

Comparative Studies 792

Folklore and the Disciplines in the 19th and Early 20th Centuries

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"folklore is a bastard begat upon English by anthropology"

This 792 course, "Folklore and the Disciplines," is a foundational course for graduate studies in folklore, but also offers students in related fields of anthropology, socio-linguistics, and studies of religion, literature, and science insight into the ways that their disciplines, as well, were shaped by and shaped nineteenth century phenomena such as colonialism, nationalism, industrialization, spiritualism, and romanticism. Folkloristics today continues to draw upon these other co-emergent disciplines, and those disciplines, in turn, draw upon "traditional" expressive culture genres and indicators for data, for inspiration, and for resources upon which to draw in order to inject rhetorical power into their theoretical discourses.

There are at least three foci of this seminar: First, how can we re-think the effects of the scholarly energy of the nineteenth century, especially in Western Europe, more complexly and less stereotypically? Certain "givens" of that period need to be re-examined by broadening geographically and in terms of social roles, races, genders and classes the spectrum of where what we now think of as folklore was studied and by whom. Second, what kinds of scholarly and societal "underpinnings" did folklore and the other emerging disciplines share-not only those of empire, but of a "classical" education, of politics, of travel habits, of missionary and military endeavors, of theories of race, class, and gender. Especially we will investigate how these theoretical assumptions were being troubled, and by whom. Where were the loci of tensions, especially in 19th century Britain and other Western European venues, and how did, or did, these translate over into early studies of folklore in the US. Third, how were the relationships between the armchair students of the practices of the folk and the "other," whether of verbal art genres, material culture, body art, dance, music, rituals or festivals negotiated with those who conducted field studies? And, How did those dedicated to the archeological past or the geographic present, relate to those dedicated to the study of what Sir Richard Burton's nemesis, John Hanning Speke, referred to disdainfully as those (like Burton) fascinated by the "manners and customs" of global inhabitants of their 19th century world?

Texts:

Voices of Modernity: Language Ideologies and the Politics of Inequality by Richard Bauman and Charles Briggs

Representations of Culture: Thomas Hardy's Wessex & Victorian Anthropology by Michael A. Zeitler

Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy

Short articles TBA

Requirements:

1-2 Page Reading Responses posted on Carmen each week 20%

[Go to Carmen.osu.edu, click on Comparative Studies 792 and enter your user name (smith.1 for example) and password. Click on discussions. Click on Add Message. When you are finished, click on "submit." Once you have sent the reading response you cannot delete it so check it over- you might want to compose in word and then cut and paste into the discussion board. Read your classmates' responses *after* you have posted your own so you do not second guess yourself. Click on all messages and then on each title. From there you can respond to others' comments if you wish]

10 Page Paper

First Draft 20%

Second Draft to Present to Class 20%

Finished Paper 20%

Attendance and Participation in Reading Discussions 20%

Week I: Introduction

Tuesday, March 25

Thursday, March 27

Reading due: *Voices*--Preface and Introduction

Week II

Tuesday, April 1

Reading due: *Voices*-Chapter 2

Thursday, April 3

Reading due: *Voices*-Chapter 3 pages 70-90

Week III

Tuesday, April 8

Reading due: *Voices*--Finish Chapter 3

Thursday, April 10

Reading due: *Voices*--Chapter 4

Week IV

Tuesday, April 15

Reading due: *Voices*--Chapter 5 pages 163-189

Thursday, April 17 Reading due: *Voices*--Chapter 5 pages 189-conclusion

Week V

Tuesday April 22
Reading due: *Voices*--Chapter 6

Thursday, April 24
Reading due: *Voices*--Chapter 7

Week VI
Tuesday, April 29

Thursday, May 1
Reading due: *Voices*--Chapter 8

Week VII
Tuesday, May 6
Reading due: *Voices*--Conclusion

Thursday, May 8
Reading due: *Representations*--Intro and Chapter 1

Week VIII
Tuesday, May 13
Reading due: Hardy and *Representations* Chapter 2

Thursday, May 15
Reading due: Hardy and *Representations* Chapter 3

Week IX
Tuesday, May 20
Reading due: Hardy and *Representations* Chapter 4

Thursday, May 22
Reading due: Hardy and *Representations* Chapter 5

**** Second Drafts Posted on line by Sunday Evening, May 25, 8 pm for classmates to read

Week X
Tuesday, May 27
Presentations of Papers to the seminar and discussion

Thursday, May 29
Presentations of Papers to the seminar and discussion

Final Papers due on Monday, June 2 in Hagerty 451 by 4:00 pm

Academic Misconduct. Students are reminded that they are responsible for being aware of and

obeying the University's rules regarding academic misconduct and the Code of Student Conduct. Please see your professor if you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism. Remember that all written work must include careful documentation of any outside sources.

If you need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, please contact me to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. The Office for Disability Services also needs to be contacted (tel. 292-3307).