Folklore

Overview

The Folklore Program trains intellectual leaders in folkloristics for the twenty-first century. The program seeks to provide a deep, critical, and theoretically-informed reading of folklore scholarship from the seventeenth century through the present. Students are urged to develop a particular field of expertise in folkloristics. At the same time, graduate students are advised to develop a strong grounding in another discipline or a multidisciplinary perspective — such as race and ethnic studies, performance studies, science, rhetoric, narrative theory, ethnomusicology, materiality, women's and queer theory, or others — in order to bring new perspectives into folkloristics work.

The program is truly international in scope, seeking to challenge the Eurocentric roots of folkloristics by bringing in critiques and alternatives from outside the Euro-American orbit, particularly through study with leading folklorists from around the world who come to Berkeley each year as visiting faculty members.

Undergraduate Program

There is no undergraduate program in Folklore, but relevant courses are available in Anthropology, Art History, Italian, Music, Scandinavian, Slavic, Spanish and Portuguese, and other departments. Undergraduate research positions are available through the Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program (URAP). Student applications and supporting materials are due in the Program Office in 301 Campbell Hall on the first day of the second week of classes each term.

Graduate Programs

Folklore (http://guide.berkeley.edu/graduate/degree-programs/folklore/): MA, Designated Emphasis (DE)

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 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

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

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Folklore/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Also listed as: HISTART C288

The Arts of Migration, Vernacular Arts: 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 [-]

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 [-]