

# FOLKLORE PROGRAM (FOLKLORE)

## FOLKLORE 100 – INTRODUCTION TO FOLKLORE

3 credits.

Surveys folklore in the United States and around the world, with a comparative emphasis on ways in which individuals and groups use beliefs, songs, stories, sayings, dances, festivals, and artifacts to address issues of identity, authenticity, and authority, in complex societies.

**Requisites:** None

**Course Designation:** Ethnic St - Counts toward Ethnic Studies requirement

Breadth - Humanities

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Explain key concepts of folklore studies.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Recognize and describe key concepts important to the study of folklore as related to the cultures of people in the United States of America.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Recognize and describe a variety of vernacular expressions of the cultures of people in the United States of America.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Ethically apply folkloristic research methodologies used to document, describe, and discuss culture.

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Present your understanding of folklore to a variety of audiences, including scholars and the general public, through folkloristic products in the form of essays, oral presentations, and digital products.

Audience: Undergraduate

## FOLKLORE/AFROAMER/AMER IND/ASIAN AM/CHICLA 102 – INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE US ETHNIC AND AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES

3 credits.

Introduction to comparative ethnic studies, examining race, ethnicity, and indigeneity within the United States. Includes perspectives from African American, American Indian, Asian American, and Chican@ and Latin@ studies.

**Requisites:** None

**Course Designation:** Ethnic St - Counts toward Ethnic Studies requirement

Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Recognize the multicultural history of the United States of America and the essential role of Indigenous, African, Asian and Chicax/e & Latinx/e peoples in the American story.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Identify the creation, development and legacies of race-based discrimination in the United States.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Explain the role of race in the creation of value systems in American society.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Explore the heterogeneity and complexity within persistently marginalized groups as well as their relations to each other.

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Reflect on their learning experience so that they may develop as well-rounded, informed, and educated members of society who can effectively and successfully participate in a multicultural society.

Audience: Undergraduate

**FOLKLORE/MUSIC 103 – INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC CULTURES OF THE WORLD**

3 credits.

An introductory ethnomusicology course providing a variety of ways to approach musics typically not covered in music history courses. Active engagement with these musics within their larger world contexts.

**Requisites:** None

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Humanities

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2025

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Engage with various musics on students' own terms

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Speak and write clearly about what is heard.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Recognize and contextualize the several genres of music that represent each cultural area selected for study in the course

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Think rigorously about how positionality, including your own, affects listening and knowledge practices

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Have learned something about yourself -- strengths, weaknesses, biases, desires, tendencies, curiosities

Audience: Undergraduate

**FOLKLORE/RELIG ST 104 – SACRED PLACES AND JOURNEYS**

3 credits.

An introduction to the study of religion through the lens of sacred places and journeys, including pilgrimage.

**Requisites:** None

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Humanities

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Apply key theories in the study of religion to varied religious phenomena in research and essay writing

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Articulate the influence of positionality in the study of religion

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Articulate how places become perceived, constructed and used as sites of sacrality in different religious, spiritual and secular contexts

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Articulate the complex ways that migration and politics affect the perception and use of sacred sites

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Discuss religious matters in a respectful but detached (non-proselytizing) manner

Audience: Undergraduate

**FOLKLORE/GNS 200 – FOLKLORE OF CENTRAL, EASTERN AND NORTHERN EUROPE**

3 credits.

Folklore of Central, Eastern and Northern Europe and among emigrants from these regions in North America. A survey of genres of folklore, history of research, and modes of interpretation, past and present.

**Requisites:** None

**Course Designation:** Gen Ed - Communication Part B

Breadth - Humanities

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Fall 2023

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Recognize and understand key concepts important to the study of folklore as related to the cultures of people in and from the countries of Central, Eastern and Northern Europe.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Articulate and apply methods folklorists use to document, describe, and discuss culture.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Produce folkloristic products in the form of essays, oral presentations, and digital products.

Audience: Undergraduate

**FOLKLORE/AFRICAN 210 – THE AFRICAN STORYTELLER**

3 credits.

The oral tradition and the written word; the composition of stories, relationship between performer and audience, and transmission of tradition in various African societies.

