

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 and by appt.

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Required Texts:

- Georges, Robert A. and Michael Owen Jones. *Folkloristics: An Introduction*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- Toelken, Barre. 1996. *The Dynamics of Folklore*. Logan: Utah State Press.
- Feintuch, Burt, ed. 2003. *Eight Words for the Study of Expressive Culture*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.
- Dundes, Alan, ed. 1999. *International Folkloristics*. New York: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc.
- Bendix, Regina. 1997. *In Search of Authenticity: The Formation of Folklore Studies*. Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press.
- Noyes, Dorothy. 2003. *Fire in the Plaça: Catalan Festival Politics after Franco*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania 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.

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"
- Del Negro, Giovanna P. and Harris M. Berger. 2004. "New Directions in the Study of Everyday Life: Expressive Culture and the Interpretation of Practice." In *Identity and Everyday Life: Essays in the Study of Folklore, Music, and Popular Culture*, pp. 3-22. Middleton, CN: Wesleyan University Press. [BB]

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"
- Dundes, Alan. 1977. "Who are the Folk." In *Frontiers of Folklore*, ed. William R. Bascom, pp. 17-35. Boulder: Westview Press. [BB]
- [BB]
- Noyes, "Group" in *Eight Words*.
- Abrahams, "Identity" in *Eight Words*.
- Bauman, Richard. "Differential Identity and the Social Base of Folklore." In *Toward New Perspectives in Folklore*, eds. Américo Paredes and Richard Bauman, pp. 40-53. Bloomington, IN: Trickster Press. [BB]
- Del Negro, Giovanna P. and Harris M. Berger. 2004. "Identity Reconsidered, the World Doubled." In *Identity and Everyday Life: Essays in the Study of Folklore, Music, and Popular Culture*, pp. 124-57. Middleton, CN: Wesleyan University Press. [BB]

Week 3, 10/12: Historical Perspectives

Readings:

- Georges and Jones, Ch. 2, "Folklore as a Historical Science" & Ch. 5 "The Dissemination of Folklore"
- Burns, Thomas A. 1989. "Folkloristics: A Conception of Theory." In *Folk Groups and Folklore Genres: A Reader*, ed. Elliott Oring, pp. 1-20. Logan: Utah State University Press. [BB]
- Wilson, William A. 1989. "Herder, Folklore and Romantic Nationalism." In *Folk Groups and Folklore Genres: A Reader*, ed. Elliott Oring, pp. 21-37. Logan: Utah State University Press [BB]
- 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*
- Fox, Jennifer. 1993. The Creator Gods: Romantic Nationalism and the En-Genderment of Women in Folklore. In *Feminist Theory and the Study of Folklore*, eds. Susan Tower Hollis et. al., 29-40. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. [BB]

RECOMMENDED

Zumwalt, Rosemary Lévy. 1988. *American Folklore Scholarship: A Dialogue of Dissent*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

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

Readings:

- Georges and Jones, Ch. 3, "Survivals, Revivals & Continuities"
- Dell Hymes. 1975. "Folklore's Nature and the Sun's Myth." *The Journal of American Folklore* 88 (350): 345-69. [BB]
- Ben-Amos, "The Seven Strands of Tradition: Varieties in its Meaning in American Folklore Studies." *Journal of Folklore Research* 21 (2): 97-131. [BB]
- Handler and Linneken. 1989. "Tradition, Genuine or Spurious." In *Folk Groups and Folklore Genres: A Reader*, ed. Elliott Oring, pp. 38-42. Logan: Utah State University Press. [BB]
- Glassie, "Tradition," *Eight Words*
- Gilman, Lisa. 2004. "The Traditionalization of Women's Dancing, Hegemony, and Politics in Malawi." *Journal of Folklore Research* 41(1): 33-61. [BB]

Week 5, 10/26: Authenticity

Reading:

- Bendix, Regina. 1997. *In Search of Authenticity: The Formation of Folklore Studies*. Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press.

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*
- Ben-Amos, Dan 1976. "Analytical Categories and Ethnic Genres." In *Folklore Genres*, ed. Ben Amos, pp.215-242. Austin: U of Texas Press. [BB]
- Briggs, Charles and Richard Bauman. 1992. Genre, Intertextuality, and Social Power. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 2(2): 131-72. [BB]
- Flueckiger, Joyce Burkhalter. 1991. Genre and Community in the Folklore System of Chattisgarh. In *Gender, Genre, and Power in South Asian Expressive Traditions*, eds. Arjun Appadurai, Frank J. Korom, and Margaret Mills, pp. 181-2000. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania press. [BB]
- Cashman, Ray. 2007. Genre and Ideology in Northern Ireland. *Midwestern Folklore* 33(1): 14-27. [BB]
- Gilman, Lisa. 2009. Genre and the Analysis of Complex Performances: The Case of a Malawian Political Rally. *Journal of American Folklore* 122 (485): 335-62. [BB]

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

Readings:

- Ben-Amos, Dan. 2000 [1972]. "Toward a Definition of Folklore in Context." In *Toward New Perspectives in Folklore*, ed. Américo Paredes and Richard Bauman, pp. 3-19. Bloomington, IN: Trickster Press.
- Titon, "Text," in *Eight Words*
- Hufford, "Context" in *Eight Words*.
- Gabbert, Lisa. 1999. "The Text/Context Controversy" and the Emergence of Behavioral Approaches in Folklore. *Folklore Forum* 30 (1-2): 119-28.
- Jordan-Smith. 1999. Folk Event Analysis. *Folklore Forum* 30 (1-2): 45-54.
- Bauman, Richard. 1992. Performance. In *Folklore, Cultural Performances, and Popular Entertainments: A Communications-Centered Handbook*, ed. Bauman, pp. 41-49
- Kapchan, Performance. In *Eight Words*

Week 9, 11/23: Fire in the Plaça

Reading:

- Noyes, Dorothy. 2003. *Fire in the Plaça: Catalan Festival Politics after Franco*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. [PART 1 & PART 2]

Week 10, 11/30: Fire in the Plaça

Reading:

- Noyes, Dorothy. 2003. *Fire in the Plaça: Catalan Festival Politics after Franco*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. [PART 3 & PART 4]

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

*****Annotated Bibliography DUE & Presentations*****