

**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:

- Whatley, Mariamne H. and Elissa R. Henken. 2000. *Did You Hear About the Girl Who...?: Contemporary Legends, Folklore, and Human Sexuality*. New York: New York University Press. (Available at UO Bookstore and on reserve at Knight Library)
- All other readings are available electronically on Blackboard.
 - Login to ENG 250 through your Blackboard account. [<https://blackboard.uoregon.edu>]
 - Click on "Control Panel", then "Course Documents," then "Assigned Readings"
 - 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
- Fine, Gary Alan and Patricia A. Turner. 2001. The Wages of Sin: Stories of Sex and Immorality. In *Whispers on the Color Line: Rumor and Race in America*, pp. 147-66. Berkeley: University of California Press.

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:

- Rosemary Zumwalt. 1976. "Plain and Fancy: A Content Analysis of Children's Jokes Dealing with Adult Sexuality" *Western Folklore* 35(4): 258-67.
- Sherman, Josepha and T.K.F. Weisskopf. 1995. In the Beginning: Sex, Pregnancy, and Birth. In *Greasy Grimy Gopher Guts: The Subversive Folklore of Childhood*, pp. 32-52. Little Rock: August House Publishers, Inc.

WEDNESDAY, 10/10

Readings:

- Thompson, Tok. 2000. Reports from the Archives: Sexual Games of the American Male. *Midwestern Folklore* 26(2): 11-17.
 - Mechling, Jay. 2001. Day 3/Tuesday. In *On My Honor: Boy Scouts and the Making of American Youth*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
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WEEK 4: FOLKLORE, SEX, AND FAIRYTALES: THE CASE OF LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

MONDAY, 10/15 *TERM PAPER PROPOSALS DUE*****

Readings:

- Perrault, Charles. 1989. Little Red Riding Hood. In *Little Red Riding Hood: A Case Book*, ed. Alan Dundes, pp. 3-6. Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press.
- Grimm, Jakob and Wilhelm. 1989. Little Red Cap (Rotkäppchen). In *Little Red Riding Hood: A Case Book*, ed. Alan Dundes, pp. 7-12. Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press.
- Zipes, Jack. 1993. The Trials and Tribulations of Little Red Riding Hood. In *The Trial and Tribulations of Little Red Riding Hood*, pp. 17-88. New York: Routledge.

WEDNESDAY, 10/17

Reading: Beckett, Sandra L. 2001-2002. Who's Afraid of Little Red Riding Hood? Play, Parody, and Political Correctness in Contemporary Retellings. *CREArTA* 2(2): 30-43.

WEEK 5: FOLKLORE, SEX, FOOTBALL, AND WAR

MONDAY, 10/22

Readings:

- Dundes, Alan. 1980. Into the Endzone for a Touchdown: A Psychoanalytic Consideration of American Football. In *Interpreting Folklore*, pp. 199-210. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- Dundes, Alan and Carl Pagter. 1991. The Mobile SCUD Missile Launcher and Other Persian Gulf Warlore: An American Folk Image of Saddam Hussein's Iraq. *Western folklore*. 50(3):303-22.

WEDNESDAY, 10/24 *MIDTERM*****

WEEK 6: FOLKLORE, SEX, AND HETERONORMATIVE MASCULINITIES

MONDAY, 10/29 ***FOLKLORE EXAMPLES: GROUP #2***

Readings:

- Lyman, Peter. 1987. The Fraternal Bond as a Joking Relationship: A Case Study of the Role of Sexist Jokes in Male Group Bonding. In *Changing Men: New Directions in Research on Men and Masculinity*, ed. Michael S. Kimmel. pp. 148-63. Newbury Park, CA: SAGE.

WEDNESDAY, 10/31

- Pena, Manuel. 2006. Folklore, Machismo and Everyday Practice. *Western Folklore* 65(1-2): 137-66.

WEEK 7: FOLKLORE, SEX, AND HETERONORMATIVE FEMININITIES

MONDAY, 11/5

Reading: Stoeltje, Beverly. 1996. The Snake Charmer Queen: Ritual, Competition, and Signification in American Festival. In *Beauty Queens on the Global Stage: Gender, Contests, and Power*, eds. Cohen, Wilk, and Stoeltje, pp. 13-29. New York: Routledge.

Video: *Venom in a Jar*

WEDNESDAY, 11/7

Readings: Pershing, Linda. 1993. "She Really Wanted to Be Her Own Woman": Scandalous Sunbonnet Sue. *Feminist Messages: Coding in Women's Folk Culture*, ed. Joan Newlon Radner, pp. 98-125. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

WEEK 8: FOLKLORE, SEX, AND BODIES

MONDAY, 11/12

Reading:

- Banks, Ingrid. 2000. "Splitting Hairs: Power, Choice, and Femininity." In *Hair Matters: Beauty, Power, and Black Women's Consciousness*. New York: New York University Press.
- Pitts, Victoria L. 2003. Reclaiming the Female Body: Women Body Modifiers and Feminist Debates. In *In the Flesh: The Cultural Politics of Body Modification*, pp. 49-86. Macmillan: Palgrave.

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

Reading: Thomas, Jeannie. 1997. Dumb blondes, Dan Quayle, and Hillary Clinton: Gender, Sexuality, and Stupidity in Jokes. *Journal of American Folklore*. 110 (437): 277-313.

WEEK 9: FOLKLORE, CODING, AND COMMUNICATION IN GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITIES

MONDAY, 11/19

Readings:

- Goodwin, Joseph. 1989. It Takes One to Know One: Communication and Identification in the Gay Subculture. In *More Man than You'll Ever Be: Gay Folklore and Acculturation in Middle America*, pp. 11-28. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- Laude, Jan. 1993. Body Rhetoric: A Study in Lesbian Coding. *New York Folklore* 19 (1-2):105-20,

WEDNESDAY, 11/21:

Readings:

- Gilley, Brian. 2005. Two-Spirit Powwows and the Search for Social Acceptance in Indian Country. In *Powwow*, eds. Clyde Ellis, Luke Eric Lassiter, and Gary H. Dunham, pp. 224-40. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.
- Harris, Curtis and Leota Lone Dog (interviewed by Deborah Blincoe). 1993. Two Spirited People: Understanding Who We Are as Creation. *New York Folklore* 19 (1-2): 155-64.

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****