**Requisites:** None**Course Designation:** Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Elementary

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No**Last Taught:** Spring 2026**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Recognize the diversity of the African continent and its storytelling traditions.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Examine the ways African storytellers represent human experiences.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Interpret global processes (social, cultural, political, economic, historical, etc.) through the lens of African storytelling.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Identify, examine, and illustrate knowledge of various storytelling techniques, in both the oral and written storytelling traditions of Africa.

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Consider various cultural, social, and historical questions relevant to African storytelling.

Audience: Undergraduate

6. Practice identifying, examining and interpreting the relationship between literary and cultural, social, and historical discourses.

Audience: Undergraduate

7. Craft, support, and articulate arguments about cultural, social, and historical processes.

Audience: Undergraduate

**FOLKLORE/ANTHRO/INTL ST/LINGUIS 211 – GLOBAL LANGUAGE ISSUES**

3 credits.

Focuses on language and its culture, example topics include: extinction and revival, language and nationhood, how widely and deeply languages differ, language and worldview, writing systems and literacy, language discrimination and inequality.

**Requisites:** None**Course Designation:** Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science

Level - Elementary

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No**Last Taught:** Fall 2023**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Identify ways that geographic, social, and political events, movements, and trends shape the sociolinguistic context of the world's languages

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Demonstrate an understanding of subfields of global sociolinguistic inquiry, including language contact, variation, change, and death; language revitalization; the intersections of language, race, and ethnicity; the intersections of language and gender, and sexuality

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Critically evaluate specific examples of language use in a variety of linguistic and cultural contexts

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Design and conduct a sociocultural linguistic research project, including: identify a research question; collect appropriate resources and data; conduct data analysis and interpretation; draw conclusions, and summarize results

Audience: Undergraduate

**FOLKLORE 215 – ELEMENTARY TOPICS IN FOLKLORE**

1-3 credits.

Exploration of various topics in the study of folklore, folklife, myth, foodways, or music.

**Requisites:** None**Course Designation:** Breadth - Humanities

Level - Elementary

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

**Repeatable for Credit:** Yes, unlimited number of completions**Last Taught:** Fall 2025**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Demonstrate an understanding of general themes and concepts in the folklore topic being covered.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Articulate the ways folklore affects and is affected by the society in which it functions.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Communicate effectively through written essays, oral presentations and discussion.

Audience: Undergraduate

### **FOLKLORE 220 – THE FOLK TALE**

3 credits.

Types of heroes, social functions, and tellers; tales from four cultures.

**Requisites:** None

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Fall 2025

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Describe key concepts of folklore studies concerning folk tales.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Examine the nature, context, and social functions of folk tales historically and in contemporary life.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Employ appropriate methods and concepts for folk tale collection and analysis.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Identify key ethical issues involved in folk tale collection, representation, and analysis.

Audience: Undergraduate

### **FOLKLORE 225 – HORROR AS EXPRESSIONS OF NATIONAL ANGST**

3 credits.

Explore horror as cultural phenomenon and how it represents various forms of cultural/national angst.

**Requisites:** None

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Humanities

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Recognize, describe and analyze cultural phenomena; specifically horror narrative and the communities that watch them, and put it into context

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Communicate effectively through written essays, oral presentations and discussion

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Analyze the connections between horror narrative and the wider workings of culture

Audience: Undergraduate

### **FOLKLORE 230 – INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN FOLKLORE**

3 credits.

Folklore of ethnic, regional, religious, and occupational cultures, emphasizing how diverse peoples (African Americans, American Indians, Appalachians, Chicanos, Germans, Irish, Jews, Mormons, miners, service workers, etc.) use traditional festivals, artifacts, songs and stories to express their experiences within American life.

**Requisites:** None

**Course Designation:** Ethnic St - Counts toward Ethnic Studies requirement

Breadth - Humanities

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Fall 2019

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Construct a working definition of folklore.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Position the creation of American folklore tradition within the wider context of world folklore.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Interpret the ways that diverse identities of Americans are commonly formed, expressed, and changed in various settings.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Analyze American folklore narratives to interpret how they reflect and respond to national anxieties, cultural tensions, and historical moments.

