

Faculty of Arts
Canadian Studies CNST 337- Lecture 01
INTRODUCTION TO FOLKLORE:
The Canadian Context

Winter 2014
TR 14:00 - 15:15
SB-148

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Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description

An introduction to the academic study of folklore: basic terminology, folk groups, performance and applications with examples taken from the Canadian and Albertan contexts. Introduction to traditional genres of folkloristic expression and analyses of current folk groups and their folklore.

Objectives of the Course

The primary objective of this course is to provide you with an introductory appreciation of folklore scholarship and the experience of doing folklore research. By the conclusion of the course you should be able to identify particular genres of folklore, have an appreciation of some ethnic forms of folklore, have a general view of contemporary folklore scholarship, and be able to engage in the documentation and analysis of folklore practices.

Textbooks and Readings:

Required reading for the course includes the following books and articles which are available online through the Taylor Family Digital Library. Other related materials indicated for particular classes will be on reserve in the library, or in some instance available online through journal websites.

Sims, Martha and Martin Stephens. *Living Folklore: An Introduction to the Study of People and their Traditions*. Utah State University Press, 2011.

Greenhill, Pauline and Peter Narvaez, editors (2002). "Special Issue: Folklore in Canada". *Journal of American Folklore*, Spring, Vol. 115, No. 456.
(http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_american_folklore/)

Bartis, Paul (2002). *Folklife and Fieldwork: A Layman's Introduction to Field Techniques*. Washington: Library of Congress.
(<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/fieldwork/pdf/fieldwkComplete.pdf>)

Assignments and Evaluation

Collecting assignment 20% (February 11)
Library assignment 20% (March 11)
Interpretive assignment 30% (April 8)
Final exam 30% (Registrar Scheduled)

The assignments are designed to give you the experience of various aspects of doing folklore research. These include collecting, scholarly research, and interpretive analysis. The final exam will demand familiarity with these techniques and the theoretical trends that shaped them. In order to receive a final grade in the course, all assignments will need to be completed. Detailed descriptions and expectations for each assignment will be available on Blackboard and will be discussed in class.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Note: Please hand in your essays directly to your instructor if possible, or use the Digital Dropbox feature in Blackboard.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: Yes

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late. Requests for deferral of term work must be made on the appropriate forms.

Grading System

The following grading system is used in this course (revised, effective September 2008):

Letter Grade	Grading Scale	Grade Point Value (see U of C Calendar: Academic Standing)
A+	96-100	4
A	90-95.99	4
A -	85-89.99	3.7
B+	80-84.99	3.3
B	75-79.99	3
B-	70-74.99	2.7
C+	65-69.99	2.3
C	60-64.99	2
C-	55-59.99	1.7
D+	53-54.99	1.3
D	50-52.99	1
F	0-49	0

In this course, assignments will be assessed with letter grades that correspond to the University's 4-point scale. In the case of assignments that are scored numerically, you will receive a letter grade based on converting the score of that particular assignment using the grading system provided above. You may receive a grade that falls between two letter grades (for example a 3.5 is the mathematical mid-point between a B+ or 3.3 and an A- or 3.7). In such a case, the instructor reserves the right to scale the grade upwards (for example from a B+) to the next nearest letter grade (an A-).

Academic Accommodation

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>

Academic Standing

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f.html>

Deferral of Exams/Term work

It is possible to request a deferral of term work or final examination(s) for reasons of illness, accident, family or domestic affliction, or religious obligations. Please check with Enrolment Services if any of these issues make it impossible for you to sit an exam or finish term work by stated deadlines.

For more information go to http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/deferred_final

F.O.I.P.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

Writing/Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources. Please consult your instructor or Writing Support Services (at the Student Success Centre) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support> or <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

Student Misconduct

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Student Union and Student Ombudsman

For more information go to <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Research Ethics

This course has obtained course-based ethics approval from the Faculty Research Ethics Committee. Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e., surveys, interviews or observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/cfreb>

Campus Security/Safewalk

Call 220-5333 anytime. Help phones are located throughout campus, parking lots and elevators; they connect directly to Campus Security - in case of emergency, press the red button.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

Emergency Evacuation

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Stop by SS110, call us at 220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at 220-5881 or visit them on the 2nd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Week of January 7: Folklore – Definitions and Research

Readings:

- Greenhill and Narvaez, Introduction *Journal of American Folklore*, 2002, 115:456
- Sims and Stephens, Living Folklore, chapter 1, "Folklore"
- Bartis, *Folklife and Fieldwork*, pages 1-8

Case Study:

- Doucette "Reclaiming the study of our cultural lives" in Greenhill and Tye eds., *Undisciplined Women*.

