In a broad sense, almost everything folklorists do is education. This class focuses on, but is not limited to, the K-12 curriculum. Teacher training, folk artists in the schools, the preparation of guides and curricula, the development of educational programming at museums, collaborations of various kinds, and the use of folklore to teach writing, multiculturalism and other skills is an important and rapidly expanding part of folkloristics. This class will survey the field of Folklore and Education, considering a variety of publications, lesson plans, audiovisual materials, web pages and other resources. Goals for students include familiarity with resources and the development of practical skills, in the larger context of pedagogical theory and practice. We will also explore the relevance of folkloristics in the current trend toward test-oriented education, with an emphasis on curriculum currently in use in Kentucky. This class is experimental and collaborative in nature.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES INCLUDE:**

- Students will gain an understanding of the relationship of folklore to education.
- Students will gain an understanding of the variety of pedagogical models and methods in the field of folklore and education.
- Students will apply these models and methods by creating activities and lesson plans.
- Students will be introduced to a variety of institutions, personalities, venues and media in folklore and education, and to a range of applications.
- Students will develop skills in developing and applying lesson plans, curricular materials, and other pedagogical strategies.
- Students will gain an understanding of the theory (folklore theory and pedagogical theory) of Folklore and Education.
- Students will develop approaches to folklore and education that are informed, critical, and creative.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Class participation (20% of final grade). Participation is essential in a graduate seminar, especially this one. To participate, you must keep up with the readings and other assignments.
2. Oral review of a website or other educational product, scheduled for 2/25 (15%). Websites and products can be chosen from a list to be handed out in class. Other sites and products may be chosen by students but must be approved by Prof. Evans.

3. Kentucky Crafted (15%). We will create and carry out hands-on educational activities in collaboration with folk artists (including basketmakers) and the Kentucky Arts Council. The event will take place on March 16-17. Students will write short reflective essays after the activities are carried out. [http://www.artscouncil.ky.gov/KAC/Showcasing/2019Market.htm](http://www.artscouncil.ky.gov/KAC/Showcasing/2019Market.htm). Essays are due 4/1.

4. K-12 lesson plan, thematic in focus (20%). Written materials should be easily adaptable to a website. Need to be tied to an appropriate curriculum. More details will be presented in class. Due 4/29.

5. Activity (10%). Each student will lead an activity from their lesson plan, in class. More details will be presented in class. Activities are scheduled for 4/15 and 4/22.


**READINGS**

**TO BE PURCHASED AT CAMPUS BOOKSTORE (or online):**

Bowman, Paddy and Lynne Hamer, editors. *Through the Schoolhouse Door: Folklore, Community, Curriculum.* Logan, UT: Utah State University Press, 2011. ([TSD](http://class_schedule) on the class schedule)


MacDowell, Marsha, and LuAnne Kozma. *Folk