Folk Studies 373: Folklore & the Media
Course Schedule – Spring 2019

*NOTE: I reserve the right to modify this schedule at any time. Students will be notified of any changes in advance.

WEEK 1 – Jan 21-25
Introduction to the class
  - Dundes, “Who Are the Folk?” [18 pp]

WEEK 2 – Jan 28-Feb 1
Folk vs Pop Culture
  - Maasik and Solomon, “Popular Signs” (excerpt) [10 pp]
  - American Folklore Society, “What is Folklore?” [2 pp]
  - Dundes, “Folklore as a Mirror of Culture” [17 pp]
WATCH: “The Folklore Tree #1: What is folklore?” [6 min]

WEEK 3 – Feb 4-8
Folklore and Media Studies
  - Koven, “Folklore Studies and Popular Film and Television: A Necessary Critical Survey” [21 pp]
Collection assignment 1: holiday custom in mass media

WEEK 4 – Feb 11-15
Traditional Narratives
  - Wright, “Romancing the Tale: Walt Disney’s Adaptation of the Grimms’ ‘Snow White’” [12 pp]
  - Alexander, “Stephen King’s Carrie: A Universal Fairytale” [4 pp]
SHORT: Le dernier chaperon rouge (The Last Red Riding Hood) [1996, 25 min]
SHORT: Rusalochka (The Little Mermaid) [1968, 28 min]

WEEK 5 – Feb 18-22
Fairies & Tricksters
  - Kononenko and Kukharenko, “Borat the Trickster: Folklore and the Media, Folklore in the Media” [12 pp]

**FILM:** *Peau d'Âne (Donkey Skin)* [1970, 90 min]

**Collection assignment 2: fairy tale theme or motif in TV sitcom or cartoon show**

**WEEK 6 - Feb 25-Mar 1**

**Horrors!**

- **Koven, “’Have I Got a Monster for You!’: Some Thoughts on the Golem, The X-Files, and the Jewish Horror Movie” [15 pp]”**
- **Shimabukuro, “The Bogeyman of Your Nightmares: Freddy Krueger’s Folkloric Roots” [22 pp]**
- **Evans, “Monster Movies and Rites of Initiation” [20 pp]**

**FILM:** *The Company of Wolves* [1984, 95 min]

**WEEK 7 - Mar 4-8**

**SPRING BREAK! NO CLASS!!**

**WEEK 8 - Mar 11-15**

**The Monomyth**

**WATCH:** Campbell and Moyers, *The Power of Myth, Episode 1: The Hero’s Adventure* [1988, 60 min]

**FILM:** *Pan’s Labyrinth* [2006, 120 min]

**Collection assignment 3: rite of passage in fantasy or sci-fi film**

**WEEK 9 - Mar 18-22**

**MIDTERM EXAM**

**WEEK 10 - Mar 25-29**

**Superheroes & Pop Culture: Black Panther**

- **Banks and Wein, “Folklore and the Comic Book: The Traditional Meets the Popular” [15 pp]**
- **Scott, “Superpower vs Supernatural: Black Superheroes and the Quest for a Mutant Reality” [20 pp]**
- **Mattimore, “The Real History Behind the Black Panther” [3 pp]**

**Read/listen:** NPR Interview with Ta-Nehisi Coates [8 min]

**FILM:** *Black Panther* [2018, 134 min]

**WEEK 11 - Apr 1-5**

**Gaming**

- **Gillis, “Online Gaming as Occupational Lore” [25 pp]**
- Proctor, “Bytes of Passage: Video Game Inhabitation as Ritual” [10 pp]
- Sherman, “Perils of the Princess: Gender and Genre in Video Games” [17 pp]

FILM: GTFO: Get the F&#% Out [2015, 76 min]

Collection assignment 4: gaming jargon

WEEK 12 – Apr 8-12
The Internet
- Frank, “The Forward as Folklore: Studying Emailed Humor” [26 pp]

FILM: The Meme Machine [2016, 54 min]

Collection assignment 5: internet meme on social media

WEEK 13 – Apr 15-19
Fandoms
- Farris, “Fan-Driven Identity Narratives: The Performance Culture of Star Wars Cosplayers” [20 pp]
- Jenkins, “Star Trek Rerun, Reread, Rewritten: Fan Writing as Textual Poaching” [12 pp]
- Ellis, “What Bronies See When They Brohoof: Queering Animation on the Dark and Evil Internet” [18 pp]

FILM: A Brony Tale [2014, 79 min]

WEEK 14 – Apr 22-26
Creepypastas: The Slender Man
- Peck, “Tall, Dark, and Loathsome: The Emergence of a Legend Cycle in the Digital Age” [17 pp]
- Manjoo, “Urban Legends Told Online” [5 pp]

FILM: Beware the Slenderman [2016, 114 min]

WEEK 15 – Apr 29-May 3
Media analysis paper due Wednesday (submit via email). Prepare abstract for DB, due Friday.

WEEK 16 – May 6-10
FINAL EXAM (eek!!)