Recommended Reading:

- Fowke 1988, *Canadian Folklore*, chapter 1
- Taft, *Discovering Saskatchewan Folklore*, chapter 1

Week of January 14: Proverbs, Riddles and Childlore

Readings:

- Sims and Stephens, Living Folklore, chapter 2, "Groups"
- Fowke 1988, *Canadian Folklore*, chapter 5

Case Study:

- Fowke 1990 *Folklore of Canada*: Greenleaf section III, chapter 4; Fowke III chapter 13, and Higinbotham III, chapter 14.
- Fowke and Carpenter, *Explorations in Canadian Folklore* Carr, p. 144; Widdowson, p. 277

Week of January 21: Tales and Legends

Readings:

- Sims and Stephens, Living Folklore, chapter 3, "Tradition"
- Butler in Greenhill and Narvaez, eds. *Journal of American Folklore* 2002

- Fowke 1988, *Canadian Folklore*, chapter 3

Case Study:

- Deplanques in Greenhill and Tye, eds. *Undisciplined Women*

- Taft, *Discovering*, chapter 3

Week of January 28: Beliefs and Superstitions

Readings:

- Sims and Stephens, *Living Folklore*, chapter 4, "Ritual"

- Fowke 1988, *Canadian Folklore*, chapter 6-7

Case Study:

- Rieti, "Riddling the Witch" in Greenhill and Tye *Undisciplined Women*

- Grant, "Miracle Lore" in Greenhill and Tye

- Jenness, Lacourciere in Fowke and Carpenter, *Explorations*

- Fraser, MacDonald, Wintemberg in Fowke 1990

Week of February 4: Music, Songs and Ballads

Readings:

- Fowke 1988, chapter 4

- MacKenzie "Ballad Singing in Nova Scotia" in Fowke and Carpenter, *Explorations*

- Barbeau, Lemieux in Fowke '90

Case Study:

- Greenhill "The Handsome Cabin Boy" in Greenhill and Tye, *Undisciplined*

- Narvaez "I think I wrote a folksong," in Greenhill and Narvaez *JAF* 2002

Week of February 11: Dance

Readings:

- Sims and Stephens, *Living Folklore*, chapter 5, "Performance"

- Greenhill in Greenhill and Narvaez *JAF*

- Le Blanc "Changing Places" in Greenhill and Tye, *Undisciplined*

Case Study:

- Quick, Sarah (2008). "The Social Poetics of the Red River Jig," *Ethnologies* 30:1.

- Dempsey, Hugh (1956). "Social Dances of the Blood Indians of Alberta, Canada." *JAF* 69:271, Jan-Mar, pp.47-52.

- Nahachewsky in Greenhill and Narvaez *JAF*

READING BREAK

Week of February 25: Drama

Readings:

- Robidoux in Greenhill and Narvaez *JAF*

- Taft "Men in Women's Clothing" in Greenhill and Tye, *Undisciplined*

Case Study:

- Moss in Fowke 1990

Week of March 4: Foodways

Readings:

- Duncan, *Canadians at Table*, Chapter 14 "I'd Rather Work for a Dollar Less"
- Turgeon and Pastinelli in Greenhill and Narvaez *JAF*

Case Study:

- Anderson in Fowke 1990

Week of March 11: Festivals and Customs

Readings:

- Sims and Stephens, *Living Folklore*, chapter 6, "Approaches to Interpreting Folklore"
- Buehler, Calkin, Van Lent in Fowke and Carpenter *Explorations*
- Smithsonian, "Studying Community Festivals"

http://anthropology.si.edu/outreach/Teaching_Activities/pdf/communityfestivals.pdf

Case Study:

- Taft, *Discovering*, chapter 4
- Posen in Rosenberg, *Transforming Tradition*

Week March 18: Material Culture/Folk Art

Readings:

- Pocius, Gerald (1979). "Hooked Rugs in Newfoundland," *Journal of American Folklore* 92:365, Jan-Sep, p. 273-284.
- Shantz "Frances Mateychuk's Quilts" in Greenhill and Tye, *Undisciplined*
- Fowke 1988, chapter 8

Case Study:

- Taft, *Discovering*, chapter 5

Week of March 25: Vernacular Architecture

Readings:

- Geikie in Fowke 1990

Case Study:

- Burley, David and Gayel Horsfall (1989). "Vernacular Houses and Farmsteads of the Canadian Metis," *Journal of Cultural Geography* 10:1, 19-33.

