

## Announcements, Assignments and Study Questions for the First Four Weeks of Class

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The class will meet on Monday, 12 September, in Butler Library 318 (Cyberquad) for wiki training

The class will meet on Tuesday, 13 September, in Butler Library 318 (Cyberquad) for wiki training

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A complete list of assignments for the course and the dates on which assignments are due can be found in the class syllabus, which will be posted on your class page of the website.

<http://faculty.buffalostate.edu/fishlm>

Read the "(Almost) Daily Bulletin from the Professor" page of the wiki at least every other day. You are responsible for all information posted there!

[http://www.lydiafish.us/folklorewiki\\_fall2011](http://www.lydiafish.us/folklorewiki_fall2011)

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Please note that all assignments are to be completed BEFORE the assigned date. The textbooks and the CD can be purchased at the campus store. The assigned articles and papers can be found on the "Articles and Papers" page or your class page of the website. <http://faculty.buffalostate.edu/fishlm> or will be sent to you by ANGEL mail.

### Textbooks and CD

- Elliott Oring, *Folk Groups and Folklore Genres: An Introduction*  
This is available as a Kindle book.
  - Bruce Jackson, *Fieldwork*
  - William A. Wilson, *On Being Human: The Folklore of Mormon Missionaries*
  - *Occupational Folksongs of the U.S. Air Force*, Third Edition (CD)  
Make sure that you purchase the third edition of the CD. The first and second editions, which are occasionally available second-hand on campus or on e-Bay, do not contain the same material.
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### Test and paper on CD due on 3/4 October

You should purchase and start listening to the CD *Occupational Folksongs of the U.S. Air*

*Force*, 3rd edition, immediately. Write a short (a few paragraphs) description of each song. If it is a narrative song, what happens in the song? If it is a lyric song, what emotions are being expressed?

The lyrics to many of these songs can be found on line. A particularly good source is <http://www.horntip.com>. Click on "informants" and then on "fighter pilots" and/or "military.". You can also find many songs by Googling the song title or a phrase from the song.

The assigned articles on Air Force songs will give you background material. Look up unfamiliar words in the Tuso and Myer glossaries (there are links to these on the "Articles and Papers" page of the class website) or in a dictionary. You can find the Merriam-Webster Dictionary on line at <http://www.m-w.com/>. Sometimes Wikipedia can also be helpful.

There will be a test on the CD on Monday, 3 October, and Tuesday, 4 October. On that date you will also hand in a 1500 word paper based on your notes on the CD, lecture and audio-visual material presented in class, and the assigned readings. Directions for writing the paper will be posted on the wiki.

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## Topic for fieldwork project due on or before 21/22 September

Read the documents "Suggestions for Selecting a Topic for your Fieldwork Project" and "Directions for your Fieldwork Project." Links to these are on your class page of the website. Send me the proposed topic of your fieldwork project by ANGEL mail on or before 21/22 September.

Before you begin your fieldwork you should have read *Fieldwork* by Bruce Jackson, chapters one through eight, chapter sixteen, and the appendix. These will be covered on the second test.

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## Reading Assignments and Study Questions for the First Four Weeks of Class

Your assignment for Wednesday, 31 August, and 1 September, is to read:

- Mary Hufford, "American Folklife: A Commonwealth of Cultures" ("Articles and Papers" page on my website)
- Stephanie Hall, "Papa Boas' Children or the Road to the Center of Folklore" ("Articles and Papers" page on my website)
- Bruce Jackson, "The Material Fifties" ("Articles and Papers" page on my website)
- "Some Definitions of Folklore" (your class page on my website)

After reading these you should be able to answer the following questions:

- What kinds of groups share and transmit folklore?
- How has the scholarly view of folklore changed over the past hundred years?
- What is the difference between high culture, folk culture and material (mass, popular) culture?
- Who are these scholars: Franz Boaz, Sir Edward Tylor, Alexander Krappe, Karl Marx, Sigmund Freud, Charles Darwin? (I suggest that you look these names up in Wikipedia or in some other reference work.) How did their ideas influence folklore scholarship?

I suggest that you write out the answers to these questions; it will help you learn the material and to review for tests. However this is completely up to you. I will not grade your answers, but I may collect them occasionally

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Your assignment for Wednesday, 7 September, and Thursday, 8 September, is to read *On Being Human*. After reading this book you should be able to answer the following questions:

- According to Wilson, what characteristics set folklore off from other forms of communication aimed at persuasion?
  - What functions do the traditions of Mormon missionaries fulfill in their daily lives?
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Your assignment for Monday, 12 September, and Tuesday, 13 September, is to read:

- George Weiss, "Throw a Nickel on the Grass" ("Articles and Papers" page on my website)
- Joe Tusso, "Comments on Air Force Songs" ("Articles and Papers" page on my website)
- Bill Getz, "Rhythm and Blue" ("Articles and Papers" page on my website)

After reading these you should be able to answer the following question:

According to these three authors, what functions do the occupational folksongs of the Air Force serve in the lives of the men who compose and sing them?

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Your assignment for Monday, 19 September, and Tuesday, 15 September, is to read:

- John Guilmartin, “‘Tchepone’: A Fighter Jock Song” (“Articles and Papers” page on my website)
- Mike Laurence, “The Thud” (“Articles and Papers” page on my website)

After reading these you should be able to answer the following questions:

- “Tchepone” is a parody of an old cowboy song, “The Strawberry Roan.” What does Guilmartin have to say about the relationship between the two songs?
- According to Laurence how do pilots’ songs reflect the relationship between men and machines in Air Force tradition?