

ANT 244W: Folklore and Folklife (2769 and 2770)

Fall 2011

Assignments

All assignments are to be completed *before* the class meeting. Unless otherwise specified, all readings assigned are posted on my Website <<http://faculty.buffalostate.edu/fishlm>>

- on your class page (CP)
- on the “Articles and Papers” page (AP)
- On the “Useful Websites” page (UW)

Or are from your textbooks or the CD.

Additional readings will be sent to you by ANGEL mail or posted on the wiki

Textbooks and CD

- Elliott Oring, *Folk Groups and Folklore Genres: An Introduction*
- 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)

Films

The films shown in class are from the professor’s collection. Copies of some of these films can be found in the Media Reserve Room in Butler Library or at other local libraries; others are available at <http://www.folkstreams.org>. The films listed on the syllabus are subject to change without notice.

Topic for your Fieldwork Project (Due 21/22 September)

- Read the documents “Suggestions for Selecting a Topic for Your Fieldwork Project” and “Directions for Your Fieldwork Project.” Links to these are on your class page of the Website. Send me the proposed topic of your fieldwork project by ANGEL mail.
- Before you begin your fieldwork you should have read *Fieldwork* by Bruce Jackson, chapters one through eight, chapter sixteen and the appendix. These will be covered on the second test.

First Paper / First Test on the CD (3/4 October)

- You should purchase and start listening to the CD *Occupational Folksongs of the U.S. Air Force* (third edition) immediately. Write a short (a few paragraphs) description of each song. If it is a narrative song, what happens in the song? If it is a lyric song, what emotions are being

expressed? What function do you think this song served for those who sang and listened to it? The first test will be entirely based on the CD and writing these paragraphs is an excellent way to learn the material.

- The lyrics to many of these songs can be found on line. A particularly good source is <<http://www.horntip.com>>. Click on "informants" and then on "fighter pilots" and/or "military." You can also find many songs by Googling the song title or a phrase from the song.
- The assigned articles on Air Force songs (see below) and the singers' introductions to the songs will give you contextual material. Look up unfamiliar words in the Tusso and Myer glossaries (there are links to these on the "Articles and Papers" page of the Website) or in a dictionary. You can find the Merriam-Webster Dictionary on line at <http://www.m-w.com/>. Sometimes Wikipedia can also be helpful.
- A paper based on the paragraphs you have written about the songs, the assigned articles, and lectures and audio-visual material presented in class will be due on the date of the first test. Directions for writing the paper will be posted on the wiki.

Date of class / Topic of class	Assignments	Media
Monday, 29 August Tuesday, 30 August Course requirements and grading policies		
Wednesday, 31 August Thursday, 31 August Folklore, high culture and popular culture / high and low context groups	Mary Hufford, "American Folklife: A Commonwealth of Cultures" (AP) Stephanie Hall, "Papa Boas' Children or the Road to the Center of Folklore" (AP) Bruce Jackson, "The Material Fifties" (AP) "Some Definitions of Folklore" (CP)	
Monday, 5 September [Labor Day]		
Tuesday, 6 September		
Wednesday, 7 September Thursday, 8 September Characteristics of folklore	<i>On Being Human</i>	Recordings from professor's collection

Monday, 12 September Tuesday, 13 September Wiki training	Class will meet in Butler Library 318 (Cyberquad) for Wiki Training George Weiss, "Throw a Nickel on the Grass" ("AP) Joe Tusso, "Comments on Air Force Songs" ("AP) Bill Getz, "Rhythm and Blue" (AP)	Recordings from professor's collection
Wednesday, 14 September Thursday, 15 September The study of folklore	John Guilmartin, "'Tchepone': A Fighter Jock Song" (AP) Mike Laurence, "The Thud" (AP)	Recordings from professor's collection
Monday, 19 September Tuesday, 20 September The dynamics of folklore	"Folk Groups and Folklore Genres, chapter five, "Children's Folklore"	Recordings from professor's collection
Wednesday, 21 September Thursday, 22 September Functions of folklore	Topics for Fieldwork Projects Due <i>Folk Groups and Folklore Genres</i> , chapter four, "Occupational Folklore" "Carving Out a Niche at the Cathedral" (will be sent to you by ANGEL mail	Les Cleveland lecture at NMAH: "Voices from the Frontline: Soldiers' Songs as Occupational Folklore
Monday, 26 September Tuesday, 27 September Functions of folklore	Jack Santino, "Characterstics of Occupational Narrative" (AP)	<i>The Stone Carvers</i>
Wednesday, 28 September Thursday, 29 September Occupational folklore		
Monday, 3 October Tuesday, 4 October	Test on CD / Paper on CD due	

