

**FOLK STUDIES 561: FOLK ART**  
**FALL SEMESTER 2010, MONDAY 5:30-8:15**

Instructor: Timothy H. Evans

Office: FAC 245

Office Hours: Monday 1-3, Tuesday 10-12, or by appointment

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This graduate seminar is an interdisciplinary survey of the field of folk art studies. Drawing primarily on folk studies but also on anthropology, art history, literature, visual studies, cultural studies and other areas, the course will be an introduction to the study of visual arts within cultural context, while encouraging students to apply this knowledge in a variety of possible venues. The course is thematically organized but will also focus on matters of methodology, research and presentation of folk art. Lectures and discussions will be supplemented with films, field trips and other activities.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Class participation (20% of final grade). In a graduate seminar, participation is the heart of the class. To participate, you will need to keep up with the readings.
2. Oral book review (10% of final grade). Not a detailed summary of the book, but a critical evaluation of the book's purpose, scope, theoretical framework, and major arguments, using examples from the book. Approximately 15- 20 minutes. Reports may include handouts, slides, power point presentations, etc.
3. Semester project (40% of final grade: 10% for oral presentation, 30% for written paper). A research project involving fieldwork with folk art or artists. 1-2 page proposals are due 10/4, 20 minute oral presentations are 11/22 and 11/29, the final project is due 12/6. This assignment will be the subject of handouts and class discussion.
4. Final exam (30% of final grade). An open book essay exam, possibly take home.

## READINGS

**CAN BE PURCHASED AT CAMPUS BOOKSTORE OR ONLINE.** You are not required to buy these books, but you are required to read them.

Baxandall, Michael. *Painting and Experience in Fifteenth Century Italy: A Primer in the Social History of Pictorial Style* (Oxford University Press, 1988).

Bunzel, Ruth L. *The Pueblo Potter: A Study of Creative Imagination in Primitive Art* (Dover, 1972, orig. 1929). Note: This book is out of print. You will need to find a used copy online, possibly at amazon.com, alibris.com, abebooks.com or half.com.

Evans, Timothy H. *King of the Western Saddle: The Sheridan Saddle and the Art of Don King* (University Press of Mississippi, 1998).

Jones, Michael Owen. *Craftsman of the Cumberlands: Tradition and Creativity* (University Press of Kentucky, 1989).

Maclean, Norman. *A River Runs Through It and Other Stories* (University of Chicago Press, 2001, orig. 1976).

Santino, Jack. *Signs of War and Peace: Social Conflict and the Uses of Symbols in Public in Northern Ireland*. (Palgrave MacMillan, 2001).

Shukla, Pravina. *The Grace of Four Moons: Dress, Adornment, and the Art of the Body in Modern India*. (Indiana University Press, 2008).

Wood, W. Warner. *Made in Mexico: Zapotec Weavers and the Global Ethnic Art Market*. (Indiana University Press, 2008).

**READINGS** from the Journal of American Folklore (JAF) or the Journal of Folklore Research (JFR) can be accessed on campus computers, via PROJECT MUSE or JSTOR. The entire run of JAF is available on JSTOR; PROJECT MUSE starts with 2001. JFR is available on JSTOR starting in 1964; PROJECT MUSE starts with 2003. You can access articles available on PROJECT MUSE by googling them on a campus computer; the texts should come right up. For JSTOR, you will need to go to the WKU library website, click on Aatabases,@ scroll down to JSTOR, click on it, then search for the article. From off campus, you can go to the WKU library webpage, click on Aatabases,@ put in your WKU email address and password, scroll down to PROJECT MUSE or JSTOR, and search for the article.

All short readings not from JAF or JFR can be found on the class blackboard site. If anyone has problems accessing online materials, please talk to Prof. Evans. Readings available at the Blackboard site are marked BB on the class schedule.

## REVIEW BOOKS:

Each student must do an oral review of one of the following books.

9/13. Henry Glassie, *The Spirit of Folk Art*. New York: Abrams, 1995.

9/20. Franz Boas, *Primitive Art*. New York: Dover, 1955, original 1927.

9/27. Varrick Chittenden, *Vietnam Remembered: The Folk Art of Marine Combat Veteran Michael D. Cousino, Sr.* Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1995.

10/4. Hernandez, Jo Farb. *Forms of Tradition in Contemporary Spain*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi and San Jose State University, 2005.

10/11. Prosterman, Leslie. *Ordinary Life, Festival Days: Aesthetics in the Midwestern County Fair*. Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1994.

10/18. Marjorie Hunt, *The Stone Carvers: Master Craftsmen of the Washington National Cathedral*. Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1995.

10/25. Amy V. Kitchener, *The Holiday Yards of Florencio Morales*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1994.

11/1. Linda Pershing, *The Ribbon Around the Pentagon: Peace by Piecemakers*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1996.

11/8. Daniel Wojcik, *Punk and Neo-Tribal Body Art*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1995.

11/15. Sabina Magliocco, *Neo-Pagan Sacred Art and Altars*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi Press, 2001.

12/6. Julia S. Ardery, *The Temptation: Edgar Tolson and the Genesis of Twentieth-Century Folk Art*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998.

## SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

### 3/30. Introduction.

9/6. Labor Day – no class!

### 9/13. Definitions, key words, history.

Glassie, Henry, "Folk Art," in *Folklore and Folklife*, ed. Richard Dorson Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1972. BB.

Pocius, Gerald. "Art," *Journal of American Folklore* 108:413-431, 1995. (Also in Feintuch=s *Eight Words for the Study of Expressive Culture*.)

