FLR 418/518 (CRN 36291/36293): FOLKLORE AND GENDER
SPRING 2011 TH 2-3:20 PM, 185 LIL

Professor: Dr. Lisa Gilman
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Office Phone: 541-346-3967
Office Hours: 3:00-4:00 pm Mondays, 9:00-11:00 am Thursdays, and by appointment
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Required texts for FLR 418/518:
- Additional Readings accessible on Blackboard. [BB]

Additional text for graduate students (FLR 518)):

Course Description:
Students will use theories from folklore, feminism, and gender studies to analyze folklore forms (such as urban legends, jokes, material culture, games, and performance) that are used to create and celebrate various manifestations of gender identities, contribute to gender conflict, and contest gender oppression. Focusing primarily on examples from the United States, we will examine how folklore relates to ideas of multiple femininities and masculinities to engage ways in which gender, class, race, ethnicity, and religion intersect in the manifestation of gender identities in the United States. In engaging contemporary scholarship on gender, especially recent writings on folklore and masculinity, students will consider the current state of the study of folklore and gender and discuss possibilities for future directions in the field.

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. If your absence is due to excusable circumstances, you may meet with me (either during office hours or a scheduled appointment) to review missed 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. Be prepared to provide documentation.
- If excusable circumstances prevent your attendance at a test or your turning in an assignment on time, inform your 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). LATE PAPERS (not due to excusable circumstances) WILL DROP ONE LETTER GRADE FOR EACH DAY THEY ARE LATE.

Respect: It is imperative that we work together to create a classroom environment where everyone feels free to express their opinions while simultaneously respecting the plurality of experiences and perspectives of others.

Disability: I will do everything to assist those with special needs. Please meet with me in the first week of class to discuss how I can accommodate you.
FLR 410 GRADING AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS:

- **Term Paper Proposal (due 4/14, 10% final grade):** 1-2 page proposal explaining your topic and research plan for the term paper. (Guidelines to be distributed in class)
- **Midterm exam (4/26, 30% of final grade):** short answer and essay exam.
- **Term Paper (5/26, 30% of final grade):** 10-page paper on some aspect of folklore and gender. (Guidelines to be distributed in class).
- **Final exam (due 1:00 pm, 6/9, 30% of final grade):** take home essay exam

FLR 510 GRADING AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS:

- **Additional Readings (expect a final exam question on essays in this text):** Radner, ed. *Feminist Messages: Coding in Women’s Folk Culture.*
- **Term Paper Proposal (due 4/14, 10% final grade):** 2-page proposal explaining your topic and research plan for the term paper. (Guidelines to be distributed in class)
- **Midterm exam (4/26, 30% of final grade):** short answer and essay exam.
- **Term Paper (5/26, 30% of final grade):** 15-20 page paper on some aspect of folklore and gender. (Guidelines to be distributed in class).
- **Final exam (due 1:00 pm, 6/9, 30% of final grade):** take home essay exam

**Academic Honesty/Plagiarism**

All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. I 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. To learn more about plagiarism and how to avoid it, consult the UO library’s guide on plagiarism: [http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/](http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/). If you are in doubt regarding any aspect of these issues as they pertain to this course, please consult me before you complete any relevant requirements. To learn about the consequences of academic dishonesty, consult the UO Student Conduct Code: [http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/programs/student_judi_affairs/conduct-code.htm](http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/programs/student_judi_affairs/conduct-code.htm)

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**SCHEDULE OF CLASS READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

**WEEK 1: WHAT IS FOLKLORE/WHAT IS GENDER?**

*Tuesday, March 29: What is Folklore? What is Gender? What is Folklore and Gender?*

*Thursday, March 31: folklore and feminism*
  - Young and Turner: “Challenging the Canon: Folklore Theory Reconsidered from Feminist Perspectives.” *FTSF*
  - Shuman: “Gender and Genre.” *FTSF*

**WEEK 2: FOLKLORE AND GENDER SOCIALIZATION**

*Tuesday, April 5: girls play*
  - Hughes: “‘You have to do it with style’: Girls’ Games and Girls Gaming.” *FTSF*

*Thursday, April 7: male peer groups*
WEEK 3: FOLKLORE AND “WOMEN’S WORK”

Tuesday, April 12: housework
- Video: Clotheslines by Roberta Cantow

Thursday, April 14: crafts  ****TERM PAPER PROPOSALS DUE***
- Ice, Joyce. Women’s Aesthetic and the Quilting Process. FTSF

WEEK 4: FOLKLORE, SEXISM, AND HOMOPHOBIA

Tuesday, April 19: humor

Thursday, April 21: legends

WEEK 5: MIDTERM/PUBLIC SECTOR FOLKLORE

Tuesday April 26: Midterm

Thursday April 28: Guest Lecture: Paddy Bowman
- Reading TBA

WEEK 6: GENDER VIOLENCE, PERFORMANCE, AND ACTIVISM

Tuesday, May 3: Troubling Violence
- Carver and Lawless. Troubling Violence. Pp. 3-59

Thursday, May 5: Troubling Violence

WEEK 7: FOLKLORE AND THE NEGOTIATION OF GENDER EXPECTATIONS

Tuesday, May 10: strategies of resistance and negotiating multiple identities

Thursday, May 12: playing with Barbie
- Video: Barbie Nation
WEEK 8: FOLKLORE AND THE NEGOTIATION OF GENDER EXPECTATIONS

Thursday, May 17: women, gender, and religion
- Lawless, Elaine J. “Access to the Pulpit: Reproductive Images and Maternal Strategies of the Pentecostal Female Pastor.” FTSF

Tuesday, May 19: folklore and multiple identities

WEEK 9: GENDERED SPACES

Tuesday, May 24: hyper-masculinity

Thursday May 26: multiple gender identities ****TERM PAPERS DUE****

WEEK 10: PERFORMING SEXUALITY

Tuesday May 31: sexuality on display

Thursday, June 2: Wrapping Up

TAKE HOME FINAL EXAM
DUE IN MY OFFICE BY 1:00 PM ON THURSDAY, JUNE 9