This course has not only introduced generations of Berkeley students to the discipline of folklore—it has played a part in shaping it. The Berkeley Folklore Archive, which is used by scholars and students, largely consists of the fruits of the fieldwork conducted by course participants. Some of the students who took Forms of Folklore have gone on to become leading folklorists. The course reviews the work of scholars from around the world who have been developing perspectives and methodologies for more than two centuries. Nevertheless, with globalization, the massive scale of travel and relocation, and the proliferation of digital technologies, folkloristics (the study of folklore) is changing rapidly as it responds to the challenges posed by looking at new ways that culture is produced, transmitted, and commodified as well as efforts to resist and “indigenize” cultural commodification.

Folklore used to be imagined as the common heritage shared by all members of national communities. This course examines such constructions rather than takes them as givens, focusing on how all of us construct notions of difference—racial, ethnic, gender, sexuality, class, age, disability, and nation—through folklore. The scholarly perspectives it presents show how legends, myths, proverbs, riddles, folksongs, folk art, festivals, and other forms are used in producing and enforcing social boundaries and hierarchies as well as challenging “official” discourses and institutions. The course thus provides a unique basis for developing a critical multiculturalism in the United States and globally through work on African American, Asian American, Latino/a, Native American, and other folklore. We also explore how cultural forms have played a role in constructing human beings as distinct from and in command of other species as well as the urban and “natural” environments in which they dwell or travel.

Upper-class standing is not required.

Texts:

Required materials
1. **Texts**: The above books are available at the CalStore and University Press Books, both on Bancroft Way. They are also on reserve in the Anthropology Library in Kroeber Hall.
2. **bCourse.berkeley.edu**: Individual chapters published in books are available electronically to enrolled students through bCourses.berkeley.edu. Most of the books from which they are taken—which
often contain the references cited—section—are on 1-day reserve in the Anthropology Library, Kroeber Hall.

3. **Journal articles**: You must obtain your own copy of journal articles through the UCB Library system. I have generally included the Internet address so that you may get them (at no cost to you) on your computer. (Suggestion: get the syllabus electronically from bCourse, then cut and paste the Web addresses. To configure your computer to access journal articles from off campus, go to the Library site that will instruct you on how to configure a proxy: http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/using-the-libraries/connect-off-campus)

Thus, doing the required reading involves obtaining access to a copy of each required text, bCourses, and all of the articles published in journals and available electronically through the Library.

**Requirements:**

1. **Attendance at lectures**: Concepts, examples, and other content not included in the readings will be presented in lectures; they will appear on examinations. In general, PowerPoint slides from lectures will be placed on bSpace. Nevertheless, a few words of warning: The slides are intended to enhance comprehension by students attending the lecture; they are not designed to be comprehensible independently of the lecture. In some cases, it will not be possible to post either selected slides or an entire lecture. Finally, examinations will include material from readings and lectures that does not appear on slides posted on bSpace.

2. **Sections**: A primary goal of the sections is to assist you with your collections; discussions of the readings and lectures will also help you increase your comprehension of the readings and lectures. Please attend the same section each week. If you cannot attend your regular meeting, please email your GSI and the GSI of the section you would like to attend to receive permission. No sections will be held on Thursday, August 27 or Friday August 28. The sections crucial to excelling in the course. Your GSIs will answer your questions during their office hours. By course policy, they cannot do advising by e-mail or other electronic means.

3. **Midterm examination**: in-class on Thursday, 15 October, covering Themes 1-8 and consisting of short-answer identifications and an essay question, focusing on both lectures and readings: **30% of grade**.

4. **Final examination**, on Tuesday, 15 December 2015 8:00-11:00AM, consisting of short-answer identifications and an essay question, covering lectures and readings, focusing on themes 9-17. *Please do not ask to take the final examination on another date or at a different time.* Due to the class size, we can only consider requests by students with academic accommodation letters to change the examination hours (not date). Please do not make travel plans that conflict with the date or time of the final examination. **30% of grade**.

