

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

HUMN 103-Introduction to Folklore

I. Basic Course Information

- A. Course Number and Title: HUMN 103- Introduction to Folklore
- B. New or Modified Course: new
- C. Date of Proposal: August 2009 Semester: Spring Year: 2010
- D. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Science and Education
- E. Semester Credit Hours: 3
- F. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: 3
 Laboratory:
- G. Prerequisites/Co-requisites: None
- H. Laboratory Fees:
- I. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair: Kimberley Schirner x8286

II. Catalog Description

This course examines folklore from around the world. The course is a survey of folklore from verbal forms such as fairytales to material culture such as clothing and customary folklore such as Christmas rituals. The course will touch on folklore globally and within the students own lives, including variation among groups. Emphasis is placed on the different ways in which folklorist gather and interpret data.

III. Statement of Course Need

This course will provide a deeper layer to the students' understanding of human nature and how it is manifested in both our daily and ritual lives (and those of others). A course in folklore will complement the department's courses in anthropology, sociology and history by offering students the opportunity to study and analyze elements of cultural life from both their own cultures and those they may not be familiar with.

This course will aid students in further understanding the diversity of the world today and how people create world views.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. Course transferability; for New Jersey schools go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org. For all other colleges and universities go to their individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

- A. Defining Folklore
 - 1. Definition of folklore?
 - 2. Definition of what isn't folklore?
 - 3. Where do we find folklore?
- B. Theory and Ethnography
 - 1. Theory in folklore
 - a. Traditional
 - b. Contemporary
 - 2. Ethnography
 - a. Definition of ethnography in folklore?
 - b. Fieldwork in folklore
 - c. Examples
- C. Fairytales/Legends/Myths Around the World
 - 1. What are fairy tales, legends and myths?
 - a. Traditional
 - b. Contemporary
 - 2. Collections
 - 2. Analysis
- D. Material Culture
 - 1. Definition of material culture?
 - 2. Analysis
 - 3. Collections
 - a. small and large (ex. Clothing and buildings)
 - 4. Preservation and Conservation
- E. Folk Groups
 - 1. What are folk groups?
 - 2. How to identify folklore within folk groups
 - 3. Collecting folklore from students own folk groups
- F. Ramayana
 - 1. Definition of the Ramayana?
 - 2. Exploration of variants of the Ramayana
 - a. Translations
 - b. Ramlila (performance)
 - c. Film adaptations
- G. Performance

1. Definition of folkloric performance?
 2. Examples (global)
- H. Folk Music
1. Exploration of folk music around the world and its influence on American folk music
- I. Regional Folklore
1. Definition of Regional folklore
 2. Exploration of New Jersey Folklore
- J. Ritual, Religion and Rites of Passage
1. Definitions of ritual, religion and rites of passage as it relates to folklore
 2. Exploration of topic.
- K. Occupational Folklife
1. Definition of Occupational Folklife
 2. Exploration of elements of occupational folklife
- M. Applied Folklore/Public Folklore/The Future of Folklore
1. Definitions
 2. Examples
 3. Exploration of applied and public folklore

VI. Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes

A. Educational Goals

Students will:

1. demonstrate an understanding of folklore through written assignments and class projects. (RVCC G.E. 1, 2; NJ G.E. 1, 8)
2. identify folklore genres and folk group customs (RVCC G.E. 6; NJ G.E.6 & 8).
3. analyze the interdisciplinary nature of folklore (RVCC G.E. 4; NJ G.E.6)
4. discuss the ethics of folklore fieldwork and the ways in which folklorists gather information while maintaining the dignity of the people they work with. (RVCC G.E. 5; NJ G.E. 9)

B. Learning Outcomes

The student will be able to:

1. identify issues in folklore and folklife, including concepts, theories and genres.
2. examine the existence and relevance of folklore in our own culture and societies around the world.
3. practice fieldwork related to the study of folklore, including interviewing, recording, photographing, documenting and transcribing.
4. analyze the role that folklore plays in our lives.

5. investigate the ways in which folklore is used in health and social services.
6. differentiate the meaning of folk art across cultures.

VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. guest speakers
- D. student oral presentations
- E. student collaboration
- F. independent study
- G. fieldwork

VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments

- A. art work
- B. research papers
- C. demonstrations
- D. essays

IX. Grade Determinants

- A. essays
- B. projects
- C. presentations

X. Texts and Materials

LIST which of the following types of course materials will be used. Specify title and publication information about textbooks and any other major text sources or other materials.

- A. Lomax Hawes, Bess, 2008. Sing it Pretty. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

Sims, Martha C and Martine Stephens. 2005. Living folklore an introduction to the study of people and their traditions. Logan, Utah : Utah State University Press.

Bartis, Peter. 1982. Folklife and Fieldwork: A Layman's Introduction to Field Techniques. Publications of the American Folklife Center, No. 3 Washington, D.C.: American Folklife Center. (Downloadable for free at: <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/fieldwork/>)

- B. primary sources
- C. interviews
- D. reviews

- E. student writing
- F. film and video
- G. audio sources
- H. web sources
- I. other computer-based sources
- J. other

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

XI. Resources

- A. Library
- B. Computer