COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING POLICIES

COURSE NAME: Folklore and Folklife

COURSE NUMBER: ANT 244W (2769 and 2770)

CLASS/STUDIO/LAB HOURS: 3

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Lydia Fish

DATE: Fall 2011

OFFICE HOURS: 4:30-5:45 Monday, Wednesday and Thursday or by appointment

OFFICE: Classroom Building B-102

E-MAIL: All e-mail to the professor must be sent by ANGEL mail. E-mail sent to any other address will not be answered.

WEBSITE: http://faculty.buffalostate.edu/fishlm

WIKI: http://www.lydiafish.us/folklorewiki_fall2011

ATTENDANCE: For each unexcused absence five points will be subtracted from your course grade. This means that two unexcused absences will lower your course grade by one letter; after eight absences you will automatically fail the course.

Also, I test heavily on my lectures and on the audio-visual material presented in class, so it is extremely unlikely that you will be able to pass the course if you do not attend class regularly. You are responsible for all material presented, announced or handed out in class, whether or not you attend. You are also responsible for all material sent to you by ANGEL mail or posted on the "(Almost) Daily Bulletin from the Professor" page of the wiki.

Of course you may have a perfectly valid excuse, such as illness or a personal, work, or family emergency, for missing a class. Send me an ANGEL mail message explaining what happened and if I consider your excuse to be valid I will not count your absence as unexcused. Messages left on my voice mail do not qualify as excuses.

COURSE FORMAT:
• lectures

- audio-visual presentations
- classroom discussion
- readings from (a) textbooks and (b) documents posted on the class website or on the wiki, or sent by ANGEL mail
- a paper on the CD assigned in the course
- a fieldwork project based on fieldwork and library research, including a preliminary bibliography and field notes which will be graded separately

EVALUATION: Grades in this course will be based on
- three tests (45%)
- a 1500-word paper based on the CD assigned as a text (15%)
- a fieldwork project of 3000 words which is the equivalent of a term paper (30%)
- participation in the class wiki., which includes ten short writing assignments (10%).

PREREQUISITES: CWP 102 (formerly ENG 102) or equivalent.

COMPUTER USAGE: This course is supplemented by a web site and a wiki. You will be expected to use the proprietary databases on the Butler Library website in your research, to read material posted on the class website <http://faculty.buffalostate.edu/fishlm>, and to participate in the class wiki <http://www.lydiafish.us/folklorewiki> fall2011).

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:
- All makeup tests are given at the discretion of the instructor and must be taken within one week of the original examination date.
- Written assignments handed in late will not be graded unless accompanied by a physician's note.
- Part of the material presented in this class is taken from my fieldwork on the occupational folklore of the military. Some of the recordings played in class contain occasional obscene, scatological, blasphemous, homophobic, sexist and racist language.
- Cell phones, Blackberries, pagers and iPods are to be turned off and put away while you are in class. Laptops are welcome. However, inappropriate use of your laptop (e-mail, game-playing, web-surfing) will lead to termination of laptop privileges.
- All work handed in for this course is to be in MLA format, word-processed and handed in as hard copy.
- This is a writing intensive course. All writing, including posts to the wikis and e-mail to the instructor, will be graded for grammar, punctuation and spelling.
- Plagiarism, defined as "the appropriation of strings of five consecutive words or longer" taken directly from a source, will be punished by a failing grade on the paper or the course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
- To make students aware of the functions of folklore in their own lives and in their culture.
- To introduce students to the major genres of folklore and the methods by which they are studied.
- To enable the students to use the basic folklore research techniques of fieldwork and of library and on-line research
- To familiarize students with the concepts of interactive websites (Web 2.0) and of collaborative learning and to make them aware of the role of technology in the transmission of contemporary folklore.
- To introduce students to writing as a learning technique.

Textbooks and CD
- Elliott Oring, *Folk Groups and Folklore Genres: An Introduction*
    This is also available as a Kindle book.
- Bruce Jackson, *Fieldwork*
- William A. Wilson, *On Being Human: The Folklore of Mormon Missionaries*
- *Occupational Folksongs of the U.S. Air Force*, Third Edition (CD)
    Make sure that you purchase the third edition of the CD, which is available only from the college store. The first and second editions, which are occasionally available second-hand on campus or on e-Bay, do not contain the same material.