Metcalf, Eugene W., Jr. "The Politics of the Past in American Folk Art History," in *Folk Art and Art Worlds*, ed. John Michael Vlach and Simon J. Bronner. Logan: Utah State University Press, 1992. BB.

Review: Henry Glassie. *The Spirit of Folk Art*.

### 9/20. Art, culture and anthropology.

Ruth Bunzel, *The Pueblo Potter*.

Firth, Raymond. "Art and Anthropology," in *Anthropology, Art and Aesthetics*, ed. Jeremy Coote and Anthony Shelton. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992. BB.

Gell, Alfred. "The Technology of Enchantment and the Enchantment of Technology," in *Anthropology, Art and Aesthetics*. BB.

Review: Franz Boas, *Primitive Art*.

### 9/27. Folk art as individual expression and memory.

Michael Owen Jones, *Craftsman of the Cumberlands*.

Hammond, Joyce. "Polynesian Women and *Tifaifai*: Fabrications of Identity," *Journal of American Folklore* 99:259-279, 1986.

Hathaway, Rosemary V. "Life in the T.V.=: The Visual Nature of 9/11 Lore and Its Impact on Vernacular Response," *Journal of Folklore Research* 42: 33-56, 2005.

Review: Varrick Chittenden, *Vietnam Remembered*.

**\*\* 10/4. Proposal due for semester project. \*\***

**10/4. Skill and performance.**

Norman Maclean, *A River Runs Through It*, title story.

Roach, Susan. "The Kinship Quilt: An Ethnographic Semiotic Analysis of a Quilting Bee," in *Women=s Folklore, Women=s Culture*, ed. Rosan A. Jordan and Susan J. Kalcik. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1985. BB.

Pershing, Linda and Nishelle Y. Bellinger. "From Sorrow to Activism: A Father's Memorial to His Son Alexander Arredondo, Killed in the U.S. Occupation of Iraq," *Journal of American Folklore* 123: 179-217, 2010.

Review: Jo Farb Hernandez, *Forms of Tradition in Contemporary Spain*.

**10/11. Aesthetics, Design and taste.**

Pravina Shukla, *The Grace of Four Moons*.

Toelken, Barre. "A Matter of Taste: Folk Aesthetics," in Toelken, *The Dynamics of Folklore*. Logan: Utah State University Press, 1996 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). BB.

Review: Prosterman, Leslie. *Ordinary Life, Festival Days: Aesthetics in the Midwestern County Fair*.

**10/18. Film Day, Catch Up.**

Review: Marjorie Hunt, *The Stonecarvers*.

**10/25. The concept of style.**

Timothy Evans, *King of the Western Saddle*.

Layton, Robert. "Style," in *The Anthropology of Art*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1981. BB.

Vlach, John. "Quilting," in *The Afro-American Tradition in the Decorative Arts*. Cleveland: Cleveland Museum of Art, 1978. BB.

Review: Amy Kitchener, *The Holiday Yards of Florencio Morales*.

### **11/1. Meaning and symbolism.**

Wade, Edwin and David Evans, "The Kachina Sash: A Native Model of the Hopi World," *Western Folklore* 33:1-18, 1973. BB.

Pocius, Gerald. "Hooked Rugs in Newfoundland: The Representation of Social Structure in Design," *Journal of American Folklore* 92:272-84, 1979.

Dorst, John, "Machines and Gardens: Two Cases of Vernacular Display," in *Looking West*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1999. BB.

Klassen, Teri, "Representations of African American Quilting: From Omission to High Art," *Journal of American Folklore* 112: 297-334, 2009.

Review: Linda Pershing, *The Ribbon Around the Pentagon*.

### **11/8. Subcultures, Politics and Conflict.**

Jack Santino, *Signs of War and Peace*.

Kane, Stephanie, C. "Animated Architecture: Maria Luiza Lins and the Colonial Water Taps of Olinda, Brazil," *Journal of Folklore Research* 46: 293-324, 2009.

Bronner, Simon J. "The House on Penn Street: Creativity and Conflict in Folk Art," in *Folk Art and Art Worlds*. BB.

Review: Daniel Wojcik, *Punk and Neo-Tribal Body Art*.

### **11/15. Blurred Genres: fine, popular and folk art.**

Michael Baxandall, *Painting and Experience in Fifteenth Century Italy*.

Svasek, Maruska. "Fine Art=: Creating and Contesting Boundaries," in *Anthropology, Art and Cultural Production*. Ann Arbor: Pluto Press, 2007. BB.

Mirzoeff, Nicholas. "Introduction," in *An Introduction to Visual Culture*. New York: Routledge, 1999. BB.

Review: Sabina Magliocco, *Neo-Pagan Sacred Art and Altars*.

### **11/22. Student presentations, pt. 1**

### **11/29. Student presentations, pt. 2.**

**\*\* 12/6. Semester project due \*\***

**12/6. Tourism, markets, culture change.**

W. Warner Wood, *Made in Mexico*.

Graburn, Nelson H. H. "Arts of the Fourth World," in *Ethnic and Tourist Arts: Cultural Expressions from the Fourth World*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1976. BB.

Jones, Suzi. "Art by Fiat, and Other Dilemmas of Cross-Cultural Collecting," in *Folk Art and Art Worlds*. BB.

Review: Julia S. Ardery, *The Temptation: Edgar Tolson and the Genesis of Twentieth-Century Folk Art*.

**WEEK OF 12/13. Final Exam.** Specific time to be negotiated.