FLR 681 (CRN 12751): History and Theory of Folklore Research
Fall 2010, Tues. 2:00-4:50 pm, 453 PLC

Professor: Lisa Gilman
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Office hours: 9 am – noon Weds by appt.
Office: 447 PLC

Required Texts:
• Toelken, Barre. 1996. The Dynamics of Folklore. Logan: Utah State Press.

All required texts are available for purchase at the UO Bookstore. Additional readings are posted on Blackboard [BB]

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This graduate seminar introduces students to the study of folklore by providing a survey of significant scholarship, ideas, keywords, enduring issues, and approaches of the discipline. The objectives are to engage students with intellectual frameworks that have informed the documentation, analysis, and presentation of those expressive behaviors and forms that can be identified as folklore. Key concepts that will be examined critically include: group, identity, tradition, authenticity, genre, text, context, performance, and festival. The seminar also introduces students to participating faculty in the Folklore Program, their research, and their fields of expertise.

GRADING AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS (more detailed guidelines for each assignment will be posted on Blackboard and usually distributed in class):

1) Class participation: This course requires a significant amount of reading, and it is expected that you come to class prepared. A participation grade will be assessed based on students’ attendance, preparedness, and active engagement in class discussions. (10% of course grade)
2) Leading class: Each student will select two readings assigned for one class period and lead a class discussion about them. Details will be explained in class. (10%)
3) Paper #1 (due Nov. 2): A 5-page paper answering the question “What is Folklore?” You should consider what kinds of materials might be considered folklore as well as what constitutes the study of folklore (materials examined, approaches, methods, lines of inquiry, etc.). Consider how you might answer this question at a cocktail party, in a folklore class that you are teaching, and at a job interview. (20%)
4) Annotated Bibliography (due Dec. 8 during class meeting): Each student will select a topic relevant to the study of folklore in consultation with the instructor. Throughout the term, they will read extensively on this topic and complete an annotated bibliography. (50%)
5) Annotated Bibliography Presentation (Dec 8, 1-3 pm): We will meet during our scheduled final exam time Each student will make a brief presentation about the material covered in the bibliography assignment. (10%)
ATTENDANCE

• Class periods are used for discussions, 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, you are responsible for obtaining notes and materials.
• Excusable circumstances include: a death in the family, serious illness, ill children, observance of a religious holiday, and other university recognized conflicts. Be prepared to provide documentation.
• If excusable circumstances prevent your turning in an assignment on time, inform your professor before or within 24 hours after due date of a paper or other class requirement via e-mail, telephone, or a dated note in the professor's mailbox (this requirement will be lifted in extreme circumstances).

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.

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SCHEDULE OF CLASS READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1, 9/28: Introduction: What is Folklore/What is the Study of Folklore (Folkloristics)?
Readings:
• Georges and Jones, Ch. 1 “Introduction”
• Toelken, “Introduction” and Ch. 1 “The Folklore Process”

Week 2, 10/5: Who are the Folk?/Folklore and Identity
Readings:
• Toelken, Ch. 2 “Dynamics of a Folk Group”
• Georges and Jones Ch. 6 “Folklore in Cultural Context” & Ch. 7 “Folklore in the Culture of Groups in Contact”
• [BB]
• Noyes, “Group” in Eight Words.
• Abrahams, “Identity” in Eight Words.
Week 3, 10/12: Historical Perspectives

**Readings:**
- Georges and Jones, Ch. 2, “Folklore as a Historical Science” & Ch. 5 “The Dissemination of Folklore”
- Grimm, “Circular,” *International Folkloristics*
- Thoms, “Origin of the Word,” *International Folkloristics*
- Frazer, “Principles of Sympathetic Magic,” *International Folkloristics*
- Müller, “Study of Folk-Lore,” *International Folkloristics*
- Freud, “Symbolism in Dreams” *International Folkloristics*

**RECOMMENDED**

Week 4, 10/19): Tradition as Product, Invention, and Process

**Readings:**
- Georges and Jones, Ch. 3, “Survivals, Revivals & Continuities”

Week 5, 10/26: Authenticity

**Reading:**

Week 6, 11/2: Meeting Folklore Faculty

****Paper due: What is Folklore?****

**Activity:**
- Folklore Faculty forum

**Readings:** TBA
Week 7, 11/9: Genre and Classification

**Readings:**
- Georges and Jones, Ch. 4, “Folklore as Genre and Type”
- Harris-Lopez, “Genre” in *Eight Words*

Week 8, 11/16: Text, Context, and Contextualization/Performance Theory

**Readings:**
- Titon, “Text,” in *Eight Words*
- Hufford, “Context” in *Eight Words*
- Kapchan, Performance. In *Eight Words*

Week 9, 11/23: Fire in the Plaça

**Reading:**

Week 10, 11/30: Fire in the Plaça

**Reading:**

**FINALS WEEK: DECEMBER 8, 1:00-3:00 PM**

***Annotated Bibliography DUE & Presentations***