FLR 399 (CRN 17505), SPECIAL STUDIES: FOLKLORE AND SEXUALITY
FALL 2007, 10:00-11:20 MW, 204 Chapman Hall

Professor: Dr. Lisa Gilman
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Office Hours: 2:00-3:30 W, 9:30-11:00 F, and by appointment
Office: 447 PLC

Required Texts:
• All other readings are available electronically on Blackboard.
  o Login to ENG 250 through your Blackboard account. [https://blackboard.uoregon.edu]
  o Click on “Control Panel”, then “Course Documents,” then “Assigned Readings”
  o Readings are listed in the order assigned by author(s). Some consist of more than one file. Be sure to read all files.

Hardcopies can also be checked out at the Reserves Desk in the Knight Library.

Course Description: We will examine a wide range of folklore forms that comprise explicit sexual content as our entry point for exploring how normative ideas about sexuality are constituted and perpetuated in the United States. We will also examine how people use folklore to contest these norms and in the construction of alternate sexual identities and ideologies. Central themes will include sexual identity, sexism, homophobia, resistance, and rebellion.

Assignments:
• Folklore and sexuality examples/ paper (15% final grade): Students will be divided into 3 groups. On assigned day, each group brings examples of folklore relating to sexuality. Members of the group share their examples and lead a discussion about the social significance of their examples. Each student will also turn in a 2-page paper in which they present their examples followed by analysis. (Guidelines to be distributed in class)
• Midterm (10/24, 25% of final grade): short answer/essay midterm covering first half of class.
• Term Paper Project (35% of final grade):
  ▪ Term Paper Proposal (Due 10/15, 5% final grade): 1-page proposal explaining your topic and research plan for the term paper. (Guidelines to be distributed in class)
  ▪ Presentation of Term Paper (11/26 & 11/28), 5% final grade: Each students will make a brief presentation during the last week of class about their term paper project.
  ▪ Term Paper (FINAL GRADE, DUE ON 11/28, 25% final grade): 8-10 page paper on some aspect of folklore and sexuality. (Guidelines to be distributed in class)
• Final Exam (DUE 12/7, 10:15 am, 25% of final grade). Take-home essay exam covering whole term.

Attendance
• Class periods are used for discussions, lectures, small group assignments, writings, 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, ill children, observance of a religious holiday, and other university recognized conflicts. Be prepared to provide documentation.
• If excusable circumstances prevent your attendance at an exam 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). STUDENTS CANNOT MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS OR EXAMS DUE TO UNEXCUSED ABSENCES. LATE PAPERS (not due to excusable circumstances) WILL DROP ONE LETTER GRADE EACH DAY THEY ARE LATE.

Respect: It is essential 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.

Special Needs/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.
SCHEDULE OF CLASS READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS

WEEK 1: FOLKLORE, LEGENDS, AND SEXUALITY
MONDAY, 9/24, Overview of Course

WEDNESDAY, 9/26
Reading: Chapters 1, 2 & 3, Whatley and Henken.

WEEK 2: FOLKLORE, LEGENDS, AND SEXUALITY cont.
MONDAY, 10/1
Readings:
- Chapters 4, 5 & 6, Whatley and Henken

WEDNESDAY, 10/3
Readings: Chapters 7, 8, & 9, Whatley and Henken

WEEK 3: SEX AND CHILDREN’S GAMES
MONDAY, 10/8 ***FOLKLORE EXAMPLES: GROUP #1***
Readings:

WEDNESDAY, 10/10
Readings:

WEEK 4: FOLKLORE, SEX, AND FAIRYTALES: THE CASE OF LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD
MONDAY, 10/15 ***TERM PAPER PROPOSALS DUE***
Readings:

WEDNESDAY, 10/17

WEEK 5: FOLKLORE, SEX, FOOTBALL, AND WAR
MONDAY, 10/22
Readings:
WEDNESDAY, 10/24  ***MIDTERM***
WEEK 6: FOLKLORE, SEX, AND HETERONORMATIVE MASCULINITIES
MONDAY, 10/29  ***FOLKLORE EXAMPLES: GROUP #2***

Readings:

WEDNESDAY, 10/31

WEEK 7: FOLKLORE, SEX, AND HETERONORMATIVE FEMININITIES
MONDAY, 11/5

Video: Venom in a Jar

WEDNESDAY, 11/7

WEEK 8: FOLKLORE, SEX, AND BODIES
MONDAY, 11/12
Reading:

WEDNESDAY, 11/14  ****FOLKLORE EXAMPLES: GROUP #3***

WEEK 9: FOLKLORE, CODING, AND COMMUNICATION IN GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITIES
MONDAY, 11/19
Readings:

WEDNESDAY, 11/21:
Readings:

Week 10: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS OF FINAL PROJECTS
MONDAY, 11/26: Student Presentations
WEDNESDAY, 11/28: Student Presentations  ***FINAL PROJECTS DUE***

****TAKE HOME FINAL EXAM, DUE AT 10:15 AM ON DECEMBER 7***