

Syllabus, F516, Proseminar in Folklore Theory and Techniques

Richard M. Dorson

Fall 1979

THE BATTLE OF FOLKLORE AND FAKELORE

Attack

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\_\_\_\_\_ of Harold Felton, Legends of Paul Bunyan, in JAF 64 (April - June 1951): 233-35.

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Reply

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New Battle

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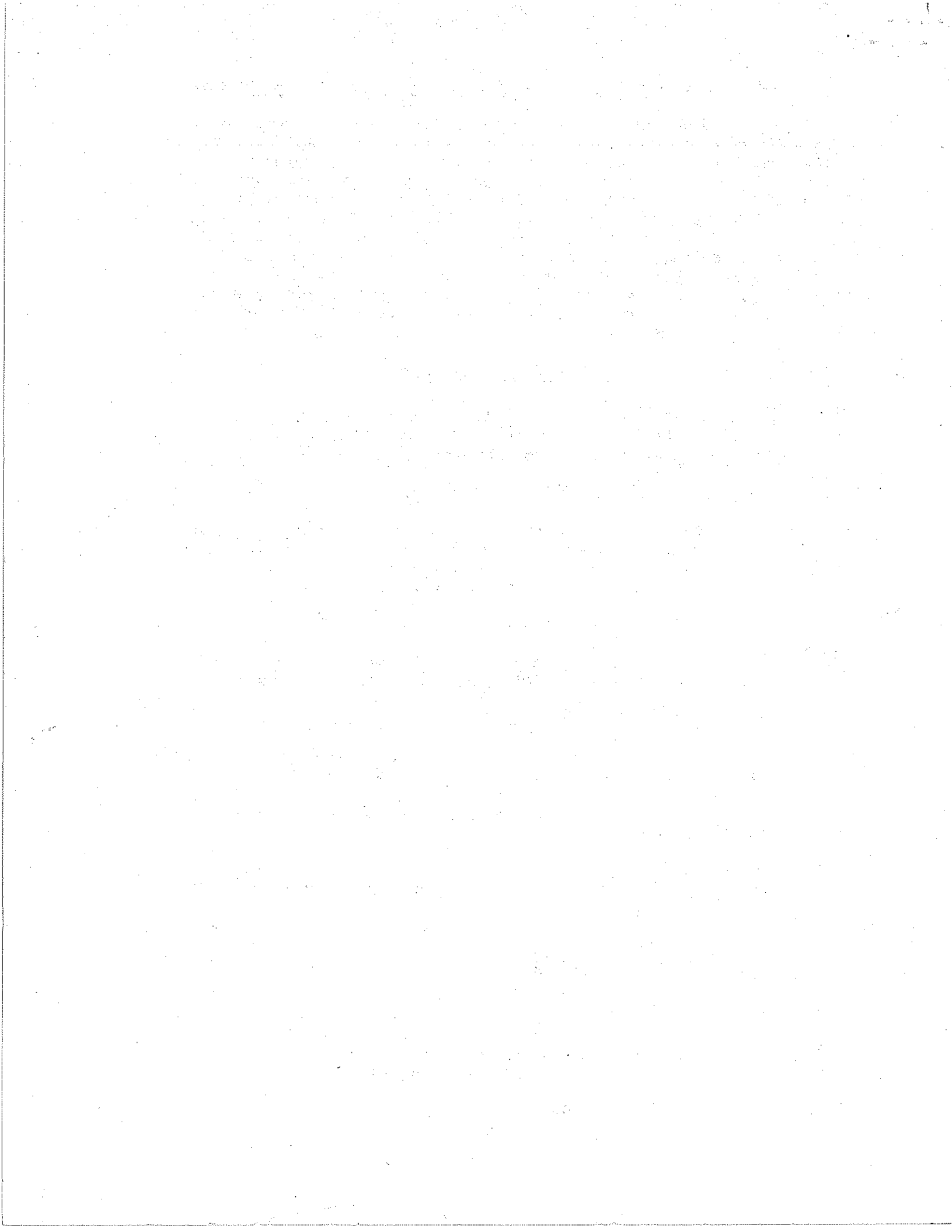


F516: Proseminar in Folklore Theories and Techniques: R.M. Dorson (3 cr.)

This proseminar is designed to introduce beginning graduate students in the Folklore Department to the fields, genres, and theories of folklore, the tools and technical terminology used in contemporary folklore scholarship, the methods of folklore research in the society, library, archives, museums, and mass media, the relation of folklore to other disciplines, and the expressive nature of folklore data. Based on the conviction that learning through active participation is more effective, the members of the proseminar are assigned eight papers on eight relevant topics during the semester. Also, the members of the proseminar are expected to report the gist of some of their papers to the class, and to take part in discussing the issues raised in the class. Grades for the course are based on the papers that the students write and the contributions that they make to the class discussions.

