

Folklore of the Americas: Appalachia



“Appalachian folklore” usually conjures images of mountain cabins, sounds of plucky melodies, and the misty taste of moonshine among a slew of other popular representations of the region. Yet, it also means so much more. This course critically explores the enduring symbols of culture, migration labor, religion, and environment of the region as well as the historically untold and silenced narratives. We will explore the constellation of folklore and folkways that have made the mountain region by engaging with historical and contemporary sources on music, food, storytelling, sports, and craft. From murder ballads to Mexilachian corridos and everything in between, you’ll research the history and current state of the region’s folk traditions and how they might address contemporary issues faced by the people living there today.

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