

Introduction to Folklore: The Canadian Context



Course Number: CNST 337

Instructor: Dr. Kevin Anderson

Class Location and Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30-1:45, SA 106

Prerequisites: None

Email: kevin.anderson2@ucalgary.ca

Telephone: 403-220-2987

Office Hours: Thursday, 2:00-4:00

Office Location: SS615

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to the major concepts of folklore as an academic subject through the lens of Canada. The course will cover all of the major regions of Canada, exploring how regional identity, ethnicity, language, religion, class and gender intersect to create specific forms of folklore and folk groups. Folklore is not neutral, but reflects the socio-political realities of specific places and times. Of particular interest will be this construction of an “authentic” folklore and “the folk,” either consciously or unconsciously, by those producing and consuming these items. The course will also attempt to understand the complex relationship between “authentic” folklore and an increasingly industrialized and globalized world.

Course Objectives:

With this course, I aim to encourage students to think interdisciplinarily about contemporary social categories and culture and develop as researchers, communicators and academic writers. This will counter essentialism, which posits a fixed character to social categories and national cultures, and teleology, which projects a framework of inevitable progress from the past into the present. It is hoped that students will question, and continue to question outside of the class, easy assumptions about not only folklore and Canadian identity, but about the wider contemporary world.

Assessment:

Class Participation, 10%: Participation will be evaluated on the basis of involvement in class discussion, largely taking place on Thursdays. Attendance is the prerequisite for a high participation grade.

Group Project, 25%, **October 6th and October 13th**: Students will be split into groups and assigned a region of Canada. Each group will explore a piece of folklore from that region. The regions are: Western Canada, British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, the Atlantic provinces and the North. Each group will be responsible for creating a **fifteen minute** presentation and a **three page** report answering the following questions: What genre of folklore does this piece fall into? What is the provenance of this piece of folklore and how does its authorial origins and specific chronology shape it? What does this piece of folklore tell us about this region? About Canada?

Students will be marked based on the relevance of their work to the themes of the course, creativity and teamwork. The presentation will be worth 15% of the mark, with the remaining 10% allocated to the report. The report must be submitted by the following Thursday after the presentation.

Mid-term exam, 10%, **October 27th**.

Essay Proposal, 1 page and annotated bibliography, 5%, **November 3rd**: Students must provide a brief summary of their research topic and question as well as a briefly annotated bibliography referencing at least **one** primary source and at least **two** secondary sources.

Research Essay, 2000-2500 words, 25%: The research essay is the main opportunity for students to develop their analytical, writing and research skills. Students must use at least **two** primary sources and at least **four** secondary sources. The topic must thematically connect to the major course theme of exploring the relationship between folklore and Canadian identity. Students can submit the essay *either* **November 24th** and be guaranteed to have it returned by the last day of classes or can submit it on **December 6th** and have it returned at or after the final exam. There will be no difference in the evaluation criteria.

Final Exam, 25%: Scheduled by the registrar.

Please make sure to provide references in your work. Students may use any citation system they wish, but students must include page numbers in all references. The *History Student's Handbook* may prove useful for citation suggestions and format.

Be sure to provide complete bibliographic information for each source you use. Please note that a paper submitted without references is unacceptable and will receive a mark of zero.

Students are required to keep all research notes and rough drafts for their essays and may be required to hand them in. Keep this material even after the essay has been graded.

All essays must be written in 12 point Times New Roman font, double-spaced with margins approximately 2.54 cm on the top and bottom of the page and 3.17 cm on the left and right of the page. This is to ensure the standardization of all papers submitted.

Extensions will be granted on compassionate grounds or because of extenuating circumstances and only after consultation between the student and the instructor.

Late assignments will have a half-letter grade deducted per day, including weekends.

Cell phones must be turned off during class. Laptops are allowed in-class for the purpose of copying notes only.

Course Texts:

There are no required texts for this class; all materials will either be posted on D2L or links will be provided in the syllabus.

Helpful Texts (optional):

William Keleher Storey and Towser Jones, *Writing History: A Guide for Canadian Students*. Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2008, is a helpful essay-writing guide for students.

Schedule of Topics and Readings:

Week One: Tuesday, September 13th, Thursday, September 15th

Introduction to Folklore and Class Orientation

Ian McKay, *Quest of the Folk: Antimodernism and Cultural Selection in Twentieth-Century Nova Scotia*, chapter 1.

