English 2270: INTRODUCTION TO FOLKLORE
Spring Semester 2013
Stillman Hall 0245, Tu/Th 11:10-12:30

Instructor: Ray Cashman
Phone: 247-8257
E-mail: cashman.10@osu.edu
Email me to schedule an appointment outside of class

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of this class is to explore central issues in the study of folklore by introducing you to a range of traditional verbal art, custom, and material culture from a number of different regions and ethnic groups. Central issues include the dynamics of tradition, creativity and artistic expression, personal and group identity, and making everyday experience meaningful.

No prior knowledge of folklore is assumed or required. Most important are your curiosity about people like you and different from you, your ability to keep up with the reading and written assignments, and your willingness to share your ideas with colleagues in class discussions.

This course is required for the undergraduate folklore minor and major (for more information, go to http://cfs.osu.edu/programs/undergraduate/default.cfm). This course also serves as a GEC Arts and Humanities Cultures and Ideas Course.

In GEC classes of this category students evaluate significant writing and works of art (including oral literature and verbal arts). Such studies develop capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgment; interpretation and evaluation; critical listening, reading, seeing, thinking and writing; and experiencing the arts and reflecting on that experience.

Expected learning outcomes include: 1) Students develop abilities to be informed observers of, or active participants in, the visual, spatial, performing, spoken, or literary arts, 2) students develop an understanding of the foundations of human beliefs, the nature of reality, and the norms that guide human behavior, and 3) students examine and interpret how the human condition and human values are explored through works of art and expressive culture.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

• Oring, Elliott. Folk Groups and Folklore Genres: An Introduction (Logan: Utah State
• Glassie, Henry. All Silver and No Brass: An Irish Christmas Mumming (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, 1975)
• Several articles and chapters available via Carmen
ASSIGNMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS:

**In-class assignments:**

Throughout the semester, we will have unannounced in-class quizzes on your readings. These assignments are intended to encourage you to keep up with readings, think about readings, take notes on readings, and review your notes before class. The weight of these quizzes varies (some are more challenging and count more than others). Make up quizzes are not offered (so don’t skip class). I will drop your lowest quiz grade (you’re welcome).

**Collection Project, Midterm, and Final Exam:**

Larger graded assignments include a fieldwork collection and analysis project, a midterm exam, and a final exam—altogether 80% of your final grade. For the collection project, you will go out into the world, record and transcribe folk narratives, and offer written analyses of them. The midterm exam will include multiple choice, short-answer, and essay questions concerning information up to that point in the semester. The final will be a take-home essay exam.

**Promptness, attendance, and their effects on your grade:**

Lateness is disruptive, and it is inconsiderate to your fellow classmates and to me. Please come on time. Another reason to come on time is that you will take quizzes at the beginning of class. In order for you to have enough time to complete quizzes, you must be in class on time. Again, make-up quizzes are not offered.

I expect you at every class session, barring significant illness or other unavoidable emergency. I will take attendance every day. After two absences your participation grade and, by extension, your final grade will suffer. In keeping with departmental policy, five absences constitute grounds for failure in the course. If you miss a class, I will not hunt you down to fuss at you. It is your responsibility to contact fellow students and/or me for help catching up.

Finally, in addition to counting against your Final Grade, absences and lateness will diminish your understanding of the issues raised by in-class multi-media materials and the trajectory of the course as a whole. Much of our time together will be spent watching slides and videos and listening to audio that I have taken a great deal of care to make, gather, and organize for presentation. I cannot repeat these multi-media performances, and usually other people’s notes fail to convey the full experience.

**Final grades will be figured as follows:**

- 10% Participation (includes both attendance and contribution to in-class discussions)
- 10% Quizzes
- 20% Fieldwork collection and analysis project
- 30% Midterm exam
- 30% Final exam
Due dates:

“Late work is a sure sign of indolence, shiftlessness, and moral turpitude,” says Richard Bauman. Contact me ASAP if you have compelling, verifiable reasons to need an extension. Otherwise, grades on late work will plummet one third of a letter (e.g., C- to D+) for each day it is late.

Plagiarism:

Don’t do it. Plagiarism is the representation of another's work or ideas as one's own. It includes the unacknowledged word for word use and/or paraphrasing of another person's work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person's ideas.” All cases of suspected plagiarism, in accordance with university rules, will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. For a longer discussion of plagiarism, go to:

http://cstw.osu.edu/writingcenter/handouts/research_plagiarism

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES AND SERVICES:

Center for the Study of the Teaching of Writing (CSTW)

The Writing Center staff can help you with general writing strategies as well as specific assignments. Visit www.cstw.org or call 688-4291 or 292-5607 for an appointment. See http://cstw.osu.edu/writingCenter/handouts/default.cfm for guides to many aspects of writing, from the general composition process to specifics of grammar and documentation.