Audience: Undergraduate

**FOLKLORE/MEDIEVAL/SCAND ST 235 – THE WORLD OF SAGAS**

3 credits.

The Icelandic sagas viewed in their social, cultural, and literary contexts. An introduction to one of the greatest bodies of vernacular literature of the early Middle Ages.

**Requisites:** None**Course Designation:** Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Elementary

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No**Last Taught:** Fall 2025

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Recognize, describe and analyze shifting geographic, cultural, and ethnic/racial factors in the Northern European region during the Viking Age, and put it into context  
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Identify and distinguish between different types of sources used in the study of the Nordic region during the Viking Age  
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Demonstrate a general understanding of major scholarly approaches, concepts and current research findings concerning the Nordic region during the Viking Age  
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Synthesize information, engage in discussion and research, and argue persuasively about key topics in the Nordic region during the Viking Age  
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Analyze the connections between images of the Vikings Age and the wider workings of modern culture  
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Guide, mentor and support peers to achieve excellence in practice of the discipline  
Audience: Undergraduate

7. Work in multi-disciplinary teams to analyze the cultural material from various disciplinary points of view  
Audience: Undergraduate

**FOLKLORE 315 – INTERMEDIATE TOPICS IN FOLKLORE**

1-3 credits.

Exploration of various topics in the study of folklore, folklife, myth, foodways, or music.

**Requisites:** Sophomore standing**Course Designation:** Breadth - Humanities

Level - Intermediate

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

**Repeatable for Credit:** Yes, unlimited number of completions**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Synthesize the written and material information to demonstrate an understanding of the knowledge from the course  
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Communicate effectively through written essays, oral presentations and discussion.  
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Recognize, describe, and analyze cultural concepts, putting them into context.  
Audience: Undergraduate

**FOLKLORE 317 – THE IRISH TRADITION**

3 credits.

Survey of Irish folklore and folklife, including narrative, music, dance, customs, material culture, and foodways, in both Ireland and beyond.

**Requisites:** Sophomore standing**Course Designation:** Breadth - Humanities

Level - Intermediate

L&amp;S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&amp;S

Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Identify and characterize major genres of folklore and folklife in the lives of Irish people inside and outside Ireland, past and present.  
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Apply folkloristic scholarship to specific ethnographic field data or archival materials through preparation of interpretative essays and other products.  
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Recognize and articulate the ways in which Irish history reflects or illustrates wider processes of colonization, disenfranchisement, migration, nation-building, and cultural diversity at work in other parts of the world today.  
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Engage with contemporary scholarship on Irish folklore and gain skills in academic research on the topic.  
Audience: Graduate

**FOLKLORE/AFROAMER/ASIAN AM/DANCE 319 – AFRO ASIAN IMPROV: FROM HIP HOP TO MARTIAL ARTS FUSION**

3 credits.

An Afro Asian perspective provides a lens through which intersections between Asian American and African American dance and martial arts are studied and practiced. Asian American and African American movement genres provide tools to explore dance fusion, choreography, and improvisation, to create dances informed by African American and Asian American legacies of struggle, innovation and transformation, while cognizant of historical forces of oppression and racism. Building connections through respectful communication with others are learned through dance practice, discussion and writing about concepts learned through readings, videos, and guest artist visits. Engagement with dance as a cultural vehicle for creative problem-solving and risk-taking occurs through guided class or smaller group activities.

**Requisites:** Sophomore standing

**Course Designation:** Ethnic St - Counts toward Ethnic Studies requirement

Breadth - Humanities

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Articulate perspectives on the diversity of the human condition through critical and interpretive skills to analyze the past, present, and future of human movement in a complex world  
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Prepare for participation in a multicultural society through developing a consciousness of self and other and building empathy towards others' perspective, thinking critically and questioning assumptions of certain valued or devalued histories, and analyzing how these differences have promulgated disparities in contemporary American society  
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Demonstrate skills in writing and speaking about dance in its historical, contemporary and cultural contexts  
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Articulate Afro Asian perspectives on the intersections of Asian American and African American cultural, social and historical knowledge, and communicate important ideas through dance and story-telling performance  
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Practice Asian American and African American foundational movement toolboxes as a basis for improvisation and dance choreography supported by concepts of theater and culturally-based learning traditions  
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Engage in imagination-led and creative problem-solving movement activities  
Audience: Undergraduate

