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APPALACHIAN FOLKLORE, English 446, Fall 2013

Ricky Cox, 208 Buchanan House

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T, R 12:30-1:45. Wed. 9:30-10:30. 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. A PDF file will be posted on D2L.

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

--By mid-semester, you will need a **handbook** for planning, organizing, and submitting your field collection project. The Appalachian Regional and Rural Studies Center will provide a PDF and/or paper copy.

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 traditional 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/REQUIREMENTS

1. *Reading* of assigned works by due dates.
2. Regular class *attendance*.

3. Regular *participation* in class discussions and activities.
4. Occasional impromptu *in-class writing* exercises.
5. One individual *oral presentation/demonstration* on a specific type of oral, customary, or material folklore. Topic depends on the material assigned the week your presentation is to be given.
6. A *biweekly written response* to assigned readings. Be sure to devote some space to **EACH** of the readings assigned for that week. Since *SOAF* is our primary text, it deserves *substantial* comment (if assigned for that week). Your responses should demonstrate *first* that you READ and understood the assigned readings, i.e. it can be a general but comprehensive summary, proportioned to fit into a couple of typed pages. You are encouraged *also* to demonstrate that you are making connections between what you read and what you already know, from life experience or other courses. The best responses include both summary and observation. You may also comment on class activities, your field work, etc, but be sure to cover the basics.

There is no upper limit to the length; as a rule, more is better. *Minimum* length is three hundred words (typed, double spaced, 12 pt font, 1" margins). Please submit and keep all entries in a pocket type folder. Those who wish to earn top marks typically do much more than the minimum. Include a word count and the submission date, along with your name.

7. Class *Field trip* to Selu Conservancy. We'll schedule at least two late afternoon trips to try to accommodate everyone. We will miss two class meetings to compensate for the 2-2.5 hour evening trip. It's not required, but you *may* include a brief reaction to our Selu visit in your next scheduled log entry, *in addition to* comments on the readings and the class. Please CARPOOL.
8. *On your own* **REQUIRED*** *field trip* to Blue Ridge Folklife Festival, Ferrum College, Saturday, October 26, 2013. 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. If this is not possible for you, see no. 9 for an alternative event to attend nearer Radford. You'll need to supply your own transportation. Car-pooling is recommended—directions available online; written directions supplied on D2L. Adult Admission=c. \$10.00 CASH (Credit/debit cards not accepted in previous years).
9. *An *Alternative* to the Ferrum Folklife Festival, less than an hour from RU on Sat. September 29 and Sun. Sept. 30 is **Shockley's Old Timey Day** near Hillsville VA. Starts at 10:00 AM both days. Admission is \$5.00 for adults. You need go only ONE day.
10. A *Complement* to No. 8 or 9: **Appalachian Folk Arts Festival**, Radford University, Family Weekend, Saturday, Oct. 6, 2012, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. You may include a brief reaction in your next scheduled log entry (in addition to usual components). Free admission.
11. *Analytical paper* (2-4 pages, typed) based on your visit to Ferrum or Shockley's Old Timey Day: You are to pick **one** activity at the event 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 for Preparing a Folklife Project*, and your best judgment) 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. Outside sources may be consulted but are not required.

12. *Major field collection project*: A collection of folklore 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 sound recordings, photographs, artifacts, etc. as appropriate to your 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 Folklife Archive at the Appalachian Regional and Rural Studies Center in Buchanan House. Sample projects archived in Buchanan House and on D2L.

ALL FINAL PROJECTS DUE: Tuesday, November 26 at 2:00 PM.

NOTE: Written progress reports on your field project will be required at approximately four week intervals (September 19, October 17, and November 7). 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. *I can* help.

13. Presentation of field project to class, beginning Tues. November 26 and continuing through the final exam period at 2:45 on Tuesday, Dec. 10.
14. Mid-Term Examination, Tuesday, October 8.
15. Final Examination (due at 2:45 PM 12/10). The final is a take-home, short answer and essay exam.
16. 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.**

GRADE WEIGHTS

WITHOUT Optional Final Exam

Logs	15%
Oral Presentation	5%
Participation	10%
Midterm	15%
Analytical Paper	15%
Project	40%

WITH Final Exam

Logs	15%
Oral Presentation	5%
Participation	10%
Midterm	10%
Analytical Paper	10%
Project	35 or 40%
Final Exam	15 or 10%

COURSE POLICIES

Late Work: Any ONE reading response may be submitted up to one week late without penalty. Aside from that exception, late logs are penalized 5 points per weekday (M-F). E.g. a log submitted one full week late loses 25

points. *No* work will be accepted more than two weeks after it was due, or after the last day of class without prior agreement.