The Office for Disability Services,

Located in 150 Pomerane Hall, ODS offers services for students with documented disabilities. Contact ODS at 292-3307 if you wish to schedule an appointment or consult with staff there.
CLASS SCHEDULE (subject to revisions)

Introduction to the course and fundamental terms and ideas in the study of folklore

1. January 8
   - No readings due
   Film: The Ballad of Frankie Silver (or possibly another day if we run out of time)

2. January 10
   - Carmen: Schoemaker, George. “Introduction: Basic Concepts of Folkloristics”
   - Oring pp. 1-22, Chp. 1 “On the Concepts of Folklore”
   Film: Gandy Dancers

3. January 15
   - Oring pp. 23-44, Chp. 2 “Ethnic Groups and Ethnic Folklore”
   Film: Chulas Fronteras

Overview of Major Narrative Genres (Myth, Folktale, Legend)

4. January 17
   - Oring pp. 121-45, Chp. 6 “Folk Narratives”
   Film: Emergence, The Navajo Creation Myth

5. January 22
   - Oring pp. 121-45, Chp. 6 “Folk Narratives” (continued)
   Film: Swapping Stories

Historical Legends: Local and Personal; Historical Accuracy vs. Subjective Truth

6. January 24
   - Carmen: Basso, Keith. “Stalking with Stories”
   - Carmen: Alver, Brynjulf. “Historical Legends and Historical Truth” (at least start)

7. January 29
   - Carmen: Alver, Brynjulf. “Historical Legends and Historical Truth” (finish)
   - Carmen: O’Brien, Tim. “How to Tell a True War Story”
Supernatural Legend and Folk Belief

8. January 31


9. February 5

- Carmen: Hufford, David. “Beings Without Bodies”

Urban Legends; Modern Beliefs, Values, and Anxieties

10. February 7

- Brunvand book in its entirety, from “Preface” through the “Afterword.” (This may seem like a lot of reading, but trust me—you will find that it is face-paced and entertaining.)

11. February 12

- No new readings, but be sure to have finished Brunvand

Film: Mostly True Tales

MIDTERM EXAM

12. February 14

- Midterm exam during class time

Local Character Anecdotes, Tall Tales, and Jokes; The Fieldwork Project

13. February 19

- Carmen: Mullen, Patrick. “Local Character Anecdotes” and “Tall Tales”
- Carmen: Peck, Catherine. “Local Character Anecdotes Down East”
- Carmen: Smith, Moira. “Jokes”

14. February 21

\textit{The Folktale}

15. February 26

- Carmen: Ó Conaill, Seán. “The Twelve Brothers”
- Carmen: Fallasi, Alessandro. “Cinderella in Tuscany”

16. February 28

- Carmen: Chase, Richard. “Old Fire Dragaman”

Film: Appalachian Journey

\textit{Folk Song and Ballad}

17. March 5

- Oring pp. 147-74, Chap. 7 “Ballads and Folksongs” (Toelken)

Film: Write Me a Corrido

18. March 7

No new readings.

\textit{Meet at the Center for Folklore Studies Archives in the Ohio Stadium between gates 18 and 20}

\textit{Spring Break}

No classes March 12 and 14

\textit{Collection and Analysis Projects}

19. March 19

Cancelled. Use this time to complete your collection and analysis projects

20. March 21

Lightening presentations of collected folklore

\textbf{COLLECTION PROJECTS ARE DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS}
Folk Custom I: Folk Medicine, Rites of Passage, Calendar Customs

21. March 26

- Carmen: O’Connor, Bonnie and David Hufford. “Understanding Folk Medicine”

Film: Spirit Doctors

22. March 28

- Carmen: Ancelet, Barry. “Mardi Gras”

Film: Dance for a Chicken

Folk Custom II: The Performance of Community, Tradition, and Identity

23. April 2

Start

- Carmen: Cashman, Ray. “Christmas Mumming Today in Northern Ireland”
- Glassie book, pp. xi-49, “Preface” through “Four Conversations” (Ellen Cutler, Hugh Nolan, Peter and Joseph Flanagan, Michael Boyle) and pp. 68-151, “Geography,” “Performance,” “Meaning,” “Function,” “Fare Thee Well for a While”

24. April 4

Finish

- Carmen: Cashman, Ray. “Christmas Mumming Today in Northern Ireland”
- Glassie book, pp. xi-49, “Preface” through “Four Conversations” (Ellen Cutler, Hugh Nolan, Peter and Joseph Flanagan, Michael Boyle) and pp. 68-151, “Geography,” “Performance,” “Meaning,” “Function,” “Fare Thee Well for a While”

Folk Art and Material Culture

25. April 9

- Oring pp. 199-223, Chp. 9 “Folk Objects” (Bronner)

26. April 11

- Carmen: Glassie, Henry. “The Potter’s Art”
Folklore and Worldview; Recap and Review

27. April 16

• Carmen: Toelken, Barre. “Folklore and Cultural Worldview”

Film: Hopi: Songs of the Fourth World

28. April 18

Film: Hopi: Songs of the Fourth World (continued)

The FINAL EXAM will be due in our Carmen dropbox by noon on Thursday April 25
BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR “INTRODUCTION TO FOLKLORE”


O’Brien, Tim. “How to Tell a True War Story” from The Things They Carried (New York: Broadway, 1990), pp. 75-91.


Smith, Moira. “Jokes” from The Emergence of Folklore in Everyday Life (Bloomington: Trickster Press, 1989), pp. 73-82.


