

ANTH 330u: Anthropology of Folklore

Spring 2006

Professor: Margaret Everett

Office: 141q Cramer Hall, Anthropology Department

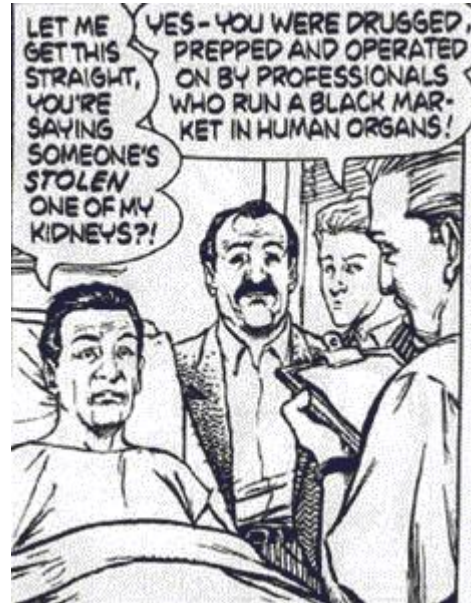
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Course Description:

This course will review folklore -- including legend, folktales, folk music and dance -- and its role in society. Folklore, in both western and non-western contexts, can reveal social relations, conflict and resistance, social change, and oral history. In this class we will explore vampire beliefs, American urban legends, carnival, culinary tourism, and songs from the Texas-Mexican border in order to develop an understanding of forms and meanings of folklore in a variety of cultural settings.



Readings:

The following book has been ordered and are available at the PSU Bookstore.

Brunvand, Jan Harold. *Curses! Broiled Again! The Hottest Urban Legends Going*. Norton, 1989.

All other assigned readings are available in the "course content" module on WebCT (see below). There is a reading list of all readings at the end of the syllabus.

Assignments:

Attendance and reading assignments are required and essential for successfully completing this course. Students should keep up with weekly reading assignments and contribute to class discussion. The course grade will be based on a mid-term and final exam (35% each) and a folklore project based on original research (5-6 pages, 30%).

Folklore Project:

Choose a specific example of a folklore motif, collect at least three versions of it, and analyze it for content and meaning. You can collect examples through an internet search, interviews with friends and family, library research, etc. as appropriate. What can you find out about the history and origins of this motif? What do you notice about the variations in the versions you collect? What do you think the meaning and significance of this motif is? Use class readings and discussions, and other resources as needed, to guide your analysis.

Policies:

A student who is taking a class on a pass-no-pass basis must earn a grade of ‘C’ or better in order to pass the course. All required work must be completed in order to receive a grade. Late assignments will lose one-half grade per day following the due date, except in cases of verifiable emergency or illness.

Disabilities Statement:

Any student with a documented disability condition (e.g., physical, learning, psychological, vision, or hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact both the instructor and the Disability Resources Center at the beginning of the term.

WebCT:

Course syllabus, handouts, assignments, and lecture outlines will be available on WebCT. All students can access WebCT with an odin account. To login, or to find out how to get a login ID and password, go to www.webct.pdx.edu. For students who have never accessed WebCT before, your login ID is your odin user ID, and your password is usually the last 4 digits of your student identification number. If you do not have an odin account, you can find out how to get one at <https://www.account.pdx.edu>.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Reading	Activities and Assignments
4/3	Introduction		
4/5	The Study of Folklore	“Gathering Family Stories” AND “Researching Verbal Performance”	
4/7	The Study of Folklore	Dundes “Into the Endzone for a Touchdown: A Psychoanalytic Consideration of American Football” Meltzer, “Jest Deserts”	
4/10	Telling Stories: Little Red Riding Hood and Gender Roles	Read the four versions of Little Red Riding Hood at: http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/typ e0333.html#perrault Read “Little Red Riding Hood” From <i>Politically Correct Bedtime Stories</i> (webct)	
4/12	Folktales in Social Context	Caughran, “Shiva and Parvati: Public and Private Reflections of Stories in	