<http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary/detail.action?docID=10559012>

Week Two: Tuesday, September 20th, Thursday, September 22nd

Nature of Folklore: Academic Study or Hobby? The Professionalization and Academicization of Folklore

Martha C. Sims and Martine Stephens, *Living Folklore: An Introduction to the Study of People and their Traditions*, Preface, chapter 1.

PDF posted on D2L.

Edith Fowke, *Canadian Folklore*, Introduction, chapters 1-2.

PDF posted on D2L.

Week Three: Tuesday, September 27th, Thursday, September 29th

Women and Folklore, Case Studies: Edith Fowke and Helen Creighton

Pauline Greenhill, "Radical? Feminist? Nationalist? The Canadian Paradox of Edith Fowke," *The Folklore Historian*, vol. 20 (2003): 22-33.

<http://hdl.handle.net.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/2027/inu.30000053560219?urlappend=%3Bseq=26>

Ian McKay, *Quest of the Folk: Antimodernism and Cultural Selection in Twentieth-Century Nova Scotia*, chapter 2, first half.

<http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary/detail.action?docID=10559012>

Week Four: Tuesday, October 4th, Thursday, October 6th

Women and Folklore, Case Studies: Helen Creighton and Edith Fowke

Diane Tye, "'A Very Lone Worker': Woman-Centred Thoughts on Helen Creighton's Career as a Folklorist," *Canadian Folklore* 15 (1993): 107-117.

PDF posted on D2L.

Ian McKay, *Quest of the Folk: Antimodernism and Cultural Selection in Twentieth-Century Nova Scotia*, chapter 2, second half.

<http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary/detail.action?docID=10559012>

Presentations for British Columbia, The West and the North today!!!

Week Five: Tuesday, October 11th, Thursday, October 13th

Source Study: John Murray Gibbon and the Creation of the Canadian Mosaic

John Murray Gibbon, *Canadian Mosaic: The Making of a Northern Nation*, selected excerpts.
PDF posted on D2L.

Presentations for Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces today!!!

Week Six: Tuesday, October 18th, Thursday, October 20th

Folklore as National Propaganda: John Murray Gibbon, Multiculturalism and the Folklore Industrial Complex

Antonia Smith, "'Cement for the Canadian Mosaic': Performing Canadian Citizenship in the Work of John Murray Gibbon," *Race/Ethnicity: Multidisciplinary Global Contexts* 1 (2007): 37-60.

<http://www.jstor.org.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/stable/25594975>

Stuart Henderson, "'While there is still time': J. Murray Gibbon and the Spectacle of Difference in Three CPR Folk Festivals, 1928-1931," *Journal of Canadian Studies* 39 (2006): 139-174.

<http://ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=15864313&site=ehost-live>

Week Seven: Tuesday, October 25th, Thursday, October 27th

Speak for Yourself: The Uses and Abuses of Aboriginal Folklore

Ronald Labelle, "Native Witchcraft Beliefs in Acadian, Maritime and Newfoundland Folklore," *Ethnologies* 30 (2008): 137-143.

http://go.galegroup.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/ps/pdfGenerator?actionCmd=DO_DOWNLOAD_DOCUMENT&inPS=true&prodId=AONE&userGroupName=ucalgary&tabID=T002&docId=GALE%7CA198412211

Michael A. Robidoux, "Imagining a Canadian Identity Through Sport: A Historical Interpretation of Lacrosse and Hockey," *The Journal of American Folklore* 115 (2002): 209-225.

<http://www.jstor.org.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/stable/4129220>

Mid-term exam in-class on Thursday!!!

Week Eight: Tuesday, November 1st, Thursday, November 3rd

Speaking for Yourself: Aboriginal Stories, Aboriginal Voices

Thomas King, *The Truth About Stories: A Native Narrative*, chapters 1 and 4.

<http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary/detail.action?docID=10192323>

Essay proposals due in-class on Thursday!!!

Week Nine: Tuesday, November 9th

Overlap and Catching-up

MID-TERM BREAK!!! NO CLASS THURSDAY!!!

