FOLK STUDIES 562: FOLKLORE AND EDUCATION
SPRING SEMESTER 2011, Monday 1:50-4:35

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In a broad sense, almost everything folklorists do is education. This class focuses on, but is not limited to, the K-12 curriculum. Teacher training, folk artists in the schools, the preparation of guides and curricula, the development of educational programming at museums, and the use of folklore to teach writing, multiculturalism and other skills is an important and rapidly expanding part of folkloristics. This class will survey the field of Folklore and Education, considering a variety of publications, lesson plans, audiovisual materials, web pages and other resources. Goals for students include familiarity with resources and the development of practical skills. We will also explore the relevance of folkloristics in the current trend toward test-oriented education, with an emphasis on the Kentucky curriculum. This class is experimental and collaborative in nature.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Class participation (20% of final grade). Participation is essential in a graduate seminar, especially this one. To participate, you must keep up with the readings and other assignments.

2. Oral and written review of a web site or other educational product (15%). Websites and products may be chosen from a list to be handed out in class, but other sites and products will be considered. They will be carried out in pairs; more details will be presented in class.

3. K-12 lesson plan, thematic in focus (35%). Written materials should be easily adaptable to a website. Oral presentations should include actual classroom activities. More details will be presented in class.

5. Final examination (30% of final grade). An open book, open note essay exam, possibly take-home.

READINGS


Simons, Elizabeth Radin. *Student Worlds, Student Words: Teaching Writing Through Folklore.* Portsmouth, NH: Boynton/Cook, 1990. **Note:** This book is out of print and unavailable at the WKU bookstore, but used copies can be easily found online.


**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. 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 A databases, 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 A databases, put in your WKU email address and password, scroll down to PROJECT MUSE or JSTOR, and search for the article.

**BLACK BOARD:** All short readings not from JAF 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.

**IN ADDITION,** students should familiarize themselves with the *Local Learning Network,*

ONLINE: Many other readings and resources will be accessed online; see the selected websites at the end of the syllabus.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

1/24. Introduction.

1/31. Folklore and Education: Encompassing the Field.

2/7. Visit by Jan Rosenberg.
Jan Rosenberg, “From Me to We: Folklore and Education in the Work of Three Early Twentieth Century Educators,” BB. Diane E. Sidener, “Standards for Folklife Education,” Pennsylania Alliance for Arts Education, 1997. BB. Jan Rosenberg, “A Bibliography of Works in Folklore and Education Published between 1929 and 1992.” BB. Familiarize yourself with Kentucky Core Content materials. They will be made available in the Morgan room, or can be downloaded from the Kentucky Department of Education website, http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Instructional+Resources/Curriculum+Documents+and+Resources/Core+Content+for+Assessment/Core+Content+for+Assessment+4.1/ (or get on the Kentucky Department of Education webpage, click on “Core Content”, then click on “Core Content for Assessment 4.1”).

2/14. Folk Arts.
Rita Moonsammy, “Passing It On,” Auctioneering Lesson Plan, FAE.
Debora Kodish and William Westerman, “Negotiating Pitfalls and Possibilities,” BB.
Kristin Congdon, Community Art in Action.
City Lore and Folklife in the Schools, Northwest Folklife, FAE.
Familiarize yourself with the Louisiana Voices and Wisconsin Folks websites (both accessible from FAE).

2/21. Writing.
Simons, Student Worlds, Student Words.
Spurrin’ the Words excerpts, FAE and BB.
Familiarize yourself with the Folkwriting and Montana Heritage Project websites.


3/4. Visit by Gregory Hansen (Friday)
Judith Haut, “How Can Acting Like a Fieldworker Enrich Pluralistic Education,” from Putting Folklore to Use (ed. M.O. Jones). BB.
Gregory Hansen, “Folklore in Education,” chapter eight from A Florida Fiddler. BB.

3/7. Spring break

Laurie Sommers, The Florida Music Train, excerpt. FAE and BB.
Familiarize yourself with the Oregon Folklife Program and Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures websites.

Heath, Ways With Words.

Nelda Ault, “Folk Just Means People,” selections. BB.
Familiarize yourself with the **Hmong Cultural Tour** website, http://csumc.wisc.edu/cmct/HmongTour/.
Sample from *Texas Folklife: Powwow in the Schools*, FAE.
Check out the webpage of Philadelphia’s Folk Arts and Cultural Treasures Charter School, http://www.factschool.org/.

4/4. **Place, the Built Environment, Historic Preservation.**
Sample from *Hispanic Folk Arts and the Environment*, FAE.
Familiarize yourself with the **Promise of Place, Center for Understanding the Built Environment** and **National Park Service Teaching with Historic Places** websites.

4/11. Visit by Marsha MacDowell and Kurt Dewhurst
TBA

4/18. **Human Rights.**
Meredith Martin, AFolklore, Human Rights Education Theory, and Social Justice Annotated Bibliography.A BB.
Familiarize yourself with the **Teaching Tolerance** website, and with Civilrightsteaching.org.

