

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

2019–2020 MLCS 204 A1: FORMS OF FOLKLORE
(Fall Term)

Instructor: *Liljana Gulcev*
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Time: *MWF 2:00-2:50PM*
Place: *GSB 859*
Office Hours: *MW 1-1:50PM,*
or by appointment
Course Website: *On eClass (Moodle)*

Course Prerequisite: None

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes No, not needed

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

- Exam registry – Students' Union
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
- See explanations below
- Document distributed in class
- Other: Details provided by instructor in class
- NA

Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:

Folklore is all around us—the process and the product of human cultural expression. People create stories, songs, festivals, foods, jokes, dances, games, and toys. Folklore is both old and new. It is traditional expression: those stories, songs, games that have been around for a long time. It is also modern: folklore is constantly created and adapted to meet the expressive needs of the here and now. This course will acquaint students with forms of folklore and encourage them to examine artistic expression in everyday life.

Course Objectives: Folklore informs our lived experience and identity. It influences the ways in which we interact with the world and the people around us. Through a series of learning and writing exercises, students will develop an understanding of folklore that will culminate in a *final collection project*. Course goals include:

- Learning to apply a critical and analytical attitude toward everyday life phenomena, phenomena that often go unnoticed but influence much of what people feel and do.
- Being able to identify folklore, learning to isolate artistic expression and to analyze its meanings.
- Learning fieldwork techniques. Most courses ask students to deal with data compiled by others. In this course, students will gather their own data and learn the techniques of interviewing and recording information. Students will learn data systematization and management.
- Learning analytical techniques. Critical study is seldom applied to everyday phenomena, although these phenomena offer the best path to understanding people. Students will learn how to analyze folklore data and how to present the analysis effectively in written form.

Learning Outcomes: Canada is a multicultural nation, and, as folklorists, we seek to learn about the many cultures which constitute contemporary Canadian experience:

- Students will be able to identify those features of cultural expression that are important in the construction of cultural identity.
- Students will master the techniques of heritage documentation:
 - They will be able to conduct interviews with care and sensitivity, or
 - They will be able to film in a respectful manner.
- They will master simple data management.
- Students will be able to write a scholarly paper effectively describing one aspect of heritage expressed through folklore.

Texts:

Required Textbook:

Sims, Martha C. and Martine Stephens. *Living Folklore: An Introduction to the Study of People and Their Traditions*, 2nd ed. Utah State UP, 2011 (see link on eClass to *digital version* available through University of Alberta Libraries site; *print copies* available in the university bookstore and on Amazon; *reserve copy* available at Rutherford Library reserve section)

Required Articles:

Available for download on eClass.

Additional Course Fees

- Yes No

Important Dates: [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: September 4, 2019

Add/Delete Date: September 16, 2019

50% Withdrawal Date: October 3, 2019

Withdrawal Date: November 29, 2019

Last Day of Class: December 6, 2019

Final Exam Date (if applicable): *N/A — THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM IN THIS COURSE*

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): Please consult the following site:

<https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations> (Exams)

Deferred Final Examination: For information on how to apply for a deferred exam see [“I Missed my Final Exam, Now What?”](#)

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

▪ ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION (ONGOING)		15%
▪ REFLECTION PAPERS		20%
Paper #1, due on or before Fri. Oct. 4	10%	
Paper #2, due on or before Fri. Nov. 22	10%	
▪ MIDTERM EXAM— in-class on Fri. Oct. 18		20%
▪ FINAL COLLECTION PROJECT		45%
Proposal, due Fri. Oct. 11	5%	
Questionnaire or Observation plan, due Fri. Nov. 1	10%	
Collected data, due Fri. Dec. 6	5%	
Project write-up, due Fri. Dec. 6	25%	

For your convenience, the Fall / Winter Exam Planner for the 2019–2020 academic year can be found at the following site:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/registrar/examinations/exam-schedules/fall-2018-winter-2019-exam-planner>

CONCEPTS COVERED IN THIS COURSE INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT BE LIMITED TO:

Folk groups: types of groups, how they are formed, how they are viewed (esoteric and exoteric perspectives).

Tradition and its conservative and dynamic features; questions of authenticity connected to tradition and considered important by folk groups

Ritual and ritual types: the expression of tradition through ritual; the teaching function of ritual; ritual and belief.

Performance and Aesthetics: how performance differs from other behaviours; what makes performance effective; how performance adapts to community needs and values. Aesthetics: what is considered good or beautiful and why.

Analytical approaches and techniques. Humanistic data is different from scientific data. How does one systematize humanistic data and present one’s findings effectively?

Schedule: Please consult the class schedule available on eClass.

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

- ❖ ALL WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS, EXCEPT THE IN-CLASS MIDTERM, SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN **HARD COPY FORMAT AT THE START OF CLASS** ON THEIR SPECIFIED DUE DATES. THESE ASSIGNMENTS SHOULD BE **DOUBLE-SPACED AND TYPED IN 12-POINT FONT WITH 1" MARGINS**.
- ❖ Any late submissions are subject to the *Policy for Late Assignments* outlined below.

Attendance/Participation (15%):

Regular attendance and participation are crucial to your academic performance in this class. *More than two* unexcused absences during the term will result in a **loss of 1% per absence** from your *Attendance/Participation* mark. A good participation mark, however, is not guaranteed by attendance alone. You should complete the assigned readings and reflect upon these in order to effectively contribute to class discussions and complete in-class group work.