5. **Collection of 5 examples of folklore**, with information regarding the contexts in which they are generally used and in which they were collected and an analysis of each example that draws on at least one of the authors on the syllabus, strictly following instructions in the Collections Guide that will be available on bSpace and discussed in class. Write-ups should not exceed three pages each in length, double spaced. Help is available from your GSI and from the Folklore Archivist, Alison O'Connor-Korb (Kroeber 110). The entire collection is due on **Tuesday 24 November 2015 in Folklore Archive, 110 Kroeber Hall, 10:00AM-2:00PM**. Lateness will be penalized. Please do not give your collection to a GSI or the instructor, place it in the Anthropology office, slide it under an office door, etc.; it can only be turned at the Folklore Archive. If you turn it in early, you must give it directly to the Folklore Archivist. **40% of grade**. It is strongly recommended that you bring a sample example to your GSI during office hours long in advance of the deadline.
The student community at UC Berkeley has adopted the following Honor Code:
“As a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others.” The hope and expectation is that you will adhere to this code.

**Collaboration and Independence:** Reviewing lecture and reading materials and studying for exams can be enjoyable and enriching things to do with fellow students. This is recommended. However, unless otherwise instructed, homework assignments are to be completed independently and materials submitted as homework should be the result of one’s own independent work.

**Cheating:** A good lifetime strategy is always to act in such a way that no one would ever imagine that you would even consider cheating. Anyone caught cheating on a quiz or exam in this course will receive a failing grade in the course and will also be reported to the University Center for Student Conduct. In order to guarantee that you are not suspected of cheating, please keep your eyes on your own materials and do not converse with others during the quizzes and exams.

**Plagiarism:** To copy text or ideas from another source without appropriate reference is plagiarism and will result in a failing grade for your assignment and usually further disciplinary action. For additional information on plagiarism and how to avoid it, see, for example: http://gsi.berkeley.edu/teachingguide/misconduct/prevent-plag.html

**Academic Integrity and Ethics:** Cheating on exams and plagiarism are two common examples of dishonest, unethical behavior. Honesty and integrity are of great importance in all facets of life. They help to build a sense of self-confidence, and are key to building trust within relationships, whether personal or professional. There is no tolerance for dishonesty in the academic world, for it undermines what we are dedicated to doing – furthering knowledge for the benefit of humanity.

**Statement regarding possibly offensive material:** Due to the nature of the subject matter, this course includes materials that may prove to be offensive due to their language, content, visual features, or overall orientation. Such content may appear in readings, lectures, in-class and/or section discussions, films, recordings, and/or other materials. These forms of cultural expression are used as objects of description and analysis, not as promoting any view on sensitive issues. They are meant to be examined in the context of intellectual inquiry of the sort encountered at the university level. The ideas or perspectives contained or implied in such materials do not necessarily reflect the views of the professor, Graduate Student Instructors, the Department of Anthropology, or the University of California, Berkeley. Students are invited to express their reactions to such material in class, sections, or during office hours, but they must do so in ways that demonstrate respect for other class participants. Students who are enrolled in the course will be deemed to have consented to these conditions (willingness to confront offensive material in readings, lectures, discussions, films, recordings, and other materials and to respect the rights of others) unless they provide the professor with a written statement by 7 September, stating the nature of their objections.

**Sections and Graduate Student Instructors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>GSI</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesdays 1:00-2:00</td>
<td>Samuel Puliafico</td>
<td>Room 101, 2251 College Ave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesdays 9:00-10:00</td>
<td>Samuel Puliafico</td>
<td>Room 101, 2251 College Ave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursdays 1:00-2:00</td>
<td>Brett Lemke</td>
<td>Room 101, 2251 College Ave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fridays 11:00-12:00</td>
<td>Brett Lemke</td>
<td>Room 101, 2251 College Ave</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: 2251 College Avenue is the brick building next to the Law School; the classroom is immediately on your right after you enter the front door.
Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Introduction
Thursday (August 27) Introduction
Sims and Stephens, Living Folklore, chapter 1.