7. Build connections with others through class practice, discussions, working groups within and outside of class  
Audience: Undergraduate

8. Use the skills you learn to lead a calmer, more focused, responsible and productive life  
Audience: Undergraduate

**FOLKLORE 320 – FOLKLORE OF WISCONSIN**

3 credits.

Introduction to folk cultural groups and folklore forms of Wisconsin.

**Requisites:** Junior standing

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Humanities  
Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Recognize and apply important concepts in folklore studies.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Describe the range of cultures and cultural activities throughout Wisconsin.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Connect personal experience with the course material.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Recognize history's impact on the present.

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Conduct folkloristic research and analyze cultural traditions.

Audience: Undergraduate

**FOLKLORE/RELIG ST 326 – THE SUPERNATURAL IN THE MODERN WORLD**

3 credits.

Explores evidence of belief in the supernatural in the modern world as it appears in the context of folk religion, folk medicine, legends, folk drama, ritual and custom, and media accounts and presentations. Surveys scholarly approaches to the topic. Course not available to students with credits for Folklore 415 before Fall 2023.

**Requisites:** Satisfied Communications A requirement or graduate/professional standing

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Humanities

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Fall 2025

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Recognize and explore different types of supernatural narratives, practices, and beliefs from around the world and throughout history.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Analyze the roles that supernatural narratives, practices, and beliefs play in human societies, and in the lives of individuals.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Analyze “the supernatural” in relationship to historical memories, cultural anxieties, folk traditions, spiritual beliefs, physiological sensations, political conflicts, environmental disasters, and existential imperatives.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Engage with the course themes via analytical and creative written responses, experiential learning experiments, and the active documentation of folklore.

Audience: Undergraduate

**FOLKLORE/LITTRANS 327 – VAMPIRES**

3 credits.

Explores the development of the vampire legend in folklore, rumor, literature, cinema, television, and popular culture and in relation to topics such as colonization, race, gender, sexuality, and class.

**Requisites:** Sophomore standing

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Describe the evolving characteristics of vampire traditions from early nineteenth-century European folklore through European and American literature, film, and other media.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Describe the interplay between folklore and authored cultural works over time, with examples drawn from the circulation of vampire concepts between informal and authored products.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Interpret representations of the vampire in relation to historical and cultural situations, with particular reference to colonization, race, gender, sexuality, and class.

Audience: Undergraduate

**FOLKLORE/MEDIEVAL/RELIG ST/SCAND ST 342 – NORDIC MYTHOLOGY**

3 credits.

Mythology, literature, ritual, traditions, medieval folklore, and religion from Nordic areas and Scandinavia.

**Requisites:** Sophomore standing

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Fall 2025

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Recognize, describe and analyze cultural phenomena, specifically pre-Christian Nordic Religion, and put it into context.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Demonstrate an understanding of the major theories, approaches, concepts and current research findings concerning medieval Nordic mythology and religion.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Synthesize the written and material information and use insight and creativity to demonstrate an understanding of the knowledge base from the field.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Communicate effectively through written essays, oral presentations and discussion.

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Retrieve, analyze, and interpret the professional and lay literature providing information to both professionals and public.

Audience: Undergraduate

6. Guide, mentor and support peers to achieve excellence in practice of the discipline.

Audience: Undergraduate

7. Work in multi-disciplinary teams to analyze the cultural material from various disciplinary points of view

Audience: Undergraduate

**FOLKLORE/LITTRANS/MEDIEVAL/SCAND ST 345 – THE NORDIC STORYTELLER**

3 credits.

Exploring the oral nature and performance traditions of folklore, ethnography, tales and ballads, literature and culture from Nordic areas and Scandinavia.