Fall 1979, Lecture Topics

- Aug. 28. Objectives and strategies of the course, discussion of the terms folklore, fakelore, folklife, Volkskunde, Volkerkunde, ethnography, and ethnology in historical and conceptual plans.
- Sept. 4. Fields and genres of folklore, professional skills of folklorists.
- Sept. 11. Introduction to Finnish Method, concepts of type and motif, comparison of motif with function as introduced by V. Propp, etic and emic structural units used by Dundes, concepts of automigration, selfcorrection, ur-form, and oicotype.  
Introduction to the Indianist School of Folklore.
- Sept. 18. Introduction to Levi-Strauss' linguistic model to structuralism: concepts of binary opposition, mediation, surface and deep structure.  
Introduction to the Formulaic Theory of Folklore.
- Sept. 25. Introduction to Celestial Mythological and Psychoanalytical schools of folklore, comparison of the two schools' symbolism.
- Oct. 2. Introduction to functionalism, contextualism, and orientation to performance.
- Oct. 9. The rationale and the inherent problems of genre studies in folklore. Introduction to folk narratives, and narrative folksongs.
- Oct. 16. Introduction to recreation and games, folk religion, folk medicine.
- Oct. 23. Introduction to performing arts: folk music, folk dance, and folk theatre.
- Oct. 30. Introduction to folk arts, crafts, and architecture.
- Nov. 6. Folklore and related disciplines: folklore and literature, folklore and history, folklore and anthropology, folklore and psychology.
- Nov. 13. Folklore and related discipline continued.



F516: Proseminar, Folklore Theories and Techniques

Fall 1979 Assignments

Richard M. Dorson

- Report 1. Folklore and Fakelore: Write an evaluative report of one volume in the Folktales of the World Series. Sept. 17
- Report 2. Fieldwork: Collect three jokes, and give informant data and analysis of meaning of each text. Comment on the usefulness of MacDonal'd's chapter in Folklore and Folklife for your collecting. Sept. 24
- Report 3. Terminology: Write a report on the definitions and uses of one folklore term discussed in Folklore and Folklife. Oct. 8
- Report 4. Bibliography: Prepare a classified list of ten items on one folklore topic, following the model of the chapter bibliographies in Folklore and Folklife. Oct. 22
- Report 5. Library: Write a report on holdings on folklore in a library other than the university library, e.g. on Lilly Library, Music Library, Education Library, Business School Library, Monroe County Library. Oct. 29
- Report 6. Archiving: Write a report on holdings in 1) the Folklore Archives, 2) the Archives of Traditional Music. Refer to List's three chapters in Folklore and Folklife. Nov. 5
- Report 7. Folklife and Material Culture: Describe one folk artifact in the Museum of Anthropology, Folklore, and History in terms of its craftsmanship and functions. Consult the chapters by Roberts, Glassie, and Jenkins in Folklore and Folklife. Nov. 12
- Report 8. Indexing: Trace the type and motif references of one tale in your Folktales of the World volume in an extended note. Refer to Degh's chapter in Folklore and Folklife. Nov. 26
- Report 9. Folklore in the Mass Media. Cull six or more folklore items from the mass media and explain their use and appeal. Dec. 3

1967-68 Annual Report of the Department of Health

Section 1: General Information

1.1 Introduction

The Department of Health has the honor to acknowledge the assistance of the various departments and agencies in the preparation of this report.

The Department of Health is pleased to report that the health of the people of the Province has improved during the past year. This is due to the efforts of the various departments and agencies in the Department of Health.