Theme 1: Basic concepts of folkloristics: folk, folklore, context, and performance
Tuesday & Thursday (September 1, 3)
Sims and Stephens, Living Folklore, chapter 2, 5.

Recommended readings:

Theme 2: Folklore Fieldwork
Tuesday (September 8)
Sims and Stephens, Living Folklore, chapter 7.

Recommended Reading:

Theme 3: Tradition, Tourism, and Indigenous Sámi Heritage
Thursday (September 10)
Sims and Stephens, Living Folklore, chapter 3.

Recommended Reading:

Theme 4: The Creation of Identities and Social Boundaries
Tuesday (September 15) Folklore and the Construction of Difference


Thursday (September 17)   *Jokes and Blason Populaire*


Recommended Readings:


**Theme 5:**   *Folk Speech*

Tuesday (September 22)


Recommended Readings:


**Theme 6:**   *Folk Art/Material Culture*

Thursday (September 24)


Recommended Readings:


Thursday, 24 September, 5:00, 221 Kroeber Hall
Alan Dundes Lecture by Ruth Finnegan: "Words: Whence and Whither"
(not required, but strongly recommended)

**Theme 7:** Chican@ Constructions of Racism and Resistance: Don Américo Paredes
Tuesday & Thursday (September 29, October 1)
Américo Paredes, With His Pistol in His Hand, pp. 33-54, 129-150, 129-50, 154-158, 241-47

Recommended Readings:

**Theme 8:** The "Small Genres": Riddles and Proverbs
Tuesday (October 6) Riddles

Recommended Readings:

Thursday (October 8) Proverbs

Recommended Readings:


Tuesday (October 13)    Midterm review

Thursday (October 15)    Midterm examination

**Theme 9: Folk Medicine & Practices of Healing**
Tuesday and Thursday (October 20, 22)

Recommended Readings:


**Theme 10: “Superstitions”: Agency beyond Rationality**
Tuesday (October 27)


**Theme 11: Games, Foodways, Festivals, and Halloween**
Thursday (October 29)


Recommended Readings:


http://www.jstor.org/stable/i223785
Theme 12: Folktales and other Folk Narratives
Tuesday (November 3) Folktales

Thursday (November 5) Tales of Social Class, Race, and Gender

Recommended Readings:

Theme 13: Legend, Rumor, and the Politics of Difference
Tuesday (November 10)

Recommended Readings:

Theme 14: Virtual Folklore: Cultural Forms on the Internet & in Social Media
Thursday (November 12) and Tuesday (November 17)
Recommended Readings:
http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_american_folklore/v121/121.480.howard.html
http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_american_folklore/toc/jaf.121.481.html

**Theme 15: Folk Music**

Thursday November 19
Readings (see folder in bCourses, including "Instructions on materials for Folk Music class"):
https://books.google.com/books?id=lckLQAQAQBAJ&lpg=PA1&ots=9hZdmPl9aC&dq=inventing%20traditions%20hobsbawm&lr&pg=PA1#v=onepage&q&f=true

Recommended Readings:

**Theme 16: Myth: (Re)Creating the World**

Tuesday (November 24)

**Tuesday, 24 November 2015: Collections are due** in Folklore Archive, 110 Kroeber Hall; they must be given to the Archivist 10:00AM-2:00PM only. Please do not leave collections outside the door and do not bring them to the Anthropology Office. They cannot be slipped under doors or handed to GSIs. Any collection received after 4:00pm on 24 November will be marked down for lateness.

Thursday (November 26)   Holiday, no class
Theme 17: The Global Commodification of Folklore
Tuesday (December 1)
   http://publicculture.dukejournals.org/cgi/reprint/12/1/145

Thursday (December 3) Review for Final Exam and Course Wrap-Up

Final examination: Tuesday, 15 December 2015 8:00-11:00AM