**Requisites:** Satisfied Communications A requirement

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2025

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Recognize, describe and analyze cultural phenomena, specifically Nordic Narrative, and put it into context.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Demonstrate an understanding of the major theories, approaches, concepts and current research findings concerning Nordic Narrative and folklore studies.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Synthesize the written and material information and use insight and creativity to demonstrate an understanding of the knowledge base from the field.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Communicate effectively through written essays, oral presentations and discussion.

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Retrieve, analyze, and interpret the professional and lay literature providing information to both professionals and public.

Audience: Undergraduate

6. Work in multi-disciplinary teams to analyze the cultural material from various disciplinary points of view.

Audience: Undergraduate

**FOLKLORE/LITTRANS 347 – IN TRANSLATION: KALEVALA AND FINNISH FOLK-LORE**

3-4 credits.

A look at the Kalevala, the Finnish creation myth and national epic of Finland, and how it affected Finnish national identity and the eventual Finnish independence from Russia.

**Requisites:** Junior standing

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2022

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Construct an understanding of methods and productions folklorists employ in their work by looking at the pioneering work of the early folklorist Elias Lonnrot and by examining the work and products of contemporary folklorists working on topics of Finnish and Finnish-American folklore.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Analyze the connections between expressive performances and the wider workings of culture, as illustrated by the lively interplay between folklore, literature, and popular culture in Finland.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Explain how this Finnish "case study" fits in the global context of folklore and its relation to personal, communal and national identities.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Explore reflections of the pre-modern and medieval culture of Finland in contemporary popular culture.

Audience: Undergraduate

**FOLKLORE/RELIG ST 352 – SHAMANISM**

3 credits.

Survey of shamanism as a religious tradition and sociocultural force in Siberian, Asian, and Native American societies. Exploration of shamanic rituals, roles, cosmology. Cultural and political uses of shamanism in traditional and modern contexts.

**Requisites:** Sophomore standing

**Course Designation:** Ethnic St - Counts toward Ethnic Studies requirement

Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Fall 2022

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Articulate the general characteristics of the wide array of religious traditions around the world that scholars refer to as "shamanism."

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

2. Analyze the key roles of shamans within their communities as healers, leaders, and visionaries.

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

3. Articulate the ways that historical US policies toward Native American communities, shaped consciously or unconsciously by Christian European cultural and religious assumptions, sought to suppress and replace Indigenous religious practices in a process that scholars refer to as "colonization."

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

4. Examine the ways in which US medical, legal, educational, and other institutional frameworks have been or can be modified to help facilitate shamanic revitalization and a process that scholars refer to as "decolonization."

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

5. Practice the research, writing, and presentation skills associated with professional scholarship in the fields of Religious Studies and Folklore Studies.

Audience: Graduate

**FOLKLORE 399 – DIRECTED STUDY IN FOLKLORE FOR UNDERGRADUATES**

1-3 credits.

Directed study as arranged with a faculty member.

**Requisites:** Consent of instructor

**Course Designation:** Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** Yes, unlimited number of completions

**Last Taught:** Fall 2020

**FOLKLORE 415 – ADVANCED TOPICS IN FOLKLORE**

1-3 credits.

Exploration of various topics in the study of folklore, folklife, myth, foodways, or music.

**Requisites:** Junior standing

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Humanities

Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** Yes, unlimited number of completions

**Last Taught:** Spring 2024

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Communicate effectively through written essays, oral presentations and discussion.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Demonstrate advanced knowledge of the methods and practices of the folklore field and practices.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Produce writing that applies concepts learned in the course to analyze knowledge discussed in the course and articulate theories in a critical setting.

Audience: Undergraduate

**FOLKLORE/GEN&WS 428 – GENDER AND EXPRESSIVE CULTURE**

3 credits.

Examines the relationship between dominant images of gender representation as they emerge in expressive culture in various societies.

**Requisites:** Sophomore standing

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2019

**FOLKLORE 430 – TOPICS IN AMERICAN FOLKLORE: ETHNIC STUDIES**

3-6 credits.

Topics in historical or contemporary folklore and folklife pertaining to persistently marginalized racial or ethnic groups in the United States.