Wednesday, 5 October Thursday, 6 October Bibliography training	Class will meet in Butler Library 314 (Cyberquad) for bibliography training Print and read the document “Suggestions for improving your preliminary bibliography” (on your class page of the website). Bring it to class.	
Monday, 10 October [Columbus Day]		
Tuesday, 11 October		
Wednesday, 12 October Thursday, 13 October Folk narrative	Preliminary bibliographies due <i>Folk Groups and Folklore Genres</i> , chapter six, "Folk Narratives" “The \$50 Porsche” < http://www.snopes.com/love/revenge/porsche.asp > “Joseph Campbell” < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Campbell > “Monomyth” < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monomyth >	<i>The Power of Myth</i> , “The Hero’s Journey”
Monday, 17 October Tuesday, 18 October Folk narrative	Bruce Jackson, “The Stories People Tell” (AP) Stephen Wilkinson, “Aviation’s Legends” (AP) Libby Tucker, “Haunted Halls” (AP)	
Wednesday, 19 October Thursday, 20 October	Midterm exam First wiki posts due	
Monday, 24 October Tuesday, 25 October Folklore and social movements	Bernice Johnson Reagon < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bernice_Johnson_Reagon >	<i>The Songs Are Free</i>
Wednesday, 26 October Thursday, 27 October Folklore and social movements	Christine Spivey, “This Land is your Land” (AP)	

Monday, 31 October Tuesday, 1 November No class meeting	Students will visit exhibit “Full Color Depression” at the Alright-Knox Art Gallery <i>Folk Groups and Folklore Genres</i> , chapter two, “Ethnic Groups and Ethnic Folklore”	
Wednesday, 2 November Thursday, 3 November Ethnic folklore	Alan Jabbour, “Ethnicity and Identity in America” (AP) Nancy Piatkowski, “The Devotional Altar as a Minority Cultural Expression in a Multi-Cultural Society” (AP)	<i>In Heaven There Is No Beer</i>
Monday, 7 November Tuesday, 8 November Ethnic folklore	Fieldwork notes due	
Wednesday, 9 November Thursday, 10 November Custom and celebration	Jack Santino, “In and Out of Time: Festivals, Liminality and Communitas” (AP) Jennifer Cutting: “Bringing in the May” (AP) Study Guide for the ‘Oss Films (will be sent to you by ANGEL mail)	<i>‘Oss Tales</i>
Monday, 14 November Tuesday, 15 November Custom and celebration	Jack Santino, “Halloween in America: Contemporary Customs and Performances,” in <i>Western Folklore</i> , Vol. 42, No. 1 (Jan., 1983), pp. 1–20.	
Wednesday, 16 November Thursday, 17 November Custom and celebration	Sylvia Grider, “Spontaneous Shrines: A Modern Response to Tragedy and Disaster” (AP) Peter Carlson, “Thanksgiving’s Risque Roots” (will be sent to you by ANGEL mail) Terry Liu, “Santa Cecilia Day” (will be sent to you by ANGEL mail)	<i>Feet, Don’t Fail Me Now, Always for Pleasure or Mas Fever</i>
Monday, 21 November Tuesday, 22 November Custom and celebration		

Wednesday, 23 November Thursday, 24 November [Thanksgiving recess]		
Monday, 28 November Tuesday, 29 November American roots music	Fieldwork projects due Notes for American Roots Music (will be sent to you by AN GEL mail) “Historical Background of Roots Music” (will be send to you by ANGEL mail)	<i>American Roots Music</i> , “When First Unto This Country”
Wednesday, 30 November Thursday, 1 December American roots music	Bruce Jackson, "The Folksong Revival" (AP)	<i>American Roots Music</i> , “This Land Is Your Land”
Monday, 5 December Tuesday, 6 December American roots music	<i>Folk Groups and Folklore Genres</i> , chapter seven, "Ballads and Folksongs"	<i>American Roots Music</i> , “The Times They Are A’Changing”
Wednesday, 7 December Thursday, 8 December American roots music		<i>American Roots Music</i> , “All My Children of the Sun”
Monday, 12 December CEP Week	The final exam will be given in CLAS B-106 on 12 and 13 December, from 3:40 to 5:30. You may take the test at either time; you do not need to inform me in advance.	
Tuesday, 13 December CEP Week	The final exam will be given in CLAS B-106 on 12 and 13 December, from 3:40 to 5:30. You may take the test at either time; you do not need to inform me in advance.	