Week of April 1: Popular Culture, Fakelore and Folklore

Readings:

- Kozar "Chinese On-line Publications" in Greenhill and Narvaez *JAF*
- van Lent in *Explorations*
- Klymasz in *Explorations*

Case Study

- Rosenberg, "Repetition, Innovation, representation" in Greenhill and Narvaez, *JAF* 2002

Week of April 8: Applied and Occupational Folklore

Readings:

- Bartis, "The Professional Folklorist and Public Programs"

Case Study:

- LaBrie "Help!" in Greenhill and Tye, *Undisciplined*

- Boyd "Tactics of Women Taxi Drives" in Greenhill and Tye, *Undisciplined*

Additional Information

The following books are reserved for this course and will be available in hardcopy from the TFDL:

Dorson, Richard (1972) *Folklore and Folklife*. Chicago.

Fine, Elizabeth (1984). *The Folklore Text: From Performance to Print*. University of Indiana Press.

Fowke, Edith (1990). *Folklore of Canada*. McClelland and Stewart.

Fowke, Edith (1988). *Canadian Folklore*. Oxford

Fowke, E. and C. Carpenter (1985) *Explorations in Canadian Folklore*. M & S.

Graham, Glenn. (2006). *The Cape Breton Fiddle*. CBUP.

Greenhill, Pauline and Diane Tye, eds. (1997). *Undisciplined Women: Tradition and Culture in Canada*. McGill-Queen's UP.

Greenough, W.P. (1971). *Canadian Folk-Life and Folk-Lore*. Coles.

Jones, Michael Owen, editor (1994). *Putting Folklore to Use*. University Press of Kentucky.

Knapp, Herbert and Mary (1976) *One Potato, Two Potatoes: The secret education of American children*. New York. Norton.

MacKinnon, Richard (2009). *Discovering Cape Breton Folklore*. CBUP.

Opie, Iona and Peter (1959) *The Lore and Language of School Children*. Oxford.

Rosenberg, N. editor (1993). *Transforming Tradition: Folk Music Revivals Examined*. University of Illinois Press.

Taft, Michael, (1983) *Discovering Saskatchewan Folklore*. NeWest.

Tilley, Christopher, et. al (2006). *Handbook of Material Culture*. Sage.

The following books are available online through the TFDL website ebrary:

Bendix, Regina and Galit Hasan-Rokem, ed. (2012). *A Companion to Folklore*. Blackwell.

Blank, Trevor, ed. (2012). *Folklore Culture in the Digital Age: The Emergent Dynamics of Human Interaction*. Utah State University Press.

Blank, Trevor, ed. (2009). *Folklore and the Internet: Vernacular Expression in a Digital World*. Utah State University Press.

Bronner, Simon (2012). *Campus Traditions: Folklore from the Old-Time College to the Modern Mega-University*. University Press of Mississippi.

Bronner, Simon, ed. (2007). *The Meaning of Folklore: The Analytic Essays of Alan Dundes*. Utah State University Press.

Duncan, Dorothy (2011). *Canadians at Table: Food, Fellowships, and Folklore, A Culinary History of Canada*. Dundurn.

Everett, Holly (2002). *Roadside Crosses in Contemporary Memorial Culture*. University of North Texas Press.

Frank, Russell. (2011). *Newslore: Contemporary Folklore on the Internet*. University Press of Mississippi.

Goldstein, Diane et al, eds. (2007). *Haunting Experiences: Ghosts in Contemporary Folklore*. Utah State University Press.

Greenhill, Pauline and Diane Tye, eds. (1997). *Undisciplined Women: Tradition and Culture in Canada*. McGill-Queen's UP.

Jones, Michael Owen. (1987). *Exploring Folk Art*. Utah State University Press.

Mitchell, Gillian (2007). *The North American Folk Music Revival in the United States and Canada 1945-1980*. Ashgate.

Narvaez, Peter, ed. (2003). *Of Corpse: Death and Humor in Folklore and Popular Culture*. Utah State University Press.

Sherman, Sharon and Mikel Koven, ed. (2007). *Folklore/Cinema: Popular Film as Vernacular Culture*. Utah State University Press.

Sutton-Smith, Brian (1999). *Children's Folklore: A Source Book*. Utah State University Press.

Tucker, Elizabeth. (2008). *Children's Folklore: A Handbook*. Greenwood.