**Requisites:** Sophomore standing

**Course Designation:** Ethnic St - Counts toward Ethnic Studies requirement

Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** Yes, unlimited number of completions

**Last Taught:** Summer 2025

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Apply critical approaches to interpreting the vernacular expressions of persistently marginalized groups in the United States.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Ethically apply folkloristic research methodologies for presentation in collaboration with at least two of the following: archives, libraries, community organizations, and/or community members.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Apply course concepts outside of the classroom through critical self-reflection and appreciation of your own and others' cultural perspectives and worldviews.

Audience: Undergraduate

**FOLKLORE/AMER IND/ANTHRO/GEN&WS 437 – AMERICAN INDIAN WOMEN**

3 credits.

Examines and interprets the roles of American Indian women in traditional societies, and in contemporary North America.

**Requisites:** Sophomore standing

**Course Designation:** Ethnic St - Counts toward Ethnic Studies requirement

Breadth - Humanities

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Fall 2025

**FOLKLORE 439 – FOODWAYS**

3 credits.

Explores artistic, social, sensory, and spiritual expressions through food that convey personal, group, and place-based identities, ethnicity, gender, and class in work and play. Reviews range of food writing and scholarly perspectives including culinary historical, structural-functional, and performance.

**Requisites:** Sophomore standing

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Humanities

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2025

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Recognize and apply important concepts in folklore studies.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Describe a range of culinary cultures and food-related folklore.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Connect personal experience with the course material.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Recognize history's impact on the present.

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Conduct folkloristic research and analyze foodways traditions.

Audience: Undergraduate

**FOLKLORE/SCAND ST 440 – SCANDINAVIAN AMERICAN FOLKLORE**

3 credits.

Examines the verbal, musical, customary, and material folklore of Scandinavian Americans, with emphasis on the upper Midwest.

**Requisites:** Junior standing

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Humanities

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2022

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Apply critical approaches to interpreting the vernacular expressions of Scandinavian Americans in historic, cultural, social, and political contexts.

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

2. Apply course concepts outside of the classroom through critical self-reflection and appreciation of your own and others' cultural perspectives and worldviews.

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

3. Ethically apply folkloristic research methodologies for presentation in collaboration with at least two of the following: archives, libraries, community organizations, and/or community members.

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

4. Analyze the vernacular expressions of Scandinavian Americans using relevant primary and secondary sources to identify patterns, themes, and historical contexts.

Audience: Graduate

5. Construct well-organized, evidence-based written arguments related to the Scandinavian American experience.

Audience: Graduate

**FOLKLORE 442 – IMMIGRATION AND INDIGENEITY IN THE UPPER MIDWEST**

3 credits.

Examines the folklore of the Upper Midwest through the complicated intersections of immigration and indigeneity, in order to better understand the history and vernacular expressions of the people who call the Upper Midwest home.

**Requisites:** Sophomore standing

**Course Designation:** Ethnic St - Counts toward Ethnic Studies requirement

Breadth - Humanities

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Apply critical approaches to interpreting the vernacular expressions of immigrant and indigenous peoples in the Upper Midwest in historic, cultural, social, and political contexts.

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

2. Articulate the intersections of immigration and indigeneity in the Upper Midwest as they relate to race and ethnicity both in the past and the present day.

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

3. Ethically apply folkloristic research methodologies for presentation in collaboration with at least two of the following: archives, libraries, community organizations, and/or community members.

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

4. Apply course concepts outside of the classroom through critical self-reflection and appreciation of your own and others' cultural and perspectives and worldviews.

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

5. Analyze the intersections of immigration and indigeneity in the Upper Midwest using relevant primary and secondary sources to identify patterns, themes, and historical contexts.

Audience: Graduate

6. Construct well-organized, evidence-based written arguments related to immigrant and indigenous experience.

Audience: Graduate

**FOLKLORE/SCAND ST 443 – SAMI CULTURE, YESTERDAY AND TODAY**

4 credits.

Interdisciplinary study of Sami (Lapp) people of Scandinavia past and present. Indigenous modes of expression and worldview, contemporary cultural and political activism. Extensive discussion of connections to Native American and Inuit experiences; rise of U.S. and other indigenous peoples' movements.

