

Notice: The RU Faculty Senate has asked me to remind students who have need of **classroom accommodations** under the Americans with Disabilities Act that they are required to register with the RU Disability Resource Office (DRO), room 32, Tyler Hall (831-6350). If you need accommodations for this course please obtain the proper DRO forms and meet with me as soon as possible. Thank you.

APPALACHIAN FOLKLORE, English 446, Fall 2002

Ricky Cox, 106B, Buchanan House

Office Ph: 831-6153 or -5366 E-Mail: rcox@radford.edu Office Hours : Tues. 2:00-3:00 PM; Wed. 8:30-9:30 AM, Thurs. 2:00-3:00, 5:00-6:00 PM. Other times by appointment.

TEXTS:

Barden, Thomas E., ed. Virginia Folk Legends. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1991.

Brunvand, Jan Harold. The Study of American Folklore. (4th Ed.) New York: W.W. Norton & Co., Inc., 1998.

Eiler, Lyntha Scott, et al. Blue Ridge Harvest. Washington: Library of Congress, 1981.

NOTE: Blue Ridge Harvest is **NOT** in the RU bookstore—Copies will be on reserve in McConnell Library

Page, Linda Garland and Eliot Wigginton, Eds. Aunt Arie: A Foxfire Portrait. Chapel Hill, NC: UNC Press, 1992.

Roberts, Leonard. Up Cutshin and Down Greasy. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1988, 1959.

--You will also need a handbook for planning organizing, and submitting your field collection project. The ARSC will provide a copy for your use this semester.

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES:

This course is designed to provide a definition, demonstration, and analysis of the folklore of the Appalachian Mountain region. It will move from the verbal lore of tales, ballads, and sayings to the non-verbal or partially verbal lore of customs, games, and rituals, and finally to the material lore of structures, designs, and landscapes. The emphasis in the course will be divided between classroom study, which will include video, audio, and live demonstrations of the various genres of folklore, and fieldwork, which will require collections and analyses by you. As a means of acquainting you with the Appalachian people and their culture, this study should prove especially useful to those of you intending to seek employment or already working in the region in education, health professions, law agencies, religious organizations, social services, cultural preservation, business, and industry.

OPPORTUNITIES

- 1) Reading of assigned works by due dates.
- 2) Regular class attendance. More than two absences may result in grade penalty.
- 3) Regular participation in and contributions to class discussion.
- 4) Occasional impromptu in-class writing exercises.
- 5) Occasional in-class demonstrations of folklore, such as storytelling, jokes, music, craft displays, etc.

- 6) A biweekly log recounting your reactions to class activities, the field work you're engaged in, etc. Be sure to devote at least some space to the reading you are doing. The log should contain an entry every other week of at least three hundred words, typed or handwritten. It should be kept a folder with pockets so that subsequent entries can be added. (Class will be divided for staggered due dates.)
- 7) Field trip to Selu Conservancy, date to be announced. Include a reaction to Selu and our visit there in your next scheduled log entry. This in **addition to** (not in place of) the regular entry.
- 8) Field trip to Blue Ridge Folklife Festival, Ferrum College, Saturday, October 26, 2002. Include a brief reaction in your next log. If this is not possible for you, see no. 9 for one alternative. You'll need to supply your own transportation. Car-pooling is recommended.
- 9) An alternative, or a complement, to No. 8: Appalachian Folk Arts Festival, Radford University, Family Weekend, Saturday, November 9, 2002. Include a brief reaction in your next scheduled log entry (in addition to, not in place of, regular entry).
- 10) Analytical paper (2-4 pages, typed) based on the Ferrum trip or the FAF at RU: You are to pick **one** activity at the festival to observe in detail and to find out about from the tradition bearer. Your paper should include (in roughly equal proportions) each of the following: A description of the activity; a classification (using SoAF, the handbook, and your best judgement) of the activity as to type or genre of folklore; a discussion of the tradition out of which it comes; and an analysis of its significance, past and present, in the Appalachian culture it represents. DRAFT DUE: Oct. 31, for peer sharing. FINAL DRAFT DUE: Nov. 7.

11) Major investigative field project: A collection of folklore (preferably from the Appalachian region) and written analysis of its significance. Your collection will include most of the components described (with examples) in A Handbook for Preparing a Folklife Project. The collection should be supported by tapes, slides, photographs, artifacts, etc. as appropriate to you topic. The format should follow the models and instructions in A Handbook.... With your permission, your collection and analysis will become a part of the Appalachian Folklore Archive at the Appalachian Regional Studies Center in Buchanan House.

FINAL PROJECT DUE: **MONDAY, DEC. 2.**

NOTE: Written progress reports on your field project will be required at approximately four week intervals (September 19, October 17, and November 14). Conferences with the instructor on your fieldwork and writing will also be scheduled as needed. **Please** let me know when you encounter questions about or problems with your field collection project.

- 12) Presentation of field project to class, beginning Nov. 21 and continuing through the final exam period on Thursday, Dec. 12.
- 13) Mid-Term (10/3) and Final Examinations (due 12/12). The final is a take-home, essay exam.
- 14) Adherence to Radford University Honor Code:

By accepting admission to Radford University, each student makes a commitment to understand, support, and abide by the University Honor Code without compromise or exception. Violations of academic integrity will not be tolerated. This class will be conducted in strict observance of the

Honor Code. Refer to your Student Handbook for details.

COURSE OUTLINE

SOAF = Study of American Folklore, BRH= Blue Ridge Harvest, VFL = Virginia Folk Legends,
UCDG = Up Cutshin and Down Greasy, AA = Aunt Arie.