Reflection papers (20%):

Students will complete *two* reflection papers by the specified due dates. These are short and informal writing exercises on your choice of the assigned weekly readings or viewings. Each paper is worth 10% and should be *2–3 double-spaced pages* in length, reflecting your meaningful engagement with your chosen text. Further details on this writing assignment will be discussed in class.

Midterm exam (20%):

The midterm exam will cover material from assigned readings, lectures & class discussions up to and including our session on Friday October 11, 2019. The exam will be held **during class on Friday October 18, 2019**. You will be given the entire class to complete the midterm, so be sure to arrive early and take your seat on time. The exam will commence at 2:00PM sharp. No additional time will be given to students who arrive late for the midterm exam.

Final collection project (45%):

The final collection project mark (45%) is subdivided as follows:

- 5% for your *proposal*, due **Friday October 11, 2019 in-class**
- 10% for your *questionnaire* or *observation plan*, due **Friday November 1, 2019 in-class**
- 5% for your *collected data*, to be submitted the same day as the *project write-up*
- 25% for your *project write-up*, due the last day of class, **Friday December 6, 2019 in-class**

Proposal (5%):

You will write a proposal of *1–2 double-spaced pages* that details the topic of your final collection project. You must specify whether you will be conducting an interview or performing an observation and how you will record the data you collect. You must collect (and later submit) an audio or video recording that you will be able to consult and analyze for your project write-up. You may also choose to take photos or implement some combination of these recording methods for your project.

The instructor will carefully review your proposal and return it to you within one week of the due date. If your proposal does not adequately express your intentions or requires some alterations, you will need to submit a reworked proposal *no later than Friday October 25, 2019 (via email)*. Instructor approval is required for your proposal. This checkpoint is designed to help you produce a high-quality collection project. Further instructions for the proposal will be provided in class.

Questionnaire or Observation plan (10%):

You will submit a questionnaire or an observation plan of 2–3 *double-spaced pages* that will demonstrate how you plan to collect your project data. Students will be instructed on how to formulate ethical and effective interviews and what constitutes respectful filming. Further details will be provided in class.

Collected data (5%):

A submission slot will be made available on eClass where you will submit all the raw (and processed) data you gathered during the course of your final collection project—photos, audio, video, transcripts, etc. Data must be submitted by the final day of class.

Project write-up (25%):

You will submit a final project write-up of 6–8 *double-spaced pages*, not including the appendix and bibliography. The general structure of the paper will be as follows: Introduction, Theoretical Question, Methodology, Data Summary, Analysis, Conclusion, Appendix, and Bibliography. Further write-up instructions will be provided in class.

Should you have any questions and/or concerns regarding the course, I am available during office hours or by appointment.

Required Notes:

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.

Student Responsibilities:

Academic Integrity:

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

Territorial Statement:

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.”

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

In this course, consistent attendance and participation are crucial. Attendance will be taken at the start of each class and more than *two* unexcused absences over the academic term will result in a **deduction of 1% per absence** from your *Attendance/Participation* mark, up to a total of 15% of your overall course mark.

i. Excused absences

In cases of potentially excusable absences (emergency conditions, incapacitating illness, religious convictions or legitimate University-related business), students may apply for an excused absence for missed classes, course work, or exams.

- You must inform the instructor via email **within two days of the missed class**, barring only exceptional extenuating circumstances, to be considered for an excused absence. Excused absences are by no means automatic, and the instructor may request additional supporting documentation. It is at the instructor's discretion whether or not this documentation is accepted and your excused absence is granted.
- No requests to make up missed work will be entertained past the seven-day late assignment grace period without proper documentation (see *Policy for Late Assignments*).
- For an excused absence where the cause is religious belief, you must contact the instructor *within two weeks* of the start of Fall or Winter Term classes and within three days of the start of Spring or Summer Term classes.

ii. Unexcused absences

Unexcused absences are not permitted in this course, but you will be forgiven *two* such absences over the academic term. Any additional unexcused absences will result in a **1% deduction per absence** from your *Attendance/Participation* mark (and hence from your overall course mark) up to a total of 15%.

Policy for Late Assignments:

- All written assignments should be submitted in **hard copy format and in-class** on the specified due date.
- Late assignments must be submitted to the instructor via email and will be **penalized at 0.5% per day** unless you have been granted an extension.
- Assignments *overdue beyond one week* from the due dates and times stipulated in this course outline will be assigned a mark of **ZERO**.
- Extensions are granted only under exceptional circumstances and must be arranged with the instructor via email *prior* to the assignment due date.
- *No extensions* will be given after an assignment deadline has passed and a mark of **ZERO** will be automatically assigned after the seven-day grace period for late submissions.
- ***No extensions will be granted for the final project write-up due on the last day of class, Friday December 6, 2019.***

Disclaimer:

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

Student Resources:

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Accessibility Resources: (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support: There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

Office of the Student Ombuds:

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

Grading:

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
<p>Excellent. A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.</p>	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92
<p>Good. B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.</p>	B+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
<p>Satisfactory. C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.</p>	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
<p>Poor/Minimal Pass. D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.</p>	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
<p>Failure.</p>	F	0.0	0-59

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