

Anth 210: Anthropological Folklore

Tuesday and Thursday: 10 – 11:15 a.m.

Instructor: Lisa Sorensen-Stahl

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Office Hours: M, W, F - 11 – 11:50 a.m.

Description of Course:

Why do people have secret handshakes? Why do we express ourselves in slang? Folklore can be thought of as the means in which human beings “unofficially” communicate aspects of their culture to others. This conveyance is manifest in how we speak to one another, the art we create or in the rituals we perform and participate in. By studying folkways, we will learn about the informal way in which beliefs, values and customs are transmitted, globally and locally. Classroom instruction will include a brief overview of the history of folklore studies and theories used to examine cultural traditions. A fieldwork project will allow students to actively apply their studies in a creative venture. This course will give students the opportunity to explore folklore through the discipline of anthropology which includes an active approach to gathering ethnological data and subsequent evaluation and interpretation of research.

Course Attributes

Anth 210 counts toward Liberal Arts credit in general education requirements. This course also fulfills an S2 requirement. (social and human behavior)

Course Readings

Sims, Martha C. Stephens, Martine. 2005. Living Folklore: An Introduction to the Study of People and Their Traditions.

Course Mission and Assessment of Grade:

Reading, lectures, occasional film and class participation are unifying components of this course. The textbook provides an understanding of the history and sustaining theories of folklore studies that will be explored through classroom discourse. The field work project will give students an opportunity to present a personal, original contribution to the discipline of folklore.

Grade assessment:

- Chapter Evaluation Submissions: (8 submissions) 15%
- Class discussions/participation: 15%
- Mid-Term Examination: 20%
- Final Examination: 20%
- Project: 30%

Evaluation of grades:

A	93 – 100%	C+	77 – 79%	D-	60 – 63%
A-	90 – 92%	C	74 – 76%	F	below 60%
B+	87 – 89%	C -	70 – 73%		
B	84 – 86%	D+	67 – 69%		
B-	80 – 83%	D	64 – 66%		

Participation

You will have many opportunities to discuss readings and/or issues from lectures and films. You are expected to engage in these discussions and contribute your insights. Once again, attendance is crucial to a favorable grade in participation.

Attendance

Your attendance is considered as part of your grade for this class. It reflects intention and initiative to do well in this course. If you are frequently absent, without appropriate documentation regarding illness, for example, your contribution to discussions and participation will be inadequate.

While in attendance, it is expected that you will not disrupt class instruction, which includes films, with the use of electronic devices such as cellular phones. Computer use for class note taking must be cleared with the instructor prior to use. Any use of electronic devices during quizzes and/or exams will result in a failing grade.

Academic Honesty

You can review the State University College at Oneonta's *Code of Student Conduct* at www.oneonta.edu/development/judicial/code.asp#conduct. This site provides a detailed account of the institution's expectations of students regarding academic honesty and the severe consequences that result from breaking these rules. A failing grade will be issued to any student caught cheating.

Emergency Evacuation/Shelter-in-Place Procedures

In the event of an emergency evacuation (i.e., fire or other emergency), classes meeting in this building are directed to reassemble at <see the list that Brian sent out for the location relating to your classes> so that all persons can be accounted for.

Complete details of the College's emergency evacuation, shelter-in-place and other emergency procedures can be found at <http://www.oneonta.edu/security/>.

Date	Topics	Readings*
8/27	Introduction to Anthropological Folklore	
9/1, 9/3	Defining Folklore/Application to Everyday Life	Chap. 1, Sims
9/8, 9/10	Who Are the <i>Folk</i> in Folk Groups?	Chap. 2, Sims
9/15, 9/17	Cultural Identity/Traditions	Chap. 3, Sims
9/22, 9/24	The Vernacular and Ritual	Chap. 4, Sims
10/1	MID-TERM EXAMINATION	
10/6, 10/8	“Doing Folklore”/Performance	Chap. 5, Sims
10/13, 10/15	Exploring Folklore Theories	Chap. 6, Sims
10/20, 10/22	Ethnography/Research	Chap. 7, Sims
10/27, 10/29	Folklorists and Fieldwork	Chap. 8, Sims
11/3, 11/5	Understanding Culture Through Folklore	Assigned Reading
11/10, 11/12	Fine Arts vs. Folk Arts	Assigned Reading
11/17	Group Activity	
11/19	Research Day/Completion of Class Projects	
12/1, 12/3, 12/8	CLASS PROJECT PRESENTATIONS	
12/15	FINAL EXAMINATION – 8 – 10:30 a.m.	

*Readings should be done by the Monday of that week