Cell Phones:

Use of cellular telephones or other means of communicating electronically with persons or other entities (extra-terrestrials, artificial intelligences, ghosts, etc.) in or outside our classroom is expressly prohibited once the professor is in the classroom and the appointed time for beginning the class (2:00 PM) has arrived. Neither active use of (initiating or replying to messages) nor passive monitoring of a cell phone or similar device is permitted. Persons observed consulting objects hidden in book bags, purses, or their laps will be questioned.

The first instance will result in a verbal warning which will be noted in the course roster. The first subsequent instance will result in the deduction of ONE point from the semester grade (equal to 5 points off the midterm or 4 points of the final exam). The second instance costs TWO points off the semester grade. The third costs THREE points, and so on. These penalties are independent of the negative effect disrupting the class in this way will have on participation grades.

If you are expecting news which, once received, will make it necessary for you to leave the classroom before class is dismissed, you must notify me of the nature of this emergency BEFORE class begins in order to be exempted, for a single class period, from the stated policy and penalties.

Laptop Computers:

The midterm and final examinations are based somewhat on material from texts. Your best course is to annotate your texts and supplement those annotations as needed, in class, in a separate hand-written notebook. Laptops used *exclusively* for note taking or consulting online or digitized materials pertinent to the class are welcome. But in my recent and overwhelming experience laptops are being used during class to respond to email, surf the web, or work on other classes, none of which are permissible activities. If you have other work that *must* be completed during our class time, stay home and do it.

If you wish to make *responsible* use of a laptop during class, indicate this at the appropriate place on the class policy agreement. Sign to indicate your agreement to show me the screen of your computer any time during class and to send class notes to me, as they are, via email, on the spot, upon request.

The penalties for failure to comply with the policy are the same as for cell phone use.

Food:

A classroom is not a cafeteria or a lounge. Further, it is a community. Respectful members of any community would not ordinarily eat/drink/chew gum in the presence of other members without first offering to share. Drinks are acceptable, but please plan to eat before or after class. If your schedule does not allow you time to eat before class or you have a medical condition that makes it necessary for you to eat during class, let me know that on the class policy agreement form.

We may have a “traditional food” day later in the semester, to give us a chance to share favorite food traditions with the classroom community.

COURSE SCHEDULE, Fall 2013

Key to Abbreviations: ARRSC=Appalachian Regional and Rural Studies Center (Buchanan House) **BOOKS** SOAF = Study of American Folklore, BRH= Blue Ridge Harvest (On D2L as PDF file) VFL = Virginia Folk Legends, AA = Aunt Arie. **EVENTS** SOTD=Shockley's Old Timey Day, Hillsville, VA, Sat. and Sun. Sept. 28 and 29. AFAF=Appalachian Folk Arts Festival at RU, Sat. Oct. 19. BRFF=Blue Ridge Folklife Festival, Ferrum College, Sat. Oct. 26.

