Folklore 485/585, Film and Folklore  
CRN 17561/17562  
Fall 2011  
Professor Sherman  
Office hours: T & Th 2:00-3:30 and by appt.  
457 PLC, ext. 63966

**Required Textbooks:**


Reading Packet. Available at the UO Bookstore.

**Course Description:**

FLR 485/585, Film and Folklore, is a survey course that deals with the development of film use by folklorists and folkloric filmmakers. Several levels of analysis will be used in examining folkloristic films. Folklore genres, theories about folkloric data, and methods of fieldwork implicit in films will be related to the techniques used by filmmakers. One or more films will be screened and discussed during each class session. The precursors of folkloristic films (documentaries and ethnodocumentaries or "ethnographic" films) will be analyzed in addition to folklore films, *per se.*

Non-textbook readings are available on reserve in the Knight Library. Course participants will be required to write two five to eight-page (approximately) critiques (each worth 25% of grade), due October 25th and November 22nd; random quizzes (20% of grade); and an in-depth film proposal (30% of grade), due December 5th. Details for fulfilling these requirements will be announced. (N.B. No late or handwritten papers will be accepted; no incompletes; attendance is required and assumed, and the reading is essential.) If you must miss class due to an emergency or illness, you must provide written proof so as not to lose points.


Note: All readings listed as JAF stand for the *Journal of American Folklore*—please access through JStor on the library’s site.

**Topics and Films for Discussion:**

Sept. 27: An Introduction to Film & Folklore; distribution of syllabi.

Precursors of Folkloric Films: The Documentary Film and Romanticism.

Film: *Stranger with a Camera* (2000), Elizabeth Barrett. 60 min. VT 05445

On reserve: *Nanook of the North* (1922), Robert J. Flaherty. 60 min. VT 01573 see http://www.oneworldmagazine.org/seek/nanook/nanostry.htm
Sept. 29: The Documentary Film: From Nanook to Cinéma Vérité.

Film: Harlan County, USA (1976), Reel 1, Barbara Kopple. Md 55 (VT 06147)


On reserve: Man with a Movie Camera (1928), Dziga Vertov. 70 min. VT 03961

Oct. 4: Cinéma Vérité to the Documentary as Art Form.

Film: Harlan County, USA, Reels 2 and 3. Md 56 and 57


On reserve: Don't Look Back (1967), D.A. Pennebaker. 96 min. DVD 00068
See http://www.time.com/time/arts/article/0,8599,1593766,00.html

Oct. 6: Ethnographic Precursors of the Folkloric Film: The Ethnodocumentary (documenting the Other as Event).

Film: Trance and Dance in Bali (1937-39, 1952), Gregory Bateson & Margaret Mead. 20 min. Mb 61 (VT 01741)


On reserve: Carnival in Qeros (1990), John Cohen. 35 min. VT 02369

Oct. 11: The Ethnodocumentary As Interpretation.

Note: Professor Sherman will be attending the American Folklore Society meeting in Bloomington, Indiana, during this week. Class will meet—no office hours.

Film: Cannibal Tours (1988), Dennis O'Rourke, 77 min. (Shot in the same region two decades after Dead Birds) VT 01502


Suggested reserve reading: Karl Heider, "The Dani of West Irian: An Ethnographic Companion to the Film Dead Birds."

On reserve: Dead Birds (1963), Robert Gardner. 84 min. VT 01981 (parts 1, 2, 3)

Film: *Hearts and Hands* (1987), Pat Ferrero. 63 min. Mc 339, reels 1 & 2 (VT 01200)

Reading: Sherman, pp. 73-80, 96-98; comments by Ferrero (see index). See also "Double-Edged Power: Historical Records of Gender and Race," *Western Folklore* 47 (1988): 217-23.

On reserve: *Hopi: Songs of the Fourth World* (1983), Pat Ferrero. 58 min. ME 4 (VT 02355); *We Shall Overcome* (1988), Jim Brown, Ginger Brown, Harold Leventhal, and George Stoney, 60 min. VT 01324

Oct. 18: The Folkloric Film: Documenting Ourselves.

