

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

2017-2018 SLAV 204 B1 – Slavic Folklore and Mythology
(Winter Term)

Instructor: Natalie Kononenko

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Personal Website: www.artsrn.ualberta.ca/folkloreukraine/

Time: MWF 12-12:50

Place: CAB 273

Office Hours: M,W,F 11-11:45

or by appointment

Course Website: on eClass

Course Prerequisite: None

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

Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved.

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 (please specify)
- NA

Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)

Yes No

Course Description and Objectives:

The Slavs have a long tradition of documenting their folk traditions and rich material is available for study. The course will use verbal lore: folktales, legends, and songs, as an entry into Slavic belief. After reading or viewing selected stories, students will explore the connections between them and ritual practices, such as the celebration of wedding rites. Similarly, stories will lead to examination of material culture such as housing, clothing, and traditional food and food behavior. Because your instructor specializes in Ukrainian folklore, emphasis will be on the folklore of the East Slavs, meaning the Russians, Ukrainians, and Belarusians, but students are more than welcome to look at the West Slavs (Poles, Czechs, Slovaks) and their lore or the lore of the Southern Slavs (Bulgarians, Croats, Serbs, Macedonians, Slovenes).

Texts: Kononenko, Natalie. *Slavic Folklore: A Handbook*. Greenwood Press 2007
Haney, Jack ed. *Russian Folktales*. M.E. Sharpe, 2009
Ivanits, Linda, *Russian Folk Belief*, M.E. Sharpe, 1992

Texts and other readings will be selected from the books above and also made available in electronic form on eClass.

Efforts will be made to include materials from the West Slavs and the South Slavs and students are welcome to propose West Slavic and South Slavic substitutes for any of the East Slavic texts.

Course objectives:

- 1) To acquaint students with Slavic cultures and Slavic belief systems
- 2) To develop an understanding of the genres of folklore and the type of artistic expression characteristic of each
- 3) To examine change in lore over time
- 4) To become acquainted with the use of folklore in the fine arts
- 5) To understand the political use of folklore

Learning outcomes:

- 1) Students will be able to identify the Slavic peoples
- 2) Students will be able to identify the folklores that were most frequently collected amongst the Slavic peoples and to state possible political reasons for such choices
- 3) Students will be able to identify the genres of folklore and to state how each genre was used to communicate belief

Course Schedule:

Week of January 8 – Introduction to the course and a discussion of the term “folklore” and how it is used in contemporary scholarship. Who are the Slavs?

Week of Jan. 15 – Early folklore scholarship – the genres collected

Reasons for interest in epic

Beliefs expressed in epic

The pre-Christian gods and their connection to epic heroes

Week of Jan. 22 – collecting and publishing folktales – historical background

Early interpretations of tales – solar mythology

Structuralist interpretations of tales

Historical interpretations of tales

Week of Jan. 29 – tales continued: magic tales

Tales and beliefs about space and place

Tales and beliefs about the body

Week of Feb. 5 – magic tales continued

Creatures found in tales – animals, humans, giants, ogres

Baba Yaga, the magic tale witch and her possible historical antecedents

Week of Feb. 12 – tales of everyday life

Puzzle tales and tales of the clever simpleton

Week of Feb. 19 - Winter break

Week of Feb. 26 – legends

The relationship of legends to tales
Lower mythology and the creatures of legend

Week of March 5 – legend continued

Vernacular religion and folk ideas about the creation of the world
Stories of saints who wander the earth

Week of March 12 – ritual; rites of passage (rituals of marriage, birth, and death)

Rituals reflected in tales
Rituals reflected in legends

Week of March 19 – folklore and the fine arts

Folklore in literature, music, and film

Week of March 26 – the political use of folklore

Folklore politics in the 19th century
Folklore and nationalism
Soviet and post-Soviet uses of folklore

Week of April 2 – student projects

In-class project work

Week of April 9 – Student presentations

April 18 – written version of final project due.

The **final project** can be:

- 1) An analysis of a set of tales or other folklore genres from the student's chosen Slavic group
- 2) An online unit that presents folk beliefs as expressed in tales or songs
- 3) An analysis of one or more literary, musical, or filmic works based on folklore.

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”): the due date of the final paper is determined by the exam schedule. See:

<https://www.registrarsoffice.ualberta.ca/en/Examinations/Fall-2017-Winter-2018-Exam-Planner.aspx>

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): not applicable

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

- 1) Weekly presentation of assigned research. Presentation will be in both oral and written form. 5 units, 5 points each; total of 25%.
- 2) Two midterms based on readings and online research; 15 points each; total of 30%
Midterm 1 – January 29
Midterm 2 – February 26
- 3) Participation in discussions and in online forums – 10%
- 4) Project proposal – due in the middle of March – 5%
- 5) Oral presentation of project – last week and one half of class – 10%
- 6) Final paper: a write-up of the project, 5-7 pages in length – due April 18 – 20%

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

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 (online at www.governance.ualberta.ca) 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.”

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](#).

Academic Honesty:

All students should consult the information provided by the [Student Conduct & Accountability Office](#) regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the [Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook](#) and [Information for Students](#)). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.”

Students in languages courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, **excessive editorial and creative help** in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

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](#).

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.

In this course attendance will be taken at random. In other words, dates when attendance will be taken will not be announced or scheduled in advance. Attendance is not the same as participation. Participation means contributing to the class discussion and helping classmates. This course includes a participation grade which factors in contribution to class discussions.

Policy for Late Assignments: Punctuality is a must. Some of the work in this class will be done in teams and, when students work in teams, everyone must contribute in a timely fashion. Adjustments can be made if the instructor and the teammates are notified at least 24 hours in advance of the time when work is due. Otherwise, students will have their grade lowered by 1/3 for every day that an assignment is late. In other words, what would have been A work will be graded as A- if it is one day late, B+ if it is 2 days late, and so forth

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with [Student Accessibility Services](#), contact their office immediately (1-80 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381).

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	%
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.	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92
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.	B+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
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.	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
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.	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
Failure.	F	0.0	0-59