Folklore 681: History and Theory of Folklore Research  
Fall Quarter, 2016; Tuesday, 5:00-7:50 p.m.; 453 PLC  
Daniel Wojcik, 463 PLC; 541-346-3946; dwojcik@uoregon.edu  
Office Hours: Tuesday, 3:45-4:30 & 8:00-8:30 p.m. and Thursday 11:30-1:15 p.m.,  
or by appointment

Required Texts:

Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Utah State University Press.

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

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

Online essays on Canvas, listed under “Modules”:
* Login to FLR 681 through your Canvas account (https://canvas.uoregon.edu)
* Click on “Modules” on the tool bar on the left side of the page
* 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 a short annotated bibliography (15% of grade),  
a take-home examination (25%), attendance, discussion, and one class presentation and write-up  
on an assigned reading (10%), either an in-class or take-home final examination (20%), and a  
research paper or extended annotated bibliography (30%). 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. Students who observe religious holidays at times when academic requirements conflict with those observances must inform instructors in advance of the holiday. Students are responsible for making up missed work according to a schedule determined with their instructor.

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://uodos.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. 27: Course Overview.

Tues., Oct. 4: 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.


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*Tues., Oct. 11: 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. [CANVAS]


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.


Tues., Oct. 18: 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 in the Knight Library adjacent to the Research Help Desk), for some folklore research guidance from librarian Jeffrey Staiger.

Our class break is from 6:00-6:15 pm, and then at 6:15 pm we will reconvene in PLC 453 [or PLC 253] for our first forum with UO folklore faculty.

ASSIGNMENT AND READING: Research and read articles or book chapters that might be included in your annotated bibliography that is due in four weeks, on November 8.

NOTE: Proposal due for your extended annotated bibliography or research paper.
Tues., Oct. 25: Behavioral Approaches; Folk Art and Subculture Studies; Events and Performances.


Wojcik, Daniel. 2008. Outsider Art, Vernacular Traditions, Trauma, and Creativity. Western Folklore 67, 2-3 (Spring/Summer): 179-198. [CANVAS]


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

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


Bacon-Smith, Camille. 1992. Enterprising Women: Television Fandom and The Creation of


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Tues., Nov. 1: Ritual and Belief Studies; "Authenticity" and Intangible Cultural Heritage.


Adler, Shelley. 1991. Sudčen Unexpected Nocturnal Death Syndrome among Hmong
Immigrants: Examining the Role of the Nightmare. *Journal of American Folklore* 104, no. 411:54-71. [J-STOR]


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Tues., Nov. 8: 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. [CANVAS]


Note: Short Annotated bibliography due.


Handler, Richard and Jocelyn Linnekin. 1984. Tradition, Genuine or Spurious. *Journal of*


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**Tues., Nov. 15: Ethnographic Ethics II; Feminist Theory and Folklore Studies.**

**READING:** 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}


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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]


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**Tues., Nov. 22: 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 253 [or PLC 453] 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.


Tues., Nov. 29: Student presentations of research projects/annotated bibliographies.

**Take-home exam due in class.**
Tues., Dec. 6: Possible Final Exam: 7:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

Research paper/extended annotated bibliography is due today by 7:15 pm.