4/25. **Indigenous Knowledge, Film/Radio.**

Matthews and Patterson, *Learning from Your Community*, FAE.


Familiarize yourself with *Alaska Native Knowledge Network*.

**5/2. Ethnography and Higher Education, Foodways.**


**5/9. Final Exam.**
4-H Fishing Program. http://www.4hfishing.org/. Based in Colorado, with a folklore emphasis.

Alaska Native Knowledge Network. http://ankn.uaf.edu. A huge online network. For K-12 teacher resources, click on Curriculum resources on the home page. Of particular note are the lesson plans which use indigenous knowledge and learning methods to teach science and math, but the site contains links to many other resources. And the spiral chart is cool!


American Folklore Society. http://afsnet.org. Includes links to the Education and Public Programs sections, and many other resources.

American Folklore Society, Folklore & Education section. http://www.afsnet.org/?page=FolkloreEd. Includes information, links, and the online newsletter. Students can join the Education section ($10) without paying full society dues.


Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures. http://csumc.wisc.edu. Based out of Wisconsin, the CSUMC offers a wealth of excellent web-based materials for exploring local cultures, including cultural tours, curriculum guides, podcasts, films, and student projects. Click on the various categories under Education and Outreach. The Field Guide to Local Culture and the Hmong Cultural Tour are outstanding; also of note are the Dane County Cultural Tour and Wisconsin Weather Stories, various other tours, and the materials from ESL classes.

Center for Understanding the Built Environment. http://www.cubekc.org. A great website on teaching about the built environment in the K-12 classroom. Includes lesson plans and resources that relate this topic to many parts of the curriculum.
City Lore. [http://www.citylore.org](http://www.citylore.org). With a focus on the folklife of New York City, this organization also works with teachers nationally. Click on “Education”; many other parts of this website are well worth exploring.


Digital Traditions. [http://www.digitaltraditions.net](http://www.digitaltraditions.net). From the McKissick Museum in South Carolina, this site offers resources and lesson plans on related to South Carolina (sea grass baskets, African-American celebrations, etc.), and many links to related sites.


FieldWorking. [http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/fieldworking3e/](http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/fieldworking3e/). Website to accompany the book *Fieldworking* by Elizabeth Chiseri-Strater and Bonnie Sunstein. You will need to register to use this site.


Folkstreams. [http://www.folkstreams.net](http://www.folkstreams.net) is a video-streaming site built as a national preserve of American folk culture documentaries and offers users extensive background materials for each film. Lesson plans and other educational materials are available for many of the films; click on “Educators Portal” on the left side of the main page.

Folkwriting. [http://www.valdosta.edu/folkwriting](http://www.valdosta.edu/folkwriting) provides comprehensive lessons on place, heritage, and traditions based on the premise that students write best when they write what they know.


Iowa Folklife Program.

**Kentucky Department of Education.** http://www.education.ky.gov/. Click on ACore Content@ to access the Kentucky state curriculum (the “Combined Curriculum Document 2006,” including the Core Curriculum and the DOK – Depth of Knowledge supplements), lesson plans, information on testing, and other resources.


**Kentucky Educational Television.** http://www.ket.org/education/guides.htm. Links to a number of teacher’s guides, mostly free, from KET.

**Kentucky Folklife Program.** http://history.ky.gov/sub.php?pageid=77&sectionid=15. Includes links for the Kentucky Folklife Festival and school programs. If you click on AFolklife in the Schools,@ you can download the ATeacher=s Guide to Kentucky Folklife@.

**Library of Congress: Teachers’ Page.** http://www.loc.gov/teachers/. Contains many lesson plans, thematically organized, utilizing the huge collection of online historical resources from the Library of Congress. Of particular note is the “Culture and Folklife” section.

**Local Learning Network.** http://locallearningnetwork.org/. Web site of the National Network for Folk Arts in Education, with many links to national and local resources. This is the best general website for Folklore & Education resources. An extensive collection of articles (including some used in class) can be found by clicking on “Library” and then on “The Archive”.

**Long Island Traditions.** http://www.longislandtraditions.org. Click on Programs and Services. Includes a lot of excellent educational materials. Especially noteworthy is the material on architecture.

**Louisiana Voices: An Educator=s Guide to Exploring Our Communities and Traditions.** http://www.louisianavoices.org. Written for Louisiana classrooms, this large and outstanding guide can serve as a model for any region.

**Michigan Traditional Arts Program.** http://museum.msu.edu/s-program/mtap/. Affiliated with the Michigan State University Museum. Click on AInfo for Educators@. Includes AFolkpatterns@ (4-H), AMichigan Voices@, and many other useful resources.

**Mississippi: Crossroads of the Heart.** http://www.arts.state.ms.us/crossroads/main.html.
Interesting classroom materials on Mississippi folklife.


**Museum of International Folk Art.** [http://www.moifa.org/eventsedu/curricula.html](http://www.moifa.org/eventsedu/curricula.html). Includes a number of curriculum guides related to online folk art exhibits, with lesson plans and activities.

