Course Description

This course examines how physical space is transformed into cultural place through folklore. The study of region will be used to introduce scholarship on a number of issues central to contemporary folkloristics: sense of place, space and place analysis, space and place as theory, critical regionalism, nationalism and vernacular regionalisms. Students will learn how folklore and localization interact to counter fears and assumptions regarding globalization, homogenization, and the loss of local or regional identities.

Readings


---------------------------------


*Books are on reserve at the QEII and all articles are available online through the library system. Other readings may be assigned as the course progresses.*
Evaluation

1) Annotated Bibliography Due October 12 20%
2) Final Paper Due December 3 50%
3) Participation and in-class exercises 20%
4) Discussion Leadership 10%

Discussion Leadership: Each student will be required to lead a discussion on one (1) of the assigned readings. Students will sign-up for this on the second day of class. Discussion leadership entails presenting a summary and critical analysis (concerning concepts of space and place) of the selected chapter or article, and designing at least three questions for the class with the aim of stimulating discussion. Summaries should highlight the main points of the reading, the analysis should describe how it relates to the course, and the questions can range from critique of the reading to concepts or even connections that you personally did not quite get. Discussion leadership presentations should aim to be approx. 15-20min. Rough notes should be submitted to the professor following your presentation.

Late Policy: Papers not submitted by the due date (without a legitimate reason (e.g.: a doctor’s note, etc.) will be subject to a 10% daily grade deduction for five (5) days (excluding weekends), after which they will no longer be accepted (unless prior arrangements have been made with the professor).

Paper Progress Discussions: Each student will present a brief 5-6 min report on how far along he or she is with his or her research for the final paper. These reports are designed to be informal class discussions. They provides the professor with a sense of how each student is progressing, as well as inviting insight from other students. The reports should briefly address any obstacles or successes. Paper progress discussions form part of the final paper mark.

Participation: Active, respectful participation is expected of all students. This includes asking and answering questions, arriving prepared with notes on readings, and contributing (usefully) to discussions. Everyone should be reading the articles/chapters for discussion days, even if they are not leading. This co-operative model supports the student leading the discussion at the same time as providing opportunities for the rest of the class to participate. You do not have to come up with an earth-shatteringly brilliant analysis, just say something.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is not cool. Integrity and reputation are crucial to academia, so academic dishonesty is taken very seriously. In accordance with university regulations, students are advised that passing in work that has been or will also be submitted in another course, without express permission from the course instructor(s), constitutes plagiarism. This, or any other instance of plagiarism, will result in a zero for the assignment, as well as the possibility of further disciplinary action by the university. For more details on the university’s plagiarism policy, see the University Calendar.
Course Outline

Week 1: Introduction
   Wednesday, September 5: (no readings)
   Friday, September 7: Pocius (2002) Introduction & chapter 1

Week 2: History & Nationalism
   Wednesday, September 12: Wilson (1973)
   Friday, September 14: Discussion (Abrahams 1993)

Week 3: Folk Narrative
   Monday, September 17: Pocius (2002) chapters 3
   Wednesday, September 19: Discussion (Tuan 1991)
   Friday, September 21: Discussion (Narvaez 2012)

Week 4: Built Landscapes & Material Culture
   Monday, September 24: Guest Lecture: Ian Hayes
   Wednesday, September 26: Discussion (Pocius 2002) chapters 4 & 5
   Friday, September 28: Discussion (Johnson 2002)

Week 5: Regional Identity
   Monday, October 1: Pocius (2002) chapters 5
   Wednesday, October 3: Badone (1987)
   Friday, October 5: Discussion (Narvaez 2002)

Week 6: Foodways: Part 1
   Wednesday, October 10: Guest Lecture: Cory Thorne
   Friday, October 12: Pocius (2002) chapter 6 & DUE: Annotated Bibliography

Week 7: Foodways: Part 2
   Monday, October 15: Trubek (2008) chapter 1
   Wednesday, October 17: Guest Lecture (Laura Sanchini)
   Friday, October 19: Discussion Trubek (2008) chapter 2

Week 8: Tourism
   Monday, October 22: Trubek (2008) chapters 3 & 4
   Wednesday, October 24: Discussion (Overton 1996)
   Friday, October 26: Discussion (Urry 1990)

Week 9: Ritual & Belief
   Monday, October 29: Bender (1998)
   Wednesday, October 31: Discussion (Lindahl 2005)
   Friday, November 2: Paper progress discussion (4 slots)

Week 10: Globalization
Monday, November 5: Discussion: Anonymous & Guy Fawkes
Wednesday, November 7: Paper progress discussion (4 slots)
Friday, November 9: Discussion (Shuman 1996)

Week 11: Global Mediascapes
Friday, November 16: Paper progress discussion (4 slots)

Week 12: Virtual Places
Monday, November 19: Folklore and the Internet
Wednesday, November 21: Guest Lecture (Jeff Learning)
Friday, November 23: Discussion (Boellstorff 2006)

Week 13: Public Sector
Monday, November 26: Brody (1981)
Wednesday, November 28: Discussion (City of St. John’s Urban Renewal Study 1961)
Friday, November 30: Community maps (exercise)

Week 14
Monday, December 3: DUE: Final Paper

Assignment 1: Annotated Bibliography

Select one of the many approaches folklorists have used to study space & place (e.g.: nationalism, narrative, foodways, etc.) and create an annotated bibliography of at least twelve (12) sources. Your bibliography should also include a 4-5 page introduction (double-spaced) that synthesizes the sources and describes how they relate to each other.

This assignment requires library research, but not fieldwork. In essence, it is a short literature review. Start with a bibliography from one of the course readings, and use it to find other scholars who have written on the topic. Compare bibliographies to identify which scholars continuously appear in order to get a sense of who-has-written-what and which works are widely considered significant.

Consider this assignment a “stepping stone” toward your final paper. The intent of this assignment is to teach students to identify significant scholarship and, at the same time, create the bibliographic foundation for your final paper. The bibliographic annotations each must be at least 150 words, briefly summarize the scholar’s main points, and provide for your rationale for including it. The introduction should critically discuss the various scholars and their arguments, describing their significance and how they were influenced by each other.
Assignment 2: Final Paper

Combining library research with fieldwork, write a 15-20 page paper on a space or place of your choice. Ideally, this will build upon your annotated bibliography. Using your analysis of the sources in your annotated bibliography, discuss how your selected space becomes a place. Consider that every place has a history and its meaning can be interpreted differently by different groups over time.

Draw your ideas and illustrations from your fieldwork, the course, related readings, and from your own experience. Remember to define the terms and theories you use and develop your points in as much detail and depth as possible.

Your fieldwork should consist of at least two (2) recorded interviews (not necessarily limited to the “in-person” variety) with people related in some way to your chosen place. You might also include photographs, maps/plans, drawings/measurements, folk narratives, etc. (these materials are not required). Interviews do not require transcripts, but you must submit an index of highlights/important points.

Also provide a critique in which you discuss the successes and problems you have experienced while undertaking this assignment. Comment on what you would do differently if you had the opportunity to do the project again. Be specific and give examples. This is a reflexive exercise: research is a process.

The paper should be written in 12-pt Times New Roman font, double-spaced. It should include a cover/title page, with the course number and your name. Pages should be numbered. Citations and bibliography should be formatted in Turabian Reference List style. Please submit final papers and accompanying USB drives/CDs/tapes in an envelope (clearly marked with course number and your name). Paper should be submitted to the professor, but, failing that, they may be submitted to the Folklore Department General Office (Ed 4046), either directly or through the drop-box located outside the office.