Theories of High and Low Culture
This seminar explores the emergence of notions of tradition and modernity and their reproduction in Eurocentric epistemologies and political formations. We will consider the implications of these concepts for differentiations among high and low, local and global, oral and written, etc. Readings will include Anderson, Bourdieu, Butler, Canclini, Chakrabarty, Clifford, Derrida, Foucault, Herder, Latour, Mignolo, Pateman, Poovey and Vico. We will critically reread foundational works published between the 17th century (especially German Romanticists) and the present--along with philosophical texts with which they are in dialogue--in terms of how they are imbricated within and help produce traditionalities and modernities.

Requirements:
1. Oral Presentation on one of the readings. Your presentation should include:
   ❖ a concise summary of the central arguments of the reading (also posted to Carmen, either before or after your presentation)
   ❖ a discussion of the ideas presented, especially considering the binary oppositions addressed in the article and your suggestions for thinking about how they are productive (or not)
   ❖ questions for class discussion
2. One reference to contribute to a collective annotated bibliography on the general topic of high and low culture tradition and modernity, globalization and local cultural change, or the critique of Romanticism, the Enlightenment, the Reformation from a folkloristic perspective. Most students will include this in their oral presentation on one of the readings, but that is not required.
3. A term paper, either an 8-10 page conference paper or a longer draft of work in progress.
4. Oral presentation of your term paper, 5 minutes of summary followed by 5 minutes of class discussion,

Texts: All readings are available Carmen/Canvas with the exception of journal articles available on line.
Reading Assignments

August 24: Introduction
Conceptualizing Differentiations: Type and Token (Wollheim); Family Resemblance (Wittgenstein); semiotic oppositions (Eco); proper nots (Bateson); dialectic and negative dialectic; self and other; tradition and modernity

August 31: The emergence of the concept of the folk
Vico in The Rise of Modern Mythology
Herder in The Rise of Modern Mythology
Bogatyrev and Jakobson “Folklore as a Special Form of Creation”
Burke, Peter. “The Discovery of the People” in Popular Culture in Early Modern Europe
Redfield “Peasantry: Part-Societies”

-----“A Community Within Communities”

Recommended:
Wordsworth “The Lyrical Ballad”
Kanef from “Who Owns the Past”

September 7: Considering Pastness, Modernity’s Other, History/Dialectic
Briggs and Bauman “Creating Modernity’s Others in Seventeenth and Eighteenth-Century England: antiquarian and philological inflections

Rearick, selection from Beyond the Enlightenment

Levi-Strauss, Claude “History and the Dialectic” and “The Science of the Concrete” from The Savage Mind

Benjamin, Walter “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction” and “Theses on History” from Illuminations

Carmen Ortiz “The Uses of Folklore by the Franco Regime” *Journal of American Folklore* vol 112 446 1999 479-496

**September 14: The Collection**
Grimm “Circular concerning the collecting of folk poetry” from Dundes

Haraway Teddy Bear Patriarchy: Taxidermy in the Garden of Eden, New York City, 1908-1936 in Primate Visions (on carmen)

Von Sydow “Geography and folk tale icotytes”

Stewart “The collection, paradise of consumption” from *On Longing*

Hacking “Making up People”

Noyes “On Sociocultural Categories”

Recommended: Cara and Baron Introduction to special issue of *Journal of American Folklore* on Creolization

**September 21: high/low; marked/unmarked/Music**
Bourdieu The sense of distinction in Distinctions (on carmen)

Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Barbara. “Disputing taste” in *Destination Cultures*

Kirshenblatt-Gimbett “Sounds of Sensibility”

Gregory Bateson “A Theory of Play and Fantasy” from *Steps to an Ecology of Mind*


Jackson, Michael “Listening Otherwise”

Recommended:
Bahktin excerpt from *Rabelais and His World*

**September 28: Authenticity/tradition/invention/style/Dance and Performance**

Bendix “Tourism and cultural displays: inventing traditions for whom?  
*Journal of American Folklore* 102 no 404 1989 pp 131-146

Sabra Webber ”In Defense of (Maghribi) Folklore” in *Romancing the Real*


Bendix, Regina from *In Search of Authenticity*

Hobsbawm, “The Invention of Tradition”

Hufford, Mary “Folklore in Appalachia”

Recommended:

Hymes, Folklore’s nature and the sun’s myth

**October 5: Local Global/High Low/Science Magic/Sacred Secular/Belief/Disbelief**


Geertz, Clifford. “Local Knowledge:

Amy Shuman “Dismantling Local Culture”

Marilyn Strathern “Parts and Wholes: refiguring relationships in a postplural world”

Bennett, Gillian “Belief and Disbelief”

Mullen, Patrick “Belief and the American Folk” *Journal of American Folklore* 113: 448, 2006 pp 119-143

Recommended:


**Autumn Break October 12 no class**
No class October 19

October 26: Material culture: art/craft; Geographies/Diasporas

Glassie, Henry “Material Culture” in Material Culture

Hunt, Marjorie “Born into the Stone”


Lucy Lippard the Lure of the Local  manipulating memory chapter (also about heritage tourism)


Kirshenblatt, Gimblett, Barbara response to Clifford
http://www.nyu.edu/classes/bkg/web/

Recommended:
Selected Readings by Ruskin, Morris, and others from Arts and Crafts Movement

Hasan-Rokem, Galit "Jews as Postcards, or Postcards as jews: Mobility in a Modern Genre The Jewish Quarterly Review 2009, 99:4, pp 5-5-546.


Sontag, Susan. “Notes on Camp”


November 2: Orality, Literacy, Language, Normalcy


Butler, Judith “Burning acts, injurious speech” from *Excitable Speech*

Davis, Lennard “Rethinking Normalcy, Normalization, and Cognitive Disability”

**Recommended:**

Finnegan, Ruth “Style and Performance”

----- “Some Approaches to the study of oral poetry”

Shuman, Amy “Disability, Narrative Normativity, and the Stigmatized Vernacular of Communicative (in)Competence” in *Diagnosing Folklore*

**November 9: History/Dialectic; Nature/Culture**

Canclini “From the Primitive to the Popular: Theories about Inequality between Cultures”


John Roberts “African American Diversity and the Study of Folklore” *Western Folklore*

Haraway, Donna “Teddybear Patriarchy”

Ortner, Sherry “Is Female to Male as Nature is to Culture?”

**Recommended:**

Abrahams “Shouting Match at the Border”

Adorno and Horkheimer Excerpt from *Dialectic of the Enlightenment*

**November 16 Disciplinary Differentiations in the study of Everyday Life**


---additional essays on aesthetics and everyday life:
http://www.nyu.edu/classes/bkg/web/


Recommended:

Derrida, Jacques “Structure, sign and play” from *Writing and Difference*

**November 23 Thanksgiving, no class**

**November 30 Student Presentations of Work-in-Progress**

**Term Papers Due December 14 by email to shuman.1@osu.edu or in Carmen dropbox**

**Plagiarism**
"It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct."

**Attendance**
Please inform the instructor of any excused absences. You are responsible for the material covered whether or not your absence is excused.

**Disability**
"Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; [http://ods.osu.edu/](http://ods.osu.edu/)

**Class Cancellation**
In the unlikely event of class cancellation due to emergency/weather, I will post an announcement on Carmen and request that a note be placed on the door.