Films: *Home Movie: An American Folk Art* (1975), Ernst Star & Steve Zeitlin. 25 min. VT 02774

*Six Filmmakers in Search of a Wedding* (1970). 13 min. Mb301 [16mm only]

Reading: Sherman, pp. 61-70; Guide for *Home Movie*.


Films: *Pizza Pizza Daddy-O* (1969), Bess Lomax Hawes. 18 min. VT 05649
*I Ain't Lying: Folktales from Mississippi* (1975), Bill Ferris. 23 min. VT00551

Reading: Sherman, pp. 70-73; 131-32; comments by Hawes, Ferris (see index).

Guide for Hawes' film.

On reserve: *Two Black Churches* (1975), Bill Ferris. 20 min. VT 00550

Oct. 25: The Folkloric Film: Groups, Communities and Regions I.

Film: *The High Lonesome Sound: Music Making in the Kentucky Mountains* (1962), John Cohen. 29 min. VT 03895


On reserve: *Dancing with the Incas: Huayno Music of Peru* (1991), John Cohen, 58 min. VT 02370

[Paper #1 due]
Oct. 27: Groups, Communities and Regions II. Technology discussion 1.

   Film: *The Stone Carvers* (1985), Paul Wagner & Marjorie Hunt. 29 min.

   Reading: Sherman, pp. 113-16, comments by Wagner (see index).

Nov. 1: Groups, Communities and Regions III.

   Film: *Yum, Yum, Yum: A Taste of Cajun and Creole Cooking* (1990), Les Blank & Maureen Gosling. 31 min. VT 05990
   See review in *JAF* 107 (1994): 316-18 (access through JStor).

   Reading: Sherman, pp. 102-04, 109-112, comments by Blank (see index)

   Optional: See also *Dry Wood* (at www.folkstreams.net)

Nov. 3: Groups, Communities and Regions IV.

   Video: *A Singing Stream* (1987), Tom Davenport & Daniel Patterson. 50 min. VT 00601

   Readings: Sherman, pp. 120-23. Comments by Davenport and Patterson (see index);


Nov. 8: The Folkloric Film: Processes and Events. Technology discussion 2.


   Readings: Sherman, pp. 125-29, 137-38. Comments by Thigpen (see index).


   Film: *Kathleen Ware, Quiltmaker* (1979), Sharon Sherman. 33 min. See review in *JAF* 95: 379-80.


   Reading: Sherman, pp. 143, and 146-48.
Nov. 15: Individual Artists and Performers II.

Film: *Imaginero* (1969), Jorge Preloran. 52 min.

Reading: Sherman, pp. 152-54. Comments by Preloran (see index).

Nov.17: *Post-Vérité.*

Film: *Paris is Burning* (1990), Jennie Livingston. 75 min. VT 02170


On reserve: *Dogtown and Z-Boys* (2002), Stacy Peralta and Paul Crowder. 91 min. DVD 00772.

Nov. 22: Reflexivity: Fusing the Subject and the Object.

Film: *Zulay: Facing the 21st Century*, Part I (1991), Jorge Preloran, Mabel Preloran,


Reading: Sherman, pp. 159-62.  

[Paper #2 Due]

Nov. 24: No class: Thanksgiving.

Nov. 29: Whose Film is This, Anyway? Reflexivity and Feminism.

Film: *Zulay*, Part II.


Film: TBA.

Reading: Schroeppe, peruse.

Suggested Reading: Contemporary handbooks on digital video.

Dec. 5: Film Proposals Due, 10:00 a. m. -- 457 PLC.

NO LATE PROPOSALS WILL BE ACCEPTED
See www.folkstreams.net for several of the folklore films for this course; many other films are streaming on the Internet.

READING PACKET


Home Movie. Film guide.

Pizza, Pizza, Daddy-O. Film guide.


ON RESERVE

Heider, Karl G. 1972. The Dani of West Irian: An Ethnographic Companion to the Film “Dead Birds.”


SPECIAL COLLECTIONS