		North India” (webct)	
4/14	Folk Ballads	Wollstadt, “A Good Man is Hard to Find” (webct)	
4//17	Corridos		Video: Chulas Fronteras
4/19	Corridos	Flores, “The Corrido and the Emergence of Texas-Mexican Social Identity” (webct) See: http://www.corridos.org	
4/21	Narcocorridos and Narco-folklore	Campbell, “Drug Trafficking Stories” (webct)	
4/24	Vampires and the Un-dead		Video: Dracula, The True Story
4/26	Vampires	Atwater, Cheryl, “Living in Death” (webct)	
4/28	Vampires	Fine, “In Defense of Vampires” (webct)	
5/1	The Windigo	Podruchny, “Werewolves and Windigos”	Guest Speaker: Shawn Smallman
5/3	MIDTERM EXAM		In Class Exam
5/5	Foodways and Culinary Tourism	Williams, “Why Migrant Women Feed Their Husbands Tamales” (webct)	
5/8	Foodways and Culinary Tourism	Molz, “Tasting an Imagined Thailand”	
5/10	Folklore and Resistance		Video: The Quilt Makers of Gees Bend
5/12	Folklore and Resistance	James Scott. Domination and the Arts of Resistance: Hidden Transcripts. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1990, preface, pp.136-182 (packet).	
5/15	Carnival: The World Upside-Down		Video: Carnival in Switzerland: A World Upside-Down
5/17	Folklore and Social Control		
5/19	Folklore and Social Control	Carmen Ortiz, “The Uses of Folklore by the Franco Regime” (webct)	
5/22	Folklore on the Internet		Folklore Projects

			Due In Class
5/24	Urban Legends and Their Meanings		
5/26	Urban Legends and Their Meanings	Brunvand, Curses! Broiled Again!	
5/29	MEMORIAL DAY		
5/31	Appalachian Folklore		Video: Appalachian Journey
6/2	Folkdance	Nahachewsky, "New Ethnicity and Canadian Ukrainian Social Dances" (webct)	
6/5	Folkdance		Video: Who Says Folklore Can't be Fun!
6/7	Review		
6/9	Review		

Reading List:

- "Gathering Family Stories" IN Sunstein and Chiser-Strater. *Fieldworking* (2002, 2nd edition). Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's Press. 345-349.
- "Researching Verbal Performance: Urban Legend" IN Sunstein and Chiser-Strater. *Fieldworking* (2002, 2nd edition). Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's Press.
- Atwater, Cheryl. "Living in Death: The Evolution of Modern Vampirism." *Journal of the Anthropology of Consciousness* 11:1-2(2000): 70-77.
- Brunvand. *Curses! Broiled Again!* Norton, 1989.
- Campbell, Howard. "Drug Trafficking Stories: Everyday Forms of Narco-folklore on the U.S.-Mexico Border." *International Journal of Drug Policy* 16:5 (October 2005): 326-333.
- Caughran, Neema. Caughran, "Shiva and Parvati: Public and Private Reflections of Stories in North India." *Journal of American Folklore* 112:446 (Fall 1999): 514-526.
- Dundes, Alan. "Into the Endzone for a Touchdown: A Psychoanalytic Consideration of American Football." IN *Talking About People*, Haviland and Gordon, eds. Mayfield, 1993: 64-70.
- Exerpts from the American Song Reader on Git Along Little Dogies, Home on the Range, For He's a Jolly Good Fellow, and Ninety-Nine Bottles of Beer on the Wall
- Fine, John. "In Defense of Vampires." IN *The Vampire: A Casebook*, Alan Dundes, ed. 57-66.
- Flores, Richard. "The Corrido and the Emergence of Texas-Mexican Social Identity." *Journal of American Folklore* 105:416(1992): 166-182.
- Meltzer, William. "Jest Deserts: Audience Reactions to Puns." IN *Researching American Culture: A Guide for Student Anthropologists*, Kottak, ed. University of Michigan Press, 1982: 145-150.
- Molz, Jennie. "Tasting an Imagined Thailand: Authenticity and Culinary Tourism in Thai Restaurants." IN *Culinary Tourism*, Lucy Long, ed. University of Kentucky Press.
- Mufwane, Salikoko. "Forms of Address: How Their Social Functions May Vary." IN *Talking About People*, Haviland and Gordon, eds. Mayfield, 1993: 46-48.

- Ortiz, Carmen. "The Uses of Folklore by the Franco Regime." *Journal of American Folklore* 112:446 (Fall 1999): 479-496.
- Podruchny, Carolyn. "Werewolves and Windigos: Narratives of Cannibal Monsters in French-Canadian Voyageur Oral Traditions." *Ethnohistory* 51:4 (Fall 2004): 677-699.
- Scott, James. Chapter 6 ("Voices Under Domination: The Arts of Political Disguise") IN *Domination and the Arts of Resistance*. Yale: 1990, pages 136-182.
- Williams, Brett. "Why Migrant Women Feed Their Husbands Tamales: Foodways as a Basis for a Revisionist View of Tejano Family Life." IN *Talking About People*, Haviland and Gordon, eds. Mayfield, 1993: 130-136.
- Wollstadt, Lynn. "A Good Man is Hard to Find: Positive Masculinity in the Ballads Sung by Scottish Women." IN *The Flowering Thorn*, McKean, ed. Utah State Press, 2003: 67-