**National Council for Preservation Education (NCPE).** [http://www.ncpe.us/](http://www.ncpe.us/). The main site for historic preservation education. Geared toward higher education rather than K-12, but contains many useful links to websites and resources. Also the place to go for historic preservation internships.


**National Museum of the American Indian.** [http://www.nmai.si.edu](http://www.nmai.si.edu). Provides online teaching guides, bibliographies of student resources, and virtual exhibits. Click on “education.”


**NEH Edsitement.** [http://edsitement.neh.gov/](http://edsitement.neh.gov/). This National Endowment for Humanities site includes links to many useful websites in humanities education.

**Oregon Folklife Program.** [http://ohs.org/education/folklife/index.cfm](http://ohs.org/education/folklife/index.cfm). *has in the past* had several sites of interest, including classroom units on various aspects of Oregon folklife, online student magazines, student made ethnographic films and other products. At the time this syllabus was made, the only links were *A Mexican American Folklife in Oregon,* and *AMasters of Ceremony,* which contains lessons based on the work and lives of four immigrant artists. The site may be transferred to the Oregon Arts Council.

**Philadelphia Folklore Project.** [http://www.folkloreproject.org/programs/education/index.php](http://www.folkloreproject.org/programs/education/index.php). Contains a number of excellent lesson plans dealing with human rights, immigrant cultures and other topics, and information on the Folk Arts and Cultural Treasures Charter School, the only folklore charter school (as far as I know).

**Promise of Place.** [http://www.promiseofplace.org/](http://www.promiseofplace.org/). A network of place-based educational
materials.


**Radio Diaries.** [http://www.radiodiaries.org/](http://www.radiodiaries.org/). A private nonprofit affiliated with the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Works with people to document their own lives for public radio: teenagers, seniors, prison inmates and others whose voices are rarely heard. Includes the ATeen Reporter Handbook, a very useful guide for creating youth radio, and various human rights related projects.

**Rock & Roll Library.** [http://www.rocklibrary.com](http://www.rocklibrary.com) is dedicated to recognizing the historical and cultural significance of popular music and weaving popular music and culture into the fabric of educational curriculum. Find lesson plans, lyrics, student work. Folklorist Jon Lohman wrote a lesson for making murals and writing poetry inspired by John Lennon's "Imagine".

**Rural School and Community Trust.** [http://www.ruraledu.org](http://www.ruraledu.org) promotes student engagement in community based work. Includes units on rural poetry and many other topics. The August 2003 issue of *Rural Roots* includes articles on folklore.

**Rural Voices Radio.** [http://www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/doc/programs/rvr.csp](http://www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/doc/programs/rvr.csp) is the first spoken work production of the National Writing Project. The stories feature original writings by students and teachers from diverse rural regions throughout the U.S.

**Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage.** [http://www.folklife.si.edu/](http://www.folklife.si.edu/). Click on "Education & Exhibits" and then on “Resources.” Offers many resources including online curricular materials (e.g., *Borders and Identity* about the U.S./Mexican border, *Discovering Our Delta*, etc.), educational kits to order, and guidelines for doing oral histories and creating exhibits in the classroom. Click on "The Folkways Collection Podcast" for a huge archive of free downloadable recordings, mostly folk and traditional music.

**Sound Portraits.** [http://www.soundportraits.org/about/](http://www.soundportraits.org/about/). A private nonprofit organization dedicated to telling stories that bring neglected American voices to a national audience via radio, print or the web. Among other things, Sound Portraits directs Story Corp in collaboration with the American Folklife Center, and Youth Portraits, a program in which incarcerated young adults create radio documentaries about their lives. Click on "Education." 

Teaching Tolerance. [http://www.teachingtolerance.org](http://www.teachingtolerance.org). An outstanding website maintained by the Southern Poverty Law Center. Includes resources on teaching tolerance and combating prejudice in the classroom. Also offers access to the journal *Teaching Tolerance*, which includes articles on using folklore in the classroom in the Fall and Spring 2002 issues.

Texas Folklife Resources. [http://www.texasfolklife.org](http://www.texasfolklife.org). Clicking on Information and Resources will bring up links to a number of interesting curriculum packets including several on music; see especially Powwow in the Schools.

Traditional Arts in Upstate New York. [http://tauny.org/pages/14/3/north-country-folklore-online](http://tauny.org/pages/14/3/north-country-folklore-online). Contains lesson plans tied into several of TAUNY’s programs, including *Good Food Served Right* and The Registry of Very Special Places.

Turkey Maiden Computer Game. [http://www.digitaletnography.dm.ucf.edu/tmgameoutline.html](http://www.digitaletnography.dm.ucf.edu/tmgameoutline.html). The only online folklore & education videogame (as far as I now).

Vermont Folklife Center. [http://www.vermontfolklifecenter.org](http://www.vermontfolklifecenter.org). The VFC has developed many cutting edge educational materials, children’s books, etc. Click on “Education.” Also, see the online lessons on doing fieldwork, and the link to “Youth Radio Vermont.”

Western Folklife Center. [http://westernfolklife.org](http://westernfolklife.org). Lots of material on cowboy poetry including lesson plans, and many other interesting resources.
