

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2016-2017 MLCS 205-B1: History of Folklore Studies
(Winter Term)**

Instructor: Natalie Kononenko

Office: Arts 441-C

Telephone: 780-492-6810

E-mail: nataliek@ualberta.ca

Personal Website: www.artsrn.ualberta.ca/folkloreukraine/

Class Time: MWF 13-1350

Place: Tory basement 38

Office Hours: MW 11-1150

or by appointment

Course Website: On e-Class

Course Prerequisite: none

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

- Exam registry – Students' Union
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
- See explanations below
- Document distributed in class
- Other (please specify)
- NA

Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)

Yes No

Course Description and Objectives:

Folklore exists in many forms and this course surveys the history of folklore studies, with particular emphasis on the narrative forms of folklore, namely legends, tales, narrative song, and online narrative such as fan fiction. The course will examine the nature of folklore and how it came to be collected and studied. We will look at the history of scholarly approaches to folklore and we will end with contemporary folkloric expression, both folklore itself as it appears in new media, and critiques of folklore such as rewritten classical tales

This course has a community service learning option and, to satisfy that option, students are encouraged to collect stories in their community and to present them back to the community in digital form.

Learning outcomes. At the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

- 1) Identify examples of folklore in a variety of genres and contexts
- 2) Describe the difference between an oral narrative, a written narrative, a filmic narrative, and a narrative which appears in digital form
- 3) Describe major trends in folklore scholarship
- 4) Analyze contemporary texts to see how they use folklore to respond to contemporary situations and challenges

Texts: Christine A. Jones and Jennifer Schacker, *Marvelous Transformations: An Anthology of Fairy Tales and Contemporary Critical Perspectives*. Broadview Publishers, 2013.

Texts for reading and discussion will be selected from this book. Additional short readings will be made available on eClass.

Schedule: Topics are listed by week. Most Fridays will be discussion days. Students will discuss the assigned tales or scholarly readings. There will be exercises that will help students understand the nature of the oral text and experiments in oral transmission. Short 100 word responses papers will be submitted most Fridays.

January 9 – what is folklore? Orality, the existence of variants

January 16 – Folklore before we knew it was folklore

January 23 – the early collections – folklore as part of literature

January 30 – folklore and nationalism – the Brothers Grimm and collectors in other countries

February 6 – the classic collections, the folktale canon

February 13 – classifying folklore, tale types, motifs; Propp and structuralism

February 20 – break

February 27 – performance studies; recognizing the role of the audience

March 6 – psychoanalytical approaches

March 13 – critiquing tales: feminist and gender studies; rewriting tales

March 20 – folklore in everyday life, folklore online

March 27 – preparation for final project

April 3 – student presentations

April 10-12 – student presentations

Final paper due April 19

Grade Distribution and important due dates:

- 1) Short 100 word response exercises due weekly: 10%
- 2) Active participation in the Friday discussion sessions and regular attendance and participation in lecture; active participation in the variation and oral transmission experiments: 20%

- 3) Two midterms. These will be based on the response exercises and preceded by a review session: 10% each for a total of 20%
Midterm dates: February 3 and March 10. The midterms will be conducted through eClass and the exam submission portal will be open from noon until 3PM.
- 4) Experiment write-ups (one to one and a half pages each), one for the variants exercise and one for the transmission experiment – 5% each for a total of 10%. These will be due January 20 and March 3
- 5) Course project – this is worth 40%, divided as follows:
 - Project proposal (one page) – 10%, due March 24
 - Project oral presentation (10 minute formal presentation with a Power Point or other visuals): 10% (last 2 weeks of class)
 - Project write-up (5-7 pages double-spaced): 20%, due April 19

While there is no final exam in this course, the due date of the paper is based on the University examination schedule. The Fall / Winter Exam Planner for the 2016-2017 academic year can be found at the following site:

<http://www.registrarsoffice.ualberta.aca/en/Examinations/Fall-2016-Winter-2017-Exam-Planner.aspx>

Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University calendar.”

Academic Integrity:

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy has been or is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombudsman](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

Academic Honesty:

All students should consult the information provided by the [Office of Judicial Affairs](#) regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the

[Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook](#) and [Information for Students](#)). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.” **Students in language courses** should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, **excessive editorial and creative help** in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the content author(s) or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result. **In this course**, MLCS 205 students are expected to participate actively in the discussions that take place on Fridays and to attend all lectures, responding to lecture content.

Policy for Late Assignments:

Students who consult in advance with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension. Otherwise, a 33%-per-class-day penalty (one third of a grade, e.g. from B+ to B) will be assessed for each subsequent class-day of lateness.

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with [Student Accessibility Services](#), contact their office immediately (1-800 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381; WEB www.sds.ualberta.ca).

Grading: Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
<p>Excellent. A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.</p>	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92
<p>Good. B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.</p>	B+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
<p>Satisfactory. C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.</p>	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
<p>Poor/Minimal Pass. D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.</p>	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
<p>Failure.</p>	F	0.0	0-59