

Folk326.04
Fall 2004

ANTHROPOLOGY 326 INTRODUCTION TO FOLKLORE

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I. Objectives

This course introduces students to the basic principles in the study of folklore, or traditional expressive culture. We will examine some of the major forms, or *genres*, of folklore, including folktales, legends, jokes, ballads, riddles, proverbs, festivals and material culture, in the cultural contexts in which they occur. We will also study the theories and approaches folklorists and anthropologists have used to study folklore. This course takes a cross-cultural perspective, exploring and comparing folklore from a number of different cultures and folk groups. Students will learn to identify folklore in their own lives, and will gain a greater understanding and appreciation for its roles and meanings in different cultural contexts.

This course fulfills the General Education Program requirement under section C.1 - Humanities: Literature. All Upper Division General Education courses are required to be 'writing intensive.' This is a writing intensive course. This means there are writing requirements for the course totaling a minimum of 2500 words.

II. Format

This course will be taught in a lecture-discussion format. Lectures are designed to complement, not duplicate, the readings. You are expected to attend class regularly, read each day's assignment and take notes on it, and participate in class discussions and activities. You are required to arrive on time and stay for the duration of the class. You have two "sick days" -- classes you may miss without penalty. Each class missed beyond those will subtract 10% from your participation grade. Two tardies count as one absence. In cases of prolonged absence, please notify me so we can make arrangements for you to keep up with the work.

Cell phones and pagers are not permitted in this class. If you have these items, please turn them off before coming to class.

III. Requirements

The following books are REQUIRED READING for the course:

Elliott Oring, ed. *Folk Groups and Folklore Genres*

Jan H. Brunvand, *The Vanishing Hitchhiker*

Sabina Magliocco, *Neo-Pagan Sacred Art & Altars: Making Things Whole*
Introduction to Folklore Reader (available at ASAP Copies)

All books are available on reserve in the Oviatt Library as well as at the Matador Bookstore. However, you are strongly urged to purchase books, as they may be difficult

to get in the library during midterm and exam time.

Exams: There will be two exams, both a combination of objective and short essay questions. Each will be worth approximately 25% of the final grade. If you must miss a test due to illness, you must notify me by calling 677-3331 before the beginning of class on the day of the exam. When you return to class, I will schedule a make-up. Make-ups are all essay. **No notification, no make-up -- no exceptions! There will be no make-ups for the final exam.**

Project: Students will complete a collection project in which they will gather, annotate and analyze folklore from their own lives and those of their friends and neighbors. Projects will become part of the Bess Lomax Hawes Student Folklore Archive, and will be available to other students and scholars in the future. A special part of this year's project will be a short profile of a local folk artist or performer, which will become part of a database on local performers that will be accessible on the Internet. This is an exciting opportunity to contribute to the study of folklore in the San Fernando Valley. While the project is challenging, most students find they get a great deal of satisfaction from completing it. More information will be available in a separate handout. The project is worth approximately 50% of the final grade.

IV. Grading

Attendance and participation.....	10 points
Midterm.....	50 points
Final Exam.....	50 points
Collection Project.....	100 points
Possible Total = 210 points	

V. Grading Scale

195-210 = A	147-152 = C-
189-194 = A-	143-145 = D+
185-188 = B+	132-142 = D
174-184 = B	126-131 = D-
168-173 = B-	125 and below = F
164-165 = C+	
153-163 = C	

Week-by-Week Syllabus

Week of	Topic	Readings
Part I: Folklore and Folklore Genres		
8/24	What is folklore? What is a folk group?	Oring, 1-24
8/31	The Study of Folklore: Collecting and Documenting Folklore (Focus on the final project)	Oring, 225-254
9/7	Folk Narrative: Legends visit www.snopes2.com	Brunvand, <i>all</i>
9/14	Folk Beliefs and "Superstitions"	Oring, 45-70; "Why is a lucky rabbit's foot lucky?" in rdr.
9/21	Jokes	"Jokes and the Discourse of Disaster;" "Dumb Blondes," in rdr.
9/28	Ballads and Folksongs	Oring, 147-174; "Corridos....," "Gregorio Cortez," in rdr.
10/5	Riddles, Proverbs and Folk Speech	Oring, 175-198
10/12	Review and catch-up	
10/14	Midterm Exam!	
10/19	Festivals and Celebrations	"Contemporary Halloween Celebrations;" "Day of the Dead," in rdr.
10/26	Mark Cohen lecture, location TBA	
10/28	Film: "The Haunted History of Halloween"	
Part II: Folklore and Identity		
11/2	Folklore in Your Family	"Family Stories," "Family Photography," in rdr.
11/9	Folklore and Ethnic Identity	Oring, 23-44; "Iranian Name

		Changes,” “Playing With Food,” in rdr.
11/16	Folklore and Religious Identity	Magliocco, <i>Neopagan Art & Altars</i> , all
11/23	Folklore and Oppositionality: Children’s and Occupational Folklore	Oring, 71-120; “Paperwork Empire” and “Anal Folklore...,” in rdr.
11/25	Thanksgiving Break; no class!	
11/30	Folklore and Cultural Heritage Collection projects due! Film: “Oss Oss, Wee Oss Redux”	Magliocco, “Coordinates of Power and Performance,” in rdr.
12/9	12:45 – 2:45 Final Exam!	