

## 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 2021
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Course Instructor: Prof. J. Schacker	Course Format: seminar
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#### Brief Course Synopsis:

This seminar serves as an introduction to the study of verbal art and oral traditions -- modes and forms of expression that are part of everyday life and can also carry profound cultural and personal meaning.

We will study some of the classic oral narrative genres, including proverb, folktale, and legend, while emphasizing forms of storytelling and verbal creativity that currently emerge in everyday conversation, in our own communities.

Our discussions will distinguish between orality as a trope, used in various kinds of writing, and orality as a medium of communication; we will also talk about the practical, ideological, and ethical questions surrounding the entextualization of oral traditions (the practice of rendering them in written form), including their (frequently problematic) use in children's literature.

As a double-weighted seminar, this is a discussion-oriented class and our meetings (whether face-to-face or virtual) will often serve as workshops -- a space for sharing research discoveries, rehearsing and debating ideas, trying out theoretical models on specific examples, and practicing skills and techniques before applying them to individual assignments.

Research tasks in this course are both library-based and field-based. Students will be completing the online CORE tutorial (Course in Research Ethics).

#### Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

seminar participation 15%

minute papers (approx. 250 words each; best 5 are re-submitted, along with a reflection, at the end of the course) 15%

personal narrative project (approx. 900 word essay accompanied by a transcription of a recorded interview) 20%

folktale project (approx. 1200 words) 20%

final essay: legend project (min. 2000 words) 30%

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Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)  
**readings will be on ARES/electronic course reserve; these include**

*excerpts from*

Keith Basso, *Wisdom Sits in Places: Landscape and Language Among the Western Apache*

Richard Bauman, ed. *Folklore, Cultural Performances, and Popular Entertainments*

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

Ruth Finnegan, *Oral Traditions and the Verbal Arts: A Guide to Research Practices*

Barbara Johnstone, *Stories, Community, and Place*

+ *selected articles*

**Required readings** for this course are in the form of electronic texts, with links provided on the course website and/or through ARES (on the library's website). I highly recommend creation of your own hard-copy "coursepack" of these readings -- for the purposes of notetaking, reference and cross-referencing, and just the general enjoyment of and success in the course!

This course counts towards the following distribution requirement(s) for students who registered at the University prior to the Fall of 2018:

Can be used to fulfill 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> century requirement, under old distribution requirements

Information about mode of delivery (synchronous/asynchronous/other details):

Synchronous delivery.

This seminar is planned as F2F (face-to-face), with details to follow at the beginning of the semester.

\*Students who registered at the University of Guelph after Fall 2018 must fulfill the "new" major and minor requirements. Students who registered at the University of Guelph prior to Fall 2018 must fulfill the requirements of the Calendar in effect when they first enrolled unless they have filed a Schedule of Studies Change Request to change to the 2018-2019 calendar. For more information, please consult the major and minor checklists at <https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/sets/undergraduate/english/current-student-information>.