Date, Items Due, Reminders to Instructor	Subject Matter:	Readings:	Activities:
WEEK 1 Tuesday, August 27	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.	Introductions, Slide Presentation on Material Culture.
Thursday, August 29 <i>Bring Sample Projects</i>	Sign up for oral presentations/demonstrations.	NONE View Sample Folklife Projects from the ARRSC Folklife Archive .	Selu Slide Show. Plan Field Trip to Selu Conservancy. <i>Carpooling required</i>
WEEK 2 Tuesday, September 3	THIS WEEK 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	AA pp. x-xxviii (Introduction), SOAF pp. 3-17, 22-39, 48-62. SOAF reading includes the Introduction.	
Thursday, September 5 Readers Log 1 due from Group 1, (First Half of Class Alphabetically). Covers reading for TU and TR of this week.	Continue Topics from Tuesday	VFL pp. 1-48. Read the "Introduction" with particular care in regard to <i>psychological functions</i> of folk legends	Videotape or Slide presentation.
WEEK 3 Tuesday, September 10 <i>Hand out Progress Report I.</i> Readers Log 1 due from Group 2, (Second Half of Class Alphabetically)	THIS WEEK The Appalachian Folk A. Genealogy B. Heritage C. Present Dilemma: Traditional Folk Culture vs. Mainstream Culture	SOAF pp. 71-87, 92-109 "Appalachian Values" by Loyal Jones. On D2L	
Thursday, September 12 FIELD TRIP ½ CLASS	CLASS DOES NOT MEET BECAUSE OF SELU FARMHOUSE FIELD TRIP Details to be Worked Out in Class		

WEEK 4 Tuesday, September 17 FIELD TRIP ½ CLASS	THIS WEEK Verbal Folklore A. Folk Expression 1. Speech 2. Sayings 3. Proverbs 4. Riddles and Rhymes	SOAF pp. 113-131, 136-164. VFL pp. 63-77, 211- 225	Group 1, Meet at the ARRSC, Buchanan House, Peters Hall side of building. Reconvene in Regular Classrm.
Thursday, September 19 Readers Log 2 due from Group 1 Covers reading for TU and TR of this week.	Topics Continued from Tuesday	On D2L in PDF files: "Appalachian History" pp. 1-31 (end) and BRH - all (lots of pictures)	Group 2, Meet at the ARRSC, Buchanan House, Reconvene in Regular Classrm. <i>Oral Presentations</i>
Date, Items Due, Reminders to Instructor	Subject Matter:	Readings:	Activities:
WEEK 5 Tuesday, September 24 Progress Report I Due (All)	THIS WEEK . Folk Narrative 1. Myths and Legends 2. Personal Narratives and anecdotes 3. Jokes 4. Tales	SOAF pp. 170-191, 196-222.	Videotape, Cratis Williams on <u>Appalachian Language and Culture</u>
Thursday, September 26 Readers Log 2 due from Group 2 Covers reading for TU and TR of this week. Responses Due*	Topics Continued from Tuesday	AA pp. 1-52.	Discuss Analytical Papers on SOTD or BRFF <i>Oral Presentations</i>
**Sat. and Sun. Sept. 28 and 29. EITHER this or BRFF (10/27) REQUIRED	Shockley's Old Timey Day Rte 100, Near Hillsville, VA 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM Adult Admission \$6.00 TAKE a NOTEBOOK!		A more convenient alternative to BRFF
WEEK 6 Tuesday, October 1	Continue with Folk Narrative 1. Myths and Legends 2. Personal Narratives and anecdotes 3. Jokes 4. Tales	SOAF pp. 229-260. VFL pp. 49-62, 105-138.	YOUR Folk Narratives-Ghost Stories, Urban Legends, Jokes, etc
Thursday, October 3 Readers Log 3 due from Group 1 Covers reading for TU and TR of this week.		VFL pp. 139-158.	Mid-Term Review <i>Oral Presentations</i>

WEEK 7 Tuesday, October 8	Mid-term Examination Matching, Short Answer, Identification, Multiple Choice, Essay	Catch up on and review assigned readings.	
Thursday, October 10 Hand out Progress Report II*	Discuss Field Collection Projects. *OR Oral Progress Reports in Class	NONE	Videotaped Folk Tale(s) If time allows. <i>Oral Presentations</i>
WEEK 8 Tuesday, October 15 Progress Report II Due (All) Return Mid-Term Exam	Folk Music 1. Ballads 2. Songs 3. Instruments	SOAF pp. 269-295, 303-339.	Recorded and/or Live Performance of Traditional Appalachian Music Videotape: <u>High Lonesome</u>
Thursday, October 17 Readers Log 3 due from Group 2. Covers reading for TU and TR of this week.		VFL pp. 78-103, 195-209.	<i>Oral Presentations</i>
Date, Items Due, Reminders to Instructor	Subject Matter:	Readings:	Activities:
**Saturday, October 19	Appalachian Folk Arts Festival 10:00-4:00 Heth Lawn, Appalachian Music and Crafts. Free Admission Part of FAMILY WEEKEND Activities		An on-campus complement to SOTD and BRFF
WEEK 9 Tuesday, October 22	Continue with Folk Music Folk Music 1. Ballads 2. Songs 3. Instruments	SOAF pp. 345-362. VFL 239-253, 255-286.	Discuss Ferrum, View Sample Analytical Papers. Recorded or Live Music Continues
Thursday, October 24 Readers Log 4 due from Group 1, Covers reading for TU and TR of this week. FERRUM Folklife Festival coming up this Saturday, 10/27		AA pp. 53-96	<i>Oral Presentations</i>