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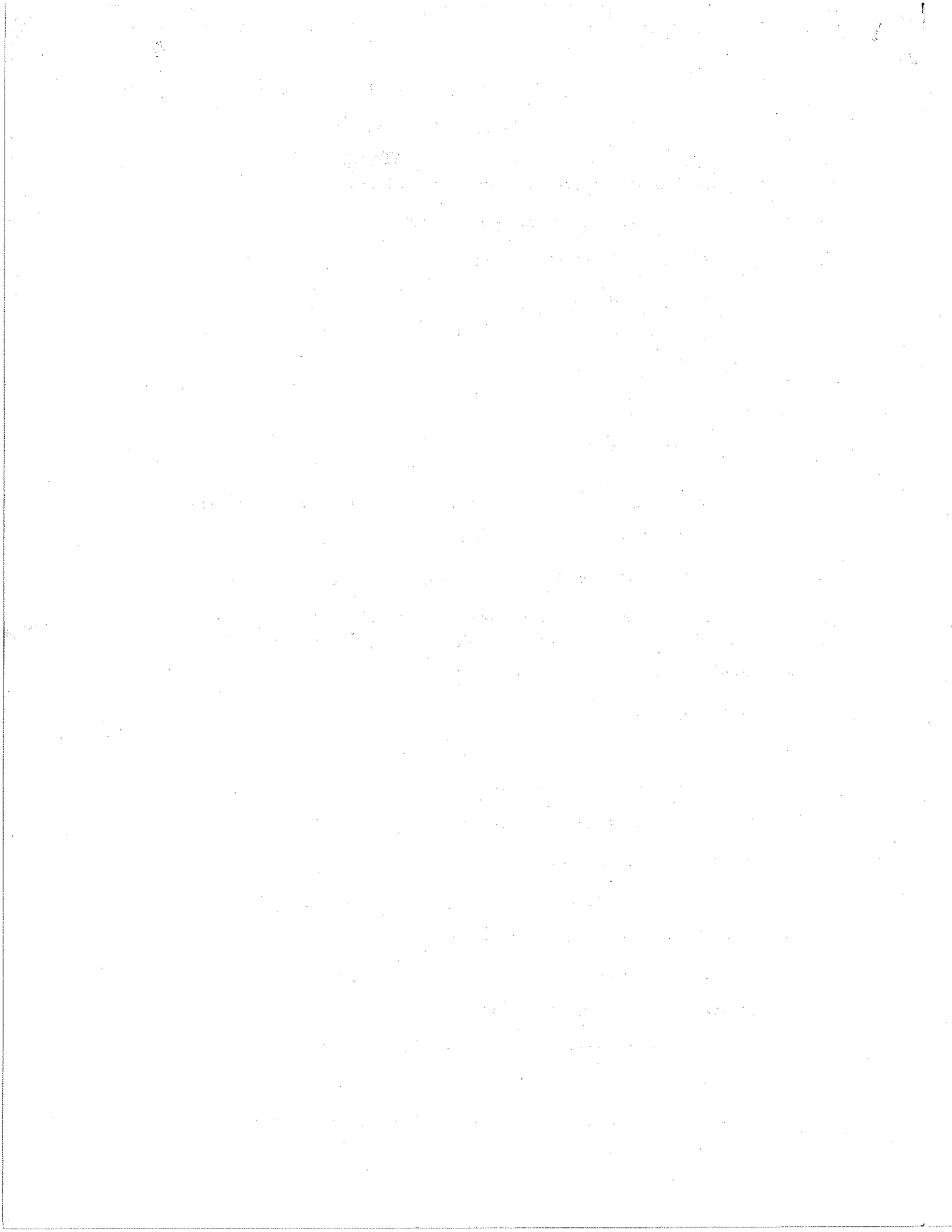
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ACADEMIC WRITING: SOME PERSONAL TESTS

by Richard M. Dorson

1. Do you reread your paper? How many times?
2. Do you have peers read and criticize it?
3. Do you rewrite it substantially?
4. Do you use "this" without a noun?
5. Do you use the passive voice without a subject?
6. Do you use "in that"?
7. Do you write every day?
8. Do you read poetry? Literature? Philosophy?
9. Do you read scholarly articles/books for style as well as content?
10. Do you choose topic sentences for each paragraph?
11. Do you introduce personal statements, judgments, anecdotes?
12. Do you read intellectual magazines/reviews? Which?  
(e.g. New York Review of Books, New Republic, Commentary)
13. Do you make an outline before you write?
14. Have you read the Great Team?
15. Do you judge oral folklore aesthetically?
16. Do you use excessive academic jargon?
17. Do you use anthropological style?
18. Do you consult dictionaries? the O.E.D.?
19. Do you think of your book/article as a dramatic tale?
20. Do you begin sentences with "however"?
21. Do you end sentences with weak words, e.g. prepositions?
22. Do you overuse texts and quotations?
23. Do you lead in grammatically to indented quotations?
24. Do you end sentences with participial clauses?
25. Do you weigh the balance, the feel, the rhythm of sentences?



26. Do you enjoy expressing ideas with the greatest possible clarity?
27. Do your pronouns refer to the immediately preceding noun?
28. Do you use etc., and/or?
29. Do you think of making your writings readable?
30. Do you have ideas about what constitutes readability?
31. Do you believe that to be readable is to be unscholarly?