**Requisites:** Junior standing

**Course Designation:** Ethnic St - Counts toward Ethnic Studies requirement

Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2024

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Characterize past and present Sami culture, both in the context of Nordic societies and in a broader global Indigenous context.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Analyze how Sami people engage with elements of Sami tradition to promote, defend, and advance a Sami cultural identity now and in the future.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Compare Sami experiences of colonization and decolonization with those of North American (and other) Indigenous nations.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Acquire skill in using Sami studies research and perspectives.

Audience: Graduate

**FOLKLORE/MEDIEVAL/SCAND ST 446 – CELTIC-SCANDINAVIAN CULTURAL INTERRELATIONS**

3 credits.

Examination of shared traditions and historical connections between the North and Northwest of Europe. Readings of medieval and pre-modern Scandinavian, Scottish, Welsh and Irish sagas, histories, tales. Discussion of the role of folklore in modern Celtic and Scandinavian societies.

**Requisites:** Sophomore standing

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Humanities

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Fall 2022

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Interpret medieval Celtic and Scandinavian texts surveyed in the course.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Recognize and analyze the agendas that medieval and post-medieval writers/creators may have had in creating the works surveyed in this course.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Distinguish between the verifiable realities of the medieval past and the imaginative renderings these receive in medieval or post-medieval works, applying critical approaches.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Practice the research, writing, and presentation skills associated with professional scholarship in the fields of Scandinavian Studies, Medieval Studies, and Folklore Studies.

Audience: Graduate

**FOLKLORE 460 – FOLK EPICS**

3 credits.

Oral nature, structure, performance traditions, and epic ideology, from various world areas.

**Requisites:** Junior standing

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2025

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Analyze epic narratives to interpret how they reflect national anxieties, cultural identity, and historical transformation across different societies.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Apply major theories and approaches - especially oral-formulaic theory - to evaluate the structure, transmission, and cultural function of epic traditions.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Engage in collaborative research and discussion, while applying ethical considerations related to cultural, religious, ethnic, gender, and economic diversity in the study of epic traditions.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Conduct research using primary and secondary sources and communicate their findings effectively through written essays, oral presentations, and group discussion.

Audience: Undergraduate

**FOLKLORE/L I S 490 – FIELD METHODS AND THE PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF FOLKLORE**

3 credits.

Combines a fieldwork practicum with scrutiny of the cultural, political, and ethical dimensions underlying the documentation and public presentation of folklore through festivals, exhibitions, publications, audio-visual productions, and digital archival collections.

**Requisites:** Sophomore standing

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Humanities

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Fall 2025

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Understand how to employ folkloristic fieldwork, archival methodologies, and community engagement in documenting and presenting local communities.

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

2. Explain key concepts of folklore studies in the context of wider public humanistic research.

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

3. Create a final project demonstrating critical thinking, civic knowledge, and collaboration with coordinating communities.

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

4. Understand how to coordinate effectively with community organizations to undertake multidisciplinary arts and humanities grant-funded project planning with public programming goals such as festivals, exhibitions, publications, audio-visual productions, and digital archival collections.

Audience: Graduate

**FOLKLORE/MUSIC 515 – PROSEMINAR IN ETHNOMUSICOLOGY**

3 credits.

Introduction to ethnomusicology, including historical survey of major works in the field, classification of musical instruments, measurement of tuning systems and concepts of scale, mode and rhythm in non-Western music.

**Requisites:** Graduate/professional standing

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Humanities

Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Fall 2025

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Examine a body of (ethno)musicological literature.

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

2. Decipher and explicate difficult texts with increased confidence.

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

3. Describe the histories and trajectories of the discipline.

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

4. Facilitate discussions effectively.

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

5. Complete a meticulous and thorough research project that integrates and analyzes ethnomusicological perspectives on a topic.

Audience: Graduate

**FOLKLORE/MUSIC 516 – ETHNOGRAPHIC METHODS FOR MUSIC AND SOUND**

3 credits.

Focuses on the tools (material, methodological, and ethical) for doing ethnographic fieldwork in musical contexts.