<p>**SATURDAY, OCT. 26</p> <p>Admission is \$10.00 (take cash) Children and Senior Citizens, \$5</p>	<p>Field Trip to Blue Ridge Folklife Festival, Ferrum College Music, Crafts, Food, Horse Pull, Gas Engines, Hunting Dogs You are required to attend this event . If you KNOW you can't attend this or either alternative event, let me know and start looking for an alternative as soon as possible. TAKE a NOTEBOOK!</p>		
<p>WEEK 10 Tuesday, October 29</p> <p><i>Hand out Progress Report III</i></p>	<p>Begin Discussion of 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</p>	<p><i>SOAF pp. 369-398, 405-428.</i></p>	<p>Videotape: <i>Nature's Way.</i></p>
<p>Thursday, October 31 Readers Log 4 due from Group 2 Covers reading for TU and TR of this week.</p>	<p>Continue Topics from Tuesday</p>	<p><i>SOAF pp. 436-455. AA pp. 97-144</i></p>	<p><i>Oral Presentations</i></p>
<p>WEEK 11 Tuesday, November 5</p> <p>Progress Report III Due (All)</p> <p>Analytical Paper DRAFT Due (All)</p>	<p>Customary Lore Continued: 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</p>	<p><i>SOAF 460-497.</i> Refer to <i>BRH</i> as appropriate</p>	<p>Share and Discuss Drafts of Analytical Paper on BRFF, AFAF, of SOTD</p>
<p>Thursday, November 7 Readers Log 5 due from Group 1 Covers reading for TU and TR of this week.</p>		<p><i>VFL pp. 159-193</i></p>	<p><i>Oral Presentations</i></p>
<p>Date, Items Due, Reminders to Instructor</p>	<p>Subject Matter:</p>	<p>Readings:</p>	<p>Activities:</p>
<p>WEEK 12 Tuesday, November 12</p>	<p>Introduction to Material Folklore and Folklife</p>	<p><i>SOAF pp. 503-520 VFL pp. 287-309</i></p>	<p>Week of 11/15: <i>Oral Presentations</i> Examples, traditional crafts Catch up on readings; questions</p>

			about projects.
Thursday, November 14 Analytical Paper DUE (All) Readers Log due 5 from Group 2. Covers reading for TU and TR of this week.		In Class: Slides of Crafts and trades, if not shown earlier. Video— <u>The House That Love Built</u> AA pp. 145-95.	Video: <u>THLB</u> Project Questions Oral Presentations
Due: Thurs. Nov. 14	Final Draft of Analytical Paper Due at 3:30 PM		
WEEK 13 PROJECTS DUE: TUES. 11/26 Begin Presentations	All Field Collection Projects Due at 2:00 PM November 26 Project Presentations Begin <u>DATES NOT CORRECT ONE WEEK OFF</u>		
Nov. 26, 28, Dec. 3 and 10.	Students' Presentations of Projects Last Two Weeks of Class and Final Exam Period		
Thursday, 12/5 Class does not meet unless behind on presentation schedule.	CLASS DOES NOT MEET BECAUSE OF SELU FARMHOUSE FIELD TRIP IF we can stay on pace with presentations.		
Tuesday, Dec. 10	Final Exam Period, 2:45 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:	** You are Required to Attend and Write an Analytical Paper About SOTD or BRFF.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. Local Music Jams—River City Grill on Mondays Floyd Country Store on Fridays 4. Custom and craft demonstration and displays B. Field study of structures and landscapes C. Field collection and analyses by students		