Folklore

The interdisciplinary Folklore Program at the University of California, Berkeley trains intellectual leaders in folkloristics for the twenty-first century. We seek to provide a deep, critical, and theoretically-informed reading of folklore scholarship from the seventeenth century through the present. We urge students to develop a particular field of expertise in folkloristics. At the same time, we advise our graduate students to develop strong grounding in another discipline or multidisciplinary perspective, such as race and ethnic studies, performance studies, science studies, rhetoric, narrative theory, ethnomusicology, materiality, women's and queer theory, and others, in order to bring new perspectives to their work in folkloristics.

The Folklore Program offers two options: a two-year-long Masters in Folklore; and a Designated Emphasis.

The Designated Emphasis in Folklore (http://folklore.berkeley.edu/program/#designated-emphasis) permits students to specialize in folklore while pursuing a PhD in a UC Berkeley department or program.

Admission to the Program
Applying for Graduate Admission
Thank you for considering UC Berkeley for graduate study! UC Berkeley offers more than 120 graduate programs representing the breadth and depth of interdisciplinary scholarship. A complete list of graduate academic departments, degrees offered, and application deadlines can be found on the Graduate Division website (http://grad.berkeley.edu/programs/list/).

Prospective students must submit an online application to be considered for admission, in addition to any supplemental materials specific to the program for which they are applying. The online application can be found on the Graduate Division website (http://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/).

Admission Requirements
The minimum graduate admission requirements are:

1. A bachelor’s degree or recognized equivalent from an accredited institution;
2. A satisfactory scholastic average, usually a minimum grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0 (B) on a 4.0 scale; and
3. Enough undergraduate training to do graduate work in your chosen field.

For a list of requirements to complete your graduate application, please see the Graduate Division’s Admissions Requirements page (https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/steps-to-apply/requirements/). It is also important to check with the program or department of interest, as they may have additional requirements specific to their program of study and degree. Department contact information can be found here (http://guide.berkeley.edu/graduate/degree-programs/).

Where to apply?
Visit the Berkeley Graduation Division application page (http://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/apply/).
Curricular Requirements

FOLKLOR C262A and FOLKLOR C262B, and ANTHRO 160AC, Forms of Folklore (unless the applicant has taken an equivalent introduction to the discipline). It is strongly recommended that students take at least one course in their home department that focuses on research techniques.

Examination and Dissertation Requirements

The student's qualifying examination committee and dissertation committee must have one member of the DE faculty.

UCB doctoral students who wish to apply to the Designated Emphasis in Folklore Program are welcome to contact the Chair and/or Graduate Adviser. Applications and details regarding admissions process are available from the Folklore Graduate Student Affairs Officer, Tabea Mastel (tmastel@berkeley.edu; 510-642-3406).

Folklore

Expand all course descriptions [+]Collapse all course descriptions [-]

FOLKLOR C261 Theories of Narrative 4 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2011, Summer 2006 10 Week Session, Spring 2006
This course examines a broad range of theories that elucidate the formal, structural, and contextual properties of narratives in relation to gestures, the body, and emotion; imagination and fantasy; memory and the senses; space and time. It focuses on narratives at work, on the move, in action as they emerge from the matrix of the everyday preeminently, storytelling in conversation--as key to folk genres--the folktale, the legend, the epic, the myth.
Theories of Narrative: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week
Summer:
6 weeks - 10 hours of lecture per week
8 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Folklore/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Also listed as: ANTHRO C261
Theories of Narrative: Read Less [-]

FOLKLOR C262A Theories of Traditionality and Modernity 4 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021
This seminar explores the emergence of notions of tradition and modernity and their reproduction in Eurocentric epistemologies and political formations. It uses work by such authors as Anderson, Butler, Chakrabarty, Clifford, Derrida, Foucault, Latour, Mignolo, Pateman, and Poovey to critically reread foundational works published between the 17th century and the present--along with philosophical texts with which they are in dialogue--in terms of how they are imbricated within and help produce traditionalities and modernities.
Theories of Traditionality and Modernity: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing or consent of instructor
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Folklore/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Also listed as: ANTHRO C262A
Theories of Traditionality and Modernity: Read Less [-]

FOLKLOR C262B Theories of Traditionality and Modernity 4 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021
This seminar explores the emergence of notions of tradition and modernity and their reproduction in Eurocentric epistemologies and political formations. It uses work by such authors as Anderson, Butler, Chakrabarty, Clifford, Derrida, Foucault, Latour, Mignolo, Pateman, and Poovey to critically reread foundational works published between the 17th century and the present--along with philosophical texts with which they are in dialogue--in terms of how they are imbricated within and help produce traditionalities and modernities.
Theories of Traditionality and Modernity: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Folklore/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Also listed as: ANTHRO C262B
Theories of Traditionality and Modernity: Read Less [-]
**FOLKLOR C288 The Arts of Migration, Vernacular Arts 2 or 4 Units**

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This seminar focuses on artworks made by migrating peoples chronicling their journeys (Hmong storycloths, Aztec codices), and artworks made by others who made migration a major theme (Dorothea Lange photographer of dustbowl migrants to California, Jacob Lawrence chronicler of the migration north of African Americans). Also, we focus on the arts of traditional communities that base their artifact production on longstanding, ecologically localized and distinctive practices. Issues include nostalgia, memory, trauma; cultural heritage the selection of what is to be seen, remembered, recoiled from, embraced, what is to be taught to future generations/outsiders concerning fear, courage, pride, self-definitions, accusations, and authenticity.

Additional Details

**Subject/Course Level:** Folklore/Graduate

**Grading:** Letter grade.

**Also listed as:** HISTART C288

The Arts of Migration, Vernacular Arts: Read More [+]

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

**FOLKLOR 298 Readings in Folklore 3 - 6 Units**

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2020

Readings in Folklore: Read More [+]

**Rules & Requirements**

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Folklore/Graduate

**Grading:** Letter grade.

Readings in Folklore: Read Less [-]

**FOLKLOR 299 Directed Research 3 - 6 Units**

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Summer 2022 10 Week Session

Directed Research: Read More [+]

**Rules & Requirements**

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3-6 hours of independent study per week

**Summer:**

6 weeks - 7.5-15 hours of independent study per week
8 weeks - 5.5-11 hours of independent study per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Folklore/Graduate

**Grading:** Letter grade.

Directed Research: Read Less [-]

**FOLKLOR C292 Experiments in Collaboration and Reciprocal Transformation 4 Units**

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Collaboration in ethnographic praxis on a local and global scale in folkloristics, sociocultural, linguistic, media, and medical anthropology, producing projects grounded in meaningful engagement with communities. Graduate students, working with lay mentors and faculty, will design and begin implementation of projects that break through infrastructures of theory, research, pedagogy, and practice that reproduce racial hierarchies and that erase anti-racist alternatives.

Experiments in Collaboration and Reciprocal Transformation: Read More [+]

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Folklore/Graduate

**Grading:** Letter grade.

**Also listed as:** ANTHRO C292

Experiments in Collaboration and Reciprocal Transformation: Read Less [-]