Week Ten: Tuesday, November 15th, Thursday, November 17th

French Canadian Tales, or, The Greater Importance of Werewolves and Flying Canoes

Honoré Beaugrand, “The Werewolves” <http://ebooks.library.cornell.edu/cgi/t/text/pageviewer-idx?c=cent;cc=cent;rgn=full%20text;idno=cent0056-6;didno=cent0056-6;view=image;seq=0824;node=cent0056-6%3A2>

and “The Flying Canoe” <http://ebooks.library.cornell.edu/cgi/t/text/pageviewer-idx?c=cent;cc=cent;rgn=full%20text;idno=cent0044-4;didno=cent0044-4;view=image;seq=506;node=cent0044-4%3A3;page=root;size=100>

Hannah Priest, *She-Wolf: A Cultural History of Female Werewolves*, chapter 6. <http://manchester.universitypressscholarship.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/view/10.7228/manchester/9780719089343.001.0001/upso-9780719089343-chapter-006>

Week Eleven: Tuesday, November 22nd, Thursday, November 24th

Folk Music as Genre: Inventing Authenticity

No readings: Students will listen to selected song list.

Early final essay hand-in on Thursday!!!

Week Twelve: Tuesday, November 29th, Thursday, December 1st

Monsters, Ghouls and Ghosts: The Role of Fear, the Role of (Fear of) the “Other”

David D. Gilmore, *Monsters, Evil Beings, Mythical Beasts and All Manner of Imaginary Terrors*, chapter 1.

<http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary/reader.action?ppg=16&docID=10576082&tm=1469811651804>

Stephen T. Asma, *On Monsters: An Unnatural History of Our Worst Fears*, Introduction.

<http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary/reader.action?ppg=18&docID=10460702&tm=1469811810671>

Barbara Rieti, “Riddling the Witch: Violence Against Women in Newfoundland Witch Tradition.”

<http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary/reader.action?ppg=94&docID=10132262&tm=1469811913927>

Week Thirteen: Tuesday, December 6th, Thursday, December 8th
Catching-up and Exam Review

Final essay due in-class on Tuesday!!!

Important Departmental, Faculty, and University Information

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. For detailed information on common academic concerns, you can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>.

For program planning and advice, contact the Arts Students Centre, Social Sciences 102, 403-220-3580, or visit <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising>.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit the office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

Departmental Twitter Handle @ucalgaryhist - For departmental updates and notifications

Writing:

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

Writing Support:

Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Copyright:

The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. This means that instructors in all University of Calgary courses will strictly adhere to Copyright Act regulations and the educational exceptions permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. What this simply means is that no copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. In some cases, this may mean that instructors will require you to purchase a print coursepack from the University of Calgary bookstore or that you will have to consult books on reserve at the library. For more information on the University of Calgary's copyright policy, see <http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>.

Red Box Policy:

Essays and other assignments may be handed in to the red box located outside of the History Department office (SS 656). Assignments received after 4:00 p.m. will be date stamped with the date of the next business day. We do not time stamp any papers. Please do not bring your paper into the office to be stamped. The box is emptied promptly at 8:30 a.m. and at 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Departmental Grading System:

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme has been adopted for use in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
90-100	A+	4.00	Outstanding
85-89	A	4.00	Excellent—superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
80-84	A-	3.70	
77-79	B+	3.30	
73-76	B	3.00	Good—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
70-72	B-	2.70	
67-69	C+	2.30	
63-66	C	2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
60-62	C-	1.70	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation.
56-59	D+	1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
50-55	D	1.00	
0-49	F	0	Fail—unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism occurs when one submits or presents one's work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. As noted in *The History Student's Handbook*, plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failure to cite sources properly may be considered plagiarism. This could include quotations, and wording used from another source but not acknowledged.
- Borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers are considered plagiarism, as is submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved.
- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources is also considered plagiarism, even when notes are used, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works.
- The use of notes does not justify the sustained presentation of another author's language and ideas as one's own.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work will be reported to the Faculty of Arts' associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the *University of Calgary Calendar*.

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction:

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference. Please participate in USRI Surveys.

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected grounds other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf.

Other Useful Information:

Faculty of Arts Representatives: 403-220-6551, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.

Safewalk and Campus Security: 403-220-5333.

Please also familiarize yourself about the following topics by consulting the information at these links:

Freedom of Information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>

Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Safewalk: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

Student Union Information: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>

Graduate Student Association: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/>

Student Ombudsman Office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Fall 2016