**Requisites:** Graduate/professional standing

**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Demonstrate familiarity with a body of (ethno)musicological and anthropological literature on ethnographic methods.

Audience: Graduate

2. Decipher and explicate difficult texts with increased confidence.

Audience: Graduate

3. Design and carry out ethnographic research projects.

Audience: Graduate

4. Demonstrate an awareness of power dynamics and your own position as researcher.

Audience: Graduate

5. Facilitate discussions effectively.

Audience: Graduate

6. Track key terms across (ethno)musicological and anthropological literature, describing how ethnographers' relationships with these have changed over time.

Audience: Graduate

**FOLKLORE/COM ARTS 522 – DIGITAL STORYTELLING FOR SOCIAL MEDIA**

3 credits.

Explore everyday communication in social media. Learn digital recording technologies for documenting everyday communication and the use of digital content in social media.

**Requisites:** Junior standing

**Course Designation:** Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Fall 2024

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Evaluate the reasons we value everyday artistic and expressive communication

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

2. Analyze the affordances of different social media platforms

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

3. Evaluate the formal elements best suited to the affordances of different media platforms

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

4. Apply that understanding in the design and production of digital text, photo, sound, and video communications that document everyday artistic and expressive communication

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

5. Analyze ethical implications of documenting human behavior

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

6. Apply scholarly theories on digital media to digital platforms and digital platform content

Audience: Graduate

**FOLKLORE 530 – TOPICS IN FOLKLORE**

1-3 credits.

Topics in Folklore in various cultures and time periods.

**Requisites:** Junior standing

**Course Designation:** Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** Yes, unlimited number of completions

**Last Taught:** Fall 2025

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Frame an understanding of general themes and concepts in the folklore topic being covered.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Prove advanced knowledge of the methods and practices of the folklore field and practices.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Communicate effectively through written essays, oral presentations and discussion.

Audience: Undergraduate

**FOLKLORE 540 – LOCAL CULTURE AND IDENTITY IN THE UPPER MIDWEST**

3 credits.

Addresses different aspects of community life and culture in the Upper Midwest; topics include ethnic groups, religious life, cultural landscapes, oral narrative, music, and material culture.

**Requisites:** Junior standing

**Course Designation:** Ethnic St - Counts toward Ethnic Studies requirement

Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science

Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** No

**Last Taught:** Fall 2025

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Explain/illustrate major concepts important to the study of folklore and region.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Distinguish among different definitions and theories of race and ethnicity.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Name and explain forces that influence the formation of regional ethnic, occupational, recreational, religious and other cultures.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Provide an overview of populations living in the Upper Midwestern United States.

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Describe different forms of cultural expression distinctive to the Upper Midwest.

Audience: Undergraduate

**FOLKLORE 699 – INDEPENDENT STUDY IN FOLKLORE (GRADUATE)**

1-3 credits.

Advanced directed study projects as arranged with a faculty member.

**Requisites:** Consent of instructor

**Course Designation:** Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

**Repeatable for Credit:** Yes, unlimited number of completions

**Last Taught:** Spring 2025

**FOLKLORE/MUSIC 915 – SEMINAR IN ETHNOMUSICOLOGY**

3 credits.

Topics in ethnomusicology within a cross-cultural framework; melodic typology, scale and tuning systems, mode, rhythm, ornamentation, improvisation techniques, oral and written traditions of composition, notation systems, and function of music society.

**Requisites:** Graduate/professional standing

**Course Designation:** Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

**Repeatable for Credit:** Yes, unlimited number of completions

**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Review a specialized body of academic literature on a contemporary ethnomusicological topic.

Audience: Graduate

2. Identify, describe, and appraise ethnomusicology research methodologies.

Audience: Graduate

3. Lead discussion of complex texts across multiple fields.

Audience: Graduate

4. Compare and critique academic perspectives on a topic.

Audience: Graduate

5. Design and carry out an original ethnomusicological research project which integrates contemporary academic conversations with personal research interests.

Audience: Graduate

6. Complete an original research paper akin to an academic journal article that meets rigorous standards and might serve as the basis for a larger project in the student's area of specialization.

Audience: Graduate