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## Folklore

### College of Letters and Science (http://

ls.berkeley.edu)

Program Office: 232 Kroeber Hall, (510) 642-3406

# Chair: Charles Briggs, PhD (Department of Anthropology)

Program Website: Folklore Graduate Program (http://folklore.berkeley.edu)

#### Overview

This program is designed to provide graduate students with a competent knowledge of both the materials of folklore and the various methods of studying these materials. The program is an interdisciplinary one in which faculty members from both the humanities and the social sciences participate. The scope of the courses is international. However, students may specialize in a particular genre, e.g., folktales, or in a particular area such as Russian folklore.

#### Major

There is no undergraduate major in folklore.

#### **Preparation for Graduate Study**

The best preparation for the graduate program in folklore is a strong undergraduate record in one of the broad fields with which folklore is closely affiliated. Since it is a study of the humanist expression which is handed down by tradition rather than by writing, it is related to all departments that deal with literature, art, music. Since folklore also deals with the entire traditional culture of mankind as manifested in customs and beliefs, it has close affiliations with anthropology, design, history, linguistics, philosophy, psychology and sociology. Consequently, a good undergraduate record in any of these disciplines is highly desirable though not necessarily required.

#### **Graduate Program**

The requirements for the MA in folklore include 20 units of which at least 10 must be graduate level (200 number) in folklore, and an MA thesis based upon field work or some other research project. (No course credits are allowed for the thesis.)

Students must take at least one course in two of the following three areas: Folk narrative, folk or ethnic music, folk or primitive art.

As an introduction to the discipline, students must take Anthropology 160, The Forms of Folklore.

In addition, all students are required to take the interdisciplinary Folklore 250A-250B, Folklore Theory and Techniques.

The student must also demonstrate proficiency in reading at least one foreign language. German is perhaps the most useful language for folklore studies, but French, Spanish, or some language intimately connected with the MA thesis may be approved to satisfy the language requirement. Questions on the requirements for the MA in folklore should

be addressed to the graduate adviser, Folklore Program, in 205 Kroeber Hall.

#### FOLKLOR C261/ANTHRO C261 Theories of Narrative 4 Units

Department: Folklore; Anthropology

Course level: Graduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall, spring and summer Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 3 hours of Seminar per week for 15 weeks. 7.5 hours of Lecture per week for 8 weeks. 10 hours of Lecture per week for 6 weeks.

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.

#### FOLKLOR C262A/ANTHRO C262A Theories of Traditionality and Modernity 4 Units

Department: Folklore; Anthropology Course level: Graduate Term course may be offered: Fall

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 3 hours of Seminar per week for 15 weeks.

**Prerequisites:** Graduate standing or consent of instructor. 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.

Course may be repeated for credit with different topic and different instructor. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

#### FOLKLOR C262B/ANTHRO C262B Theories of Traditionality and Modernity 4 Units

Department: Folklore; Anthropology Course level: Graduate Term course may be offered: Spring

Grading: Letter grade.

**Hours and format:** 3 hours of Seminar per week for 15 weeks. 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.

Course may be repeated for credit with different topic and different instructor. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

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

Department: Folklore Course level: Graduate Terms course may be offered: Fall and spring Grading: Letter grade. Hours and format: Individual conferences to be arranged. Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

FOLKLOR 299 Directed Research 3 - 6 Units Department: Folklore Course level: Graduate Terms course may be offered: Fall, spring and summer Grading: Letter grade