

ANT 225: Traditions: Anthropology and Folk Culture

Weds , 6:30-9:15 pm

Professor: Will Hare

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Office Hours: Mon 5:30-6:30 (Thames), Tues/Thurs 11-12

Introduction:

This course combines the methodologies of anthropology and folklore studies to introduce students to the meaning and function of various expressive elements of culture, including folklore, ceremony and ritual, visual and performing arts, community festivals, and vernacular landscapes.

Course Requirements:

I have designed this course based on the seminar model. There will be no exams, but rather weekly short papers and assignments to help generate discussion during our class meetings. These papers and class attendance/participation will count as 50% of your final grade.

The other 50% of your grade will be the completion of an original piece of fieldwork focused on some topic of folk life chosen by you, with approval from the instructor. The format of the finished product can vary (research paper, exhibit, video, photo essay, etc.) but all projects will include recordings and transcriptions of oral interviews. Each student will also prepare an "academic poster" that outlines their work. Copies of your field notes, data collection, interviews, and final project will be archived at the college and will form the basis for the Southeastern Connecticut Folklife and Cultural Heritage Program. Further details will be provided at the first class meeting.

Conduct:

Because this is a 200 level class, my expectations for student conduct and responsibility are quite high. I will not waste time chasing people down for late assignments or shoddy work. If you give your full effort and try to do your best work at all times, I believe you will find this course to be a rewarding and valuable part of your education. I am always happy to assist students...all you have to do is ask.

Required Texts:

We will be using a variety of readings placed on reserve at the library as well as online. In addition, you should obtain a copy of the following:

The Cultural Experience: Ethnography in Complex Society, 2nd ed.

Folklife and Fieldwork: Available on-line at <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/fieldwork/>.

Assignments:

Week One	Course Introduction	Handouts
Week Two	What is Folk Culture?	Response paper
Week Three	Ethnography and Microcultures	Chapters 1-3 Read one sample paper Project Topic
Week Four	Folk Taxonomies	Chapters 4-6 Preliminary Bibliography
Week Five	Ethnographic Themes	Chapters 7-9 Project Proposal and Plan
Week Six	Visual Ethnography	2 nd Draft Bibliography

Weeks 7-12

For weeks 7-13 you should be reviewing sources, gathering data, transcribing interviews, etc. We will meet each week to hear progress reports and to discuss challenges and successes

Week 13 Project Rough Draft Due

Week 14 Academic Posters Displayed

Week 15

In addition to the assigned readings I will be provided information (in the form of lectures) about various types of folklore and folk traditions. I may from time to time ask you to write quick responses or complete in-class exercises. The objective of these mini-tasks is to broaden your understanding of how we represent our cultural identities.

Academic Dishonesty:

Any form of cheating, including plagiarism, will result in the immediate failure of the assignment and an official report to academic officials. Any additional acts of dishonesty will probably lead to failure of the course. Please see me if you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism.

College Withdrawal Policy:

A student who finds it necessary to discontinue a course MUST complete a withdrawal form obtained from the Registrar's Office. Students may withdraw from class anytime during the first ten weeks of the semester without being in good standing or obtaining permission of the instructor. After that period, a student wishing to withdraw must obtain written authorization of the instructor to receive a "W" grade for the course. Students who fail to properly withdraw, and discontinue coming to class, will be assigned an "F" grade. Eligibility for refund of tuition is based upon date of withdrawal through the registrar's office. Verbal withdrawals will not be accepted.

Learning Disabilities:

If you have a disability that may require classroom or test-taking modifications, please see me as soon as possible.

College Closings/Cancelled Classes:

In the event of foul winter weather, the college will post announcements on the main website, the phone answering service, and through local media sources. I will do my best to contact you via e-mail if I am unable to attend class for whatever reason.