Week Of:	Subject Matter:	Readings:	Activities:
Thursday, August 22	Introduction to Course and the Region	NOTE: Readings in this column should be done by date at the far left, unless otherwise explained in this column.	Introduction, Slide Presentation, Sample Projects
Thursday, August 28	I. Folkloristics: A. Definition of Folklore B. Survey of the History of the Discipline C. Scholarship in the Discipline D. Folk Groups and Modes of Lore Transmission	Preface or introductions to all texts. SOAF pp. 1-17, 22-39, 48-62. VFL pp. 1-48 ** Be sure to hand out "Appalachian Values"	Videotape.
Thursday, September 5	II. The Appalachian Folk A. Genealogy B. Heritage C. Present Dilemma: Traditional Folk Culture vs. Mainstream Culture	SOAF pp. 71-87, 92-109 UCDG pp. 1-36 BRH - all(lots of pictures!); on reserve in McConnell Library. "Appalachian Values" by Loyal Jones	Meet at the Appalachian Regional Studies Center, Lower Level, Buchanan House. Reconvene in Young Hall.
Thursday, September 12	III. Verbal Folklore A. Folk Expression 1. Speech 2. Sayings 3. Proverbs 4. Riddles and Rhymes	SOAF pp. 113-131, 136-164. UCDG pp. 37-59, 100-104, 135-140. VFL pp. 63-77, 211-225.	9/12 Field Trip to Selu Conservancy. Meet in the Young Hall parking lot at 6:30
DUE: Thurs. Sept. 19	Progress Report I, Conferences as Needed		
Thursday, September 19 And Thursday, September 26	III. B. Folk Narrative 1. Personal Narratives and anecdotes 2. Jokes 3. Myths and Legends 4. Tales	Week of 9/19: SOAF pp. 170-191, 196-222, 229-260. UCDG- pp. 104-134. Week of 9/26: VFL pp. 49-62, 105-138, 139-158. AA pp. 1-52.	Videotape, Cratis Williams on <u>Appalachian Language and Culture</u> YOUR Folk Narratives—Ghost Stories, Urban Legends, Jokes, etc
Thursday, October 3	Mid-term Examination	Catch up on your Reading.	Videotaped Stories
DUE: Thursday Oct 17	Progress Report II, Conferences as Needed		

Thursday, October 10 And Thursday, October 17	III.C. Folk Music 1. Ballads 2. Songs 3. Instruments	10/10: SOAF pp. 269-295, 303-339, 345-362. UCDG pp. 146-156. 10/17: VFL (legends continued) pp. 78-103, 195- 209, 239-253, 255-286. AA pp. 53-96	Recorded and/or Live Performance of Traditional Appalachian Music (Both Weeks) Videotape: <u>High Lonesome</u>
**SATURDAY, OCT. 26 I want you to go to Ferrum if at all possible. If not, the AFAF at RU, Saturday, Nov ?, is an alternative source for your analytical paper	Field Trip to Blue Ridge Folklife Festival, Ferrum College Music, Crafts, Food, Horse Pull, Gas Engines. You are required to attend this event . If you KNOW you can't attend this or the Folk Arts Festival at RU on November, start looking for an alternative as soon as possible.		
Thursday, October 24 And Thursday, October 31	IV. Non-Verbal or Partially Verbal Customary Folklore A. Superstitions B. Religious Beliefs & Rituals C. Family and Community Customs D. Festivals E. Dances and Dramas F. Games and Gestures	10/24: SOAF pp. 369-398, 405-428, 436-455. AA pp. 97-144 Week of 10/31: SOAF 460- 497. UCDG pp. 60-99. VFL pp. 159-193, 287-309. Refer to BRH as appropriate	10/24Videotape: <u>Nature's Way.</u> Thurs. Oct. 31: Ghost Stories? Share and Discuss Drafts of Analytical Paper on AFAF (11/?, RU) or BRFF (10/26, Ferrum). ***
DUE: Thursday, Nov. 7	Final Draft of Analytical Paper And Progress Report III, Conferences as Needed		
Saturday, Nov. 9	Appalachian Folk Arts Festival 10:00-4:00 Heth Lawn, Family Weekend, Appalachian Music and Crafts		
Thursday, November 7 And Thursday, November 14	V. Material Folklore A. Structures 1. Houses 2. Functional Buildings 3. Fences and Ornaments 4. Bridges and Roads B. Landscapes 1. House sites 2. Field and Garden Layouts C. Design 1. Crafts 2. Art 3. Dress 4. Food	Week of 11/13: SOAF pp. 503-520, 524-540, 544-563. Refer to BRH as appropriate Week of 11/20: Finish AA SOAF pp. 572-588, 591-609.	Week of 11/13:examples, traditional crafts and trades in Indian Valley, VA Week of 11/20: Catch up on readings; answer questions about projects. If time allows: Presentation on grain milling traditions.
Thursday, November 21 and Thursday December 5 and 12	Students' Presentations of Projects November 21, December 5 and 12 (final exam period)		
, DUE: MONDAY,	All Field Collection Projects Due at 5:00 PM		

DEC 2	
Thursday, Dec. 12	Final Exam Period, 5:30-7:30 PM The final exam will be a take-home, essay exam. These will be due at the beginning of the period. We'll use the period to finish project presentations.
Throughout the Term:	VI. The Living Tradition in Appalachian Folklore A. Native informants in their own setting, festival environments, and the classroom 1. Oral history 2. Tales, songs, and other verbal lore 3. Custom and craft demonstration and displays B. Field study of structures and landscapes C. Field collection and analyses by students

**** You are Required to Attend and Write an Analytical Paper About One of These Events.**

Things we hope to squeeze in: Videotapes --Bascom Lamar Lunsford; The House That Love Built.

Record Albums --various including Children of the Heavenly King. Activities—music, singing.