Festivals: Local Culture

EXD 345 Section 125

Spring 2014, Independent Study-Self Paced

Jennifer Caputo

Prerequisites

UA Course Catalog Prerequisites

No prerequisites or none listed.

Course Description

UA Course Catalog Information

This course examines local culture as expressed through festivals and public displays of tradition. Students will attend a range of local festivals and learn how to thoroughly describe and analyze the festivals using
methods from folklore, cultural anthropology, and performance studies. You will explore a range of festivals through selected readings and by attending three festivals in or near your community. You will learn about the ways in which arts, music, food, film, heritage, ethnic, and religious festivals contribute to and represent local cultures and societies.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, students will:

- Develop knowledge of the fields of folklore and cultural anthropology with a focus on performance studies.
- Learn how to implement descriptive and analytical methods from the fields mentioned above.
- Develop skills to discuss festivals and public displays of tradition/culture in specific social and historical contexts.
- Experience, analyze, and write about local festivals in their cultural contexts.
- Produce individual and original written work for all assignments and projects.

Required Texts

UA Supply Store Textbook Information

Textbook data from the Supply Store not found for this course.

Required Materials:

- Regular access to a computer and/or other electronic device with internet access, speakers, and/or headphones to read required articles, listen to audio examples, and view video examples posted on Blackboard Learn. (Most reading, listening, and viewing examples will be posted on Blackboard Learn. The examples may be modified throughout the semester).
- A camera to take photographs during the festivals you will attend. This may be as basic as the camera on a cell phone, or you may use a more advanced camera. You must be able to save your photographs as jpeg files (or other image files) in order to insert them into your writing assignments, to upload them to Blackboard Learn, or send them to me via email.

Exams and Assignments

Assignments include:

1. Your proposed assignment completion and festival attendance schedule (to be completed within a month of enrolling in this course).
2. Five brief reflective reading/viewing response essays and exercises (250-300 words each/roughly 1 typed page for each response or exercise) related to selected readings, audio examples, and/or videos you will read, listen to, and view for this contract.
3. Three festival response essays (500-600 words each/roughly 2 typed pages each) related to the selected festivals you will attend during the 6 month time period for this course. You must plan to attend three different types of local festivals. Links to websites with festival listings will be posted on Blackboard Learn. I will also announce upcoming festivals via email. All students may attend one extra local festival to complete a fourth response paper for extra credit.

4. One single-page/250-300 word proposal and list of preliminary resources for your final essay.

5. One final essay based on your original research and observations you will complete within the 6-month contract period. Final essay topics will be determined based on the type of festival you choose to focus on. You will submit a 1000-1200 word essay (roughly 4-5 typed pages).

6. **All assignment instructions will be available on Blackboard Learn. Assignments must be submitted via Blackboard Learn.**

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**Assignment Points:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 pts.</td>
<td>Proposed assignment completion and festival attendance schedule.</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 pts.</td>
<td>5 Brief reading/film/video response papers (5 pts. each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>45 pts.</td>
<td>Festival response essays (15 pts. each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 pts.</td>
<td>Final essay proposal.</td>
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<td>20 pts.</td>
<td>Final essay.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(1-5 pts.)</td>
<td>Extra credit assignment.</td>
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**Grading Policy**

**Assignments and Evaluation:**

This course includes a range of assignments and methods of assessment. Detailed instructions for each assignment will be available on Blackboard Learn. Students will receive number grades for assignments. The grades will be calculated at the end of the semester according to the points listed below and converted to letter grades for your final grade for the course. Total possible points = 100 (plus possible extra credit).

**Grade Scale:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
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Policy on Missed Exams & Coursework

Policy on Missed Coursework:

Students are required to complete all assignments to receive full credit. Upon enrollment in the course, you will complete a proposed schedule form (available on Blackboard Learn) for completing all assignments and planning your attendance at a total of three festivals within the 6-month period.

Extra Credit Opportunities:

Students may attend one additional festival of their choice and write one extra response essay following the assignment guidelines posted on Blackboard Learn.

Severe Weather Guidelines

The guiding principle at The University of Alabama is to promote the personal safety of our students, faculty and staff during severe weather events. It is impossible to develop policies which anticipate every weather-related emergency. These guidelines are intended to provide additional assistance for responding to severe weather on campus.

UA is a residential campus with many students living on or near campus. In general classes will remain in session until the National Weather Service issues safety warnings for the city of Tuscaloosa. Clearly, some students and faculty commute from adjacent counties. These counties may experience weather related problems not encountered in Tuscaloosa. Individuals should follow the advice of the National Weather Service for that area taking the necessary precautions to ensure personal safety. Whenever the National Weather Service and the Emergency Management Agency issue a warning, people in the path of the storm (tornado or severe thunderstorm) should take immediate life saving actions.

When West Alabama is under a severe weather advisory, conditions can change rapidly. It is imperative to get to where you can receive information from the National Weather Service and to follow the instructions provided. Personal safety should dictate the actions that faculty, staff and students take.

The Office of University Relations will disseminate the latest information regarding conditions on campus in the following ways:

- Weather advisory posted on the UA homepage
- Weather advisory sent out through UA Alerts to faculty, staff and students
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA at 90.7 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over Alabama Public Radio (WUAL) at 91.5 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA-TV/WUOA-TV, and on the website at http://wvuatv.com/content/weather. WVUA-TV Home Team Weather provides a free service you can subscribe to which allows you to receive weather warnings for Tuscaloosa via e-mail or cell phone.
Check [http://wvuatv.com/content/free-email-weather-alerts](http://wvuatv.com/content/free-email-weather-alerts) for more details and to sign up for weather alerts.

In the case of a tornado warning (tornado has been sighted or detected by radar; sirens activated), all university activities are automatically suspended, including all classes and laboratories. If you are in a building, please move immediately to the lowest level and toward the center of the building away from windows (interior classrooms, offices, or corridors) and remain there until the tornado warning has expired. Classes in session when the tornado warning is issued can resume immediately after the warning has expired at the discretion of the instructor. Classes that have not yet begun will resume 30 minutes after the tornado warning has expired provided at least half of the class period remains.

**Disability Statement**

If you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss any course accommodations that may be necessary.

If you have a disability, but have not contacted the Office of Disability Services, please call (205) 348-4285 (Voice) or (205) 348-3081 (TTY) or visit 133-B Martha Parham Hall East to register for services. Students who may need course adaptations because of a disability are welcome to make an appointment to see me during office hours. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services, 133-B Martha Parham Hall East, before receiving academic adjustments.

**Policy on Academic Misconduct**

All students in attendance at The University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University of Alabama expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. At the beginning of each semester and on examinations and projects, the professor, department, or division may require that each student sign the following Academic Honor Pledge: “I promise or affirm that I will not at any time be involved with cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or misrepresentation while enrolled as a student at The University of Alabama. I have read the Academic Honor Code, which explains disciplinary procedure resulting from the aforementioned. I understand that violation of this code will result in penalties as severe as indefinite suspension from the University.”

See the [Code of Student Conduct](http://syllabi.ua.edu/osm/viewsyllabus/201410/18877?class=20141018877[7/31/2014 5:40:50 PM]) for more information.

**Emergency Contact Information**

UA’s primary communication tool for sending out information is through its web site at [www.ua.edu](http://www.ua.edu). In the event of an emergency, students should consult this site for further directions. Additional course information will be posted using Blackboard Learn.