

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2019-2020 SLAV 204 A1 - Slavic Folklore and Mythology  
(Fall Term)**

Instructor: Maria Mayerchyk  
Office: 241 D

Time: 9:00AM – 9:50AM  
Place: Humanities Centre 2 25

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Office Hours: M, W, F 10:30-11:15  
or by appointment  
Course Website: on eClass

**Course Prerequisite:** non or consent of department

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

**Course-based Ethics Approval** in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes       No, not needed

**Community Service Learning** component

Required     Optional     None

**Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available**

- Exam registry – Students' Union  
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
- See explanations below
- Document distributed in class
- Other (please specify)
- NA

**Course Description, Objectives, and Expected Learning Outcomes:**

This course offers a combination of Slavic Folklore and introduction to Critical/Cultural Studies. Slavic Folklore is known as a rich collection of texts, beliefs and rituals recorded among Slavic peoples from the 19th century onwards. In this course, we are going to familiarize ourselves with the most prominent examples of Slavic Folklore and its genres: epics, legends, folktales, ballads, historical, religious and lyric songs, ritual and customary folklore. Drawing on this material, we will ask more critical questions. What power relations are represented and reproduced by a body of knowledge on Slavic folklore? Why some genres of Slavic Folklore are more celebrated than others? As an expert in East Slavic folklore, I will pay more attention to Ukrainian, Belarusian, and

Russian traditional culture, but students are very welcome to offer folklore of South and West Slavs for discussion.

After accomplishing this course, students will be able to identify Slavic peoples, outline and differentiate most significant folklore genres, recognize most popular examples of Slavic folklore, and explain political implications of knowledge production in the field of Slavic folklore.

### **Course Format:**

The objectives of this course will be achieved through a combination of formal lectures, in-class discussions, assigned in-class tasks, assigned readings, writing and presentations of research projects.

### **Texts:**

#### **Required**

Kononenko, Natalie. *Slavic Folklore: A Handbook*. Greenwood Press 2007.

Herder, Johann Gottfried. *Outlines of a Philosophy of the History of Man*. Trans. from the German by T. Churchill. New York, London: Bergman Publisher, 1800: Book 6, Ch. IV (Organization of the People of Africa), Book 11, Ch. I (China), Book 16, Ch. III (German Nations), Book 16, Ch. IV (Slavian Nations).

Hobsbawm, Eric. «Introduction: Inventing Tradition». *The Invention of Tradition*, ed. by Eric Hobsbawm, Terence Ranger, 1–14. Cambridge, London: Cambridge University Press, 1983.

#### **Recommended**

Haney, Jack, ed., *Russian Folktales*, M.E. Sharpe, 2009.

Ivanits, Linda, *Russian Folk Belief*, M.E. Sharpe, 1992.

Knab, Sophie Hodorowicz, *Polish Customs, Traditions & Folklore*, New York: Hippocrate, 1993.

Locke, Geoffrey N. W., *The Serbian Epic Ballads : an anthology*. Tanesi, 1927

Mijatovich, Elodie Lawton, *Serbian Folk-lore*, 1908.

*The Three Kingdoms: Russian Folk Tales from Alexander Afanasiev's Collection*. Moscow: Raduga Publishers, 1985.

*Ukrainian Dumy : original texts*. Translations by George Tarnawsky and Patricia Kilina. Toronto; Cambridge: Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies; Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, 1979.

#### **Additional Course Fees**

Yes       No

**Important Dates:** [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: September 4, 2019  
Add/Delete Date: September 16, 2019  
50% Withdrawal Date: October 3, 2019  
Withdrawal Date: November 29, 2019  
Last Day of Class: December 6, 2019  
Final Exam Date (if applicable): not applicable

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): not applicable

**Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):**

1. 10 comment slips, 2 points each, total of 20 %, beginning the second week of classes
2. Participation (including participation in discussions and completion of in-class assignments) – 20%
3. Analytical reasoning questions to the paper by Hobsbawm, up to 2 pages double-spaced – 15 %, due date TBA on eClass.
4. Course Research Project
  - A - Project proposal – 10%, due November 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - B – In-class presentation of the project – 15%, the first week of December.
  - C - Write-up of the project – 20%, due December 11, 4:00pm

**Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

1. **Comment slips.**

Starting with the second week, every Friday at the end of class students will be invited to write a comment slip. This should be a summary of the material learned during the week. You can also ask questions or request clarification for anything that remained unclear. These comment slips must be completed in class and cannot be made up if missed.
2. **Participation**

This part of the overall grade will be based on your completion of 10 tasks assigned in class during the term (cannot be made up if missed), as well as on your contribution to class discussions.
3. **Analytical reasoning questions**

This assignment is designed to assess your ability to summarize a theoretical text (by Hobsbawm), explain its relevance to the Slavic folklore studies and articulate questions that remain unclear for you or which you would like to offer for in-class discussion. Due date TBA on eClass.

#### **4. Course research project**

- A. Description of the project proposal: 1 page double-spaced due November 15<sup>th</sup>.
- B. Project oral presentation: 10-minute presentation + discussion – the first week of December.
- C. Project write-up, up to 5-7 pages in length – due on December 11, 4:00pm.

#### **Required Notes:**

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.

#### **Student Responsibilities:**

##### ***Academic Integrity:***

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

##### ***Learning and Working Environment:***

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

##### ***Sexual Violence Policy:***

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

***Territorial Statement:***

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.” (*from the beginning of the Calendar*).

***Recording of Lectures:***

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

***Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:***

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

**In this course**, attendance is mandatory. Please remember that participation mark in this course is 20%. If you are absent on a particular day, your mark for that day is 0%.

***Policy for Late Assignments:***

Students who consult **in advance** with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension just one time throughout the course with no penalty. However, if a second excuse will be granted for late assignments, half of the mark assigned for this particular work will be deducted. Otherwise, all

assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Any assignment not handed-in in time or unexcused late assignments will not be given any marks. Late excuses will not be accepted for any reason.

***Disclaimer:***

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

**Student Resources:**

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

**Accessibility Resources:** (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

**The Academic Success Centre:** (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

**The Centre for Writers:** (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

**Health and Wellness Support:** There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

**Office of the Student Ombuds:**

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

***Grading:***

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must

be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

**“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”**

| Descriptor   | Letter Grade | Grade Point Value | %             |
|--|--------------|-------------------|---------------|
| <p><b>Excellent.</b> A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.</p> | <b>A+</b>    | 4.0               | <b>97-100</b> |
|  | <b>A</b>     | 4.0               | <b>93-96</b>  |
|  | <b>A-</b>    | 3.7               | <b>90-92</b>  |
| <p><b>Good.</b> B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.</p>  | <b>B+</b>    | 3.3               | <b>87-89</b>  |
|  | <b>B</b>     | 3.0               | <b>83-86</b>  |
|  | <b>B-</b>    | 2.7               | <b>80-82</b>  |
| <p><b>Satisfactory.</b> C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.</p>  | <b>C+</b>    | 2.3               | <b>77-79</b>  |
|  | <b>C</b>     | 2.0               | <b>73-76</b>  |
|  | <b>C-</b>    | 1.7               | <b>70-72</b>  |
| <p><b>Poor/Minimal Pass.</b> D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.</p>   | <b>D+</b>    | 1.3               | <b>65-69</b>  |
|  | <b>D</b>     | 1.0               | <b>60-64</b>  |
| <p><b>Failure.</b></p>   | <b>F</b>     | 0.0               | <b>0-59</b>   |

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