

- **Syllabus**  
**English 5304**  
**Graduate Folklore**  
**Fall 2014**

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**Office Hours: Wednesday, 1-4:30**

### **Purpose**

This is a course about folklore – what it is, how it reflects and affects society, what the categories are, how folklorists collect folklore, and, most important, what good it is to know it.

### **Goals**

After taking this course you should

- Be able to define folklore.
- Be familiar with categories of folklore – how to define them, how to categorize a piece of folklore.
- Collect types of folklore and present it to the public
- Recite major myths, legends, and tales
- Classify tales and motifs
- Discuss folklore as an indication of the culture of a people and be able to use folklore to analyze society's values, what's important to the society.
- See how folklore can affect social institutions, such as marriage, the care of the elderly, the care of the young, and so on.

### **Book**

There will be no book. I will refer you to web sites for information on the specific types of folklore.

### **Assignments and grading**

For two weeks, we will discuss folklore generally (the field, schools of thought, and how to classify groups). You will read some web sites and my essays and answer questions that I post. Then you will write a paper about why people are interested in folklore. These will be worth 100 points each. Next, for a few weeks, you will collect folklore of certain types: speech (dialects, for example), names, proverbs, riddles, and rhymes. These will be worth 40 points each. Then we will discuss myths, legends, and tales, and you will collect some and then classify it according to two different indices. These will be worth 50 points each. Finally, you will write a paper about what folklore can teach us about ways to improve society. You will turn in a proposal, an outline, two drafts, and the final project. In total, the project will be worth 150 points: 20 points for the proposal, 10 for the outline and each draft, and 100 for the final product.

Specific assignments will be posted under assignments along with links to web sites that discuss the topics of each assignment.

### **Punctuality**

Late assignments will not be accepted, unless you have a legitimate, documented reason, and if you miss two assignments, I shall drop you from the class with an F. A legitimate reason is something that would prevent you from submitting an assignment, such as a sick child, and documentation means some way of proving the reason existed.

### **Distance Education Statement**

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments through Blackboard or SRSU email, which require secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. *[If the course requires students to take proctored exams or to purchase additional software or equipment, please describe those requirements here.]* The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

### **↑ schedule**

- August 29, The field, 100 points
- September 1, Paper on why study folklore, 100 points
- September 5, speech, 40 points

September 9, names, 40 points  
September 12, proverbs, 40 points  
September 19, riddles, 40 points  
September 26, rhymes, 40 points  
October 3, Schools, 100 points  
October 10, Groups, 100 points  
October 17, myths, 50 points  
October 21, you will analyze myths according to the motif index, 50 points  
October 24, legends, 50 points  
October 28, folktales, 50 points  
October 31, analyzing tales according to the type, 50 points  
November 7, your proposal for a term project, 20 points  
November 14, the outline of your term project, 10 points  
November 21, the first draft of your term project, 10 points  
December 2, the second draft of your term project, 10 points  
December 8, the term project, 100 points.