

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL*4310	Course Title: Special Studies in English: Folk Narrative	Date of Offering: FALL 2017
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Course Instructor: J. Schacker	Course Format: seminar
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Brief Course Synopsis:

This seminar will introduce students to the study of verbal art and oral traditions. We will study some of the classic folk narratives genres — including legend, folktale, and proverb — but will also emphasize forms of storytelling that currently emerge in everyday conversation, in our own communities.

This is an opportunity for English majors to expand their methodological and analytical repertoires, learning tools of fieldwork, transcription, and discourse analysis. We will explore some of the ways in which theoretical frameworks current in literary studies intersect with or differ from those in folklore studies and sociolinguistics.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

(subject to change)

seminar participation 10%

in-class writing (best 5) 15%

1-page summary & response papers (best 5) 25%

field-work project (collection, transcription, preliminary analysis, final paper [min. 4500 words) 40%

work-in-progress presentation 10%

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

Analyzing Narrative: Discourse and Sociolinguistic Perspectives,
Ana DeFina and Alexandra Georgalopoulou

Eight Words for the Study of Expressive Culture, Burt Feintuch, ed.

+ selected readings by Amy Shuman, Richard Bauman, Ray Cashman, Wolfgang Mieder, and others

Other information that you wish share about the course (optional):

NOTE:

As a 1.0 credit 4000-level seminar this course will be research-intensive and quite demanding -- both in terms of the reading load and the writing assignments. Plan to budget your time accordingly, and I encourage you to consult with me whenever you have questions or concerns.

Work in this course includes field-based research, so students will get firsthand experience in the research ethics principles and procedures.

List the distribution requirements that this course fulfills: