



Folklore Program

Folklore Courses Academic Year 2022-2023

Fall 2022

ENGH 202 **Food and Folklore**

Students will examine the cultural contexts behind the food we eat (and the food we don't). Through examining definitions, reading online resources and articles, and observing the Folklore of Food all around them, students will gain an appreciation for the pervasiveness of this fascinating subject and the ways their own perception of foods influences their cultural lives and the lives of others. This course will make you ask questions, challenge preconceived notions and think critically about the role of food in human society.

ENGH 315 **Folklore and Folklife**

This course provides an introduction to different forms of vernacular culture, including oral/verbal, customary, and material folklore, and considers various interpretative and theoretical approaches to the examples of folk culture discussed. We will explore how folklore is both an unofficial body of cultural knowledge and aesthetic practice and a communicative process that shapes and reflects everyday experience. We will also learn methods of ethnography and field collection that we can use to uncover structures, functions, and meanings in expressive culture.

ENGH 412/ENGH 591/FOLK 550 **Folklore and Museums**

ENGH 412/ENGH 591/FOLK 560 **Folklore, Gender and Sexuality**

This course explores relationships between folklore, gender, and sexuality. We will use theories from folklore, feminism, and gender studies to analyze the role of folklore in the construction and negotiation of gender and sexual identities, how folklore can contribute to gender conflict, and how people use folklore forms to resist and contest gender and sexual inequities. We will take an intersectional approach, understanding that multiple axes of identity intersect in each individual to shape their distinct experiences with gender and sexuality. The focus will be primarily on diverse peoples within the U.S., though course discussions and assignments will expand to global perspectives.

ENGH 591 Advanced Intro to Folklore and Folklife

This course provides an introduction to different forms of vernacular culture, including oral/verbal, customary, and material folklore, and consider various interpretive and theoretical approaches to the examples of folk culture discussed. We will explore how folklore as both (1) an unofficial body of cultural knowledge and aesthetic practices and (2) as a communicative process shapes and reflects everyday experience. We will also learn methods of ethnography and field collection that we can use to uncover structures, functions, and meanings in expressive culture.

Winter 2022/2023

ENGH 591 Irish Folklore and Ethnography

Irish Folklore & Ethnography takes students into the heart of Irish traditional culture. Traveling to communities from Dublin to Donegal this course allows students to engage with local communities where a variety of traditional artists live and work. Using ethnographic methods, students will document Irish cultural traditions using participant observation and in-depth interviews with musicians, storytellers, and craftspeople.

Spring 2023

ENGH 202 Food and Folklore

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ENGH 303 Humanities College to Career

ENGH 315 Folklore and Folklife

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ENGH 417/ENGH 591/FOLK 510 Folklore and Ethnographic Research Methods

This course introduces students to ethnographic fieldwork in folklore by integrating research practice with methodological and theoretical readings. Topics include identifying a subject of study, developing appropriate research strategies, initiating fieldwork, establishing rapport, reflexivity, representation, and uses for technology. Each student will conceptualize and execute steps toward a fieldwork project while developing practical skills in proposal writing, observation, interviewing, analysis, documentation, and oral presentation.

ENGH 412/ENGH 591/FOLK 570 African Folklore

This course investigates a variety of expressive forms practiced by different groups of people living on the African continent and the diaspora. Our focus will be on why expressive culture, folklore, and heritage matters in the context of African countries and peoples. Themes include issues of aesthetics, identity, politics, economics, gender, class, globalization, migration, and displacement. Audio-visual materials—video footage, documentary films, audio recordings, and photographs—will be used to augment students' understanding and engagement with life across the continent and with the specific materials studied. Assigned readings will focus dance, music, social media, and material culture, while you will be encouraged to explore other folklore forms in your own research and other class activities.

ENGH 591/FOLK 601 Folklore Theory and History

This course introduces theories, approaches, and history that are central to the practice of folklore. The class examines not only what folklore is, but also how it emerged and developed as an academic discipline since the late 19th century. This course will also introduce you to the wide variety of work that folklorists do in academic and public-sector settings. The course offers a comprehensive overview of the history and theory of the discipline, contemporary approaches to folklore study and collection, and current theoretical developments in the discipline.

Summer 2023

FOLK 510 Folklore and Ethnographic Research Methods: Field School for Cultural Documentation

This intensive course will offer hands-on ethnographic training for beginners in the documentation of local cultural resources, the preservation of documentary materials, and the public presentation of cultural heritage. Instruction will cover such areas as research ethics, preliminary research, interviewing and sound recording techniques, ethnographic observation, and field note writing. Training will also be provided on the archival organization of documentary materials gathered in the field and the use of documentary materials for exhibitions and other public presentations. Course instruction will include lectures, hand-on workshops, discussions, and supervised team-based fieldwork with a carefully selected cultural community.