In *Folk Groups and Folklore Genres*, pp. 121-45. [BLACKBOARD]


Georges and Jones, *Folkloristics*, Chap. 4 ("Folklore as Genre and Type") and Chap. 5 ("The Dissemination of Folklore"), pp. 93-125 and 127-155.


Georges and Jones, *Folkloristics*, Chap. 6, ("Folklore in Cultural Contexts"), and Chap. 7 ("Folklore in the Culture of Groups in Contact"), pp. 159-192 and 193-227.

Georges and Jones, *Folkloristics*, Chap. 8 ("Folklore and Human Psychology"), pp. 231-268.


Press.


Georges, Robert A. 1983. The Universality of the Tale-Type as Construct and Concept. Western Folklore 42:21-28. [J-STOR]


no. 397:276-86. [J-STOR]


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Tues., Oct. 21: Behavioral Approaches; Folk Art and Subculture Studies; Events and Performances.


Jones, Peter. Anarchy in the UK: '70s British Punk as Bakhtinian Carnival. [BLACKBOARD]

Georges and Jones, *Folkloristics*, Chap. 9 ("Folklore as Personal Resource"), pp. 269-312.


NOTE: Research proposal due.


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Tues., Oct. 28: Ritual and Belief Studies; "Authenticity" and Intangible Cultural Heritage.


Western Folklore 36, no. 1:71-83. [J-STOR]


Goldstein, Diane E., ed. 2009. 9/11 and After... Folklore in Times of Terror. Special Issue: *Western Folklore* 68 (2/3): 145-295. [J-STOR]


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Tues., Nov. 4: Folklore Databases and Research; Folklore Faculty Forum I.

NOTE: Today our class first meets from 5:00-6:00 p.m. in the Knight Library, Room 144 (the Edmiston Classroom, on the first floor adjacent to the Research Help Desk), for some research guidance from librarian Jeffrey Staiger.

Our class break is from 6:00-6:15 pm; and at 6:15 pm we will reconvene in Library 101 (the Collaboration Room), also on first floor of the Knight Library (on the northeast corner of the building, on the far left side of the lobby as you enter the library), for our first forum with UO folklore faculty.

READING: Read and annotate at least five articles or book chapters to be included in your annotated bibliography that is due next week.

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Tues., Nov. 11: Antithetical and Oppositional Lore; Issues of Representation, Ethnographic Ethics, and " Tradition."
READING: Mechling, Jay. 1986. Children's Folklore. In *Folk Groups and Folklore Genres*, pp. 91-120. [BLACKBOARD]


Lawless, Elaine J. 1992. "I was afraid someone like you... an outsider... would misunderstand": Negotiating Interpretive Differences between Ethnographers and Subjects. *Journal of American Folklore* 105:302-314. [J-STOR] {Student presentation}


**Note: Annotated bibliography due.**


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Tues., Nov. 18: Feminist Theory and Folklore Studies; Electronic Hybridity, Internet Communication, and Vernacular Authority.


Blank, Trevor J. 2013. Hybridizing Folk Culture: Toward a Theory of New Media and Vernacular Discourse. *Western Folklore* 72.2 (Spring):105-130. [J-STOR]


Tues., Nov. 25: Folklore Faculty Forum II, 5:00-6:30; The "Crisis" and Future of Folklore Studies.

NOTE: Today our class first meets from 5:00-6:20 p.m. in PLC 159, the Humanities Center Conference room for our second forum with UO folklore faculty. Our class break is from 6:25-6:40; and at 6:40 we reconvene in our regular classroom, 453 PLC.


New York Garland.


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Tues., Dec. 2: Student presentations of research projects.

**Take-home exam due in class.**

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Tues., Dec. 9: Final Exam: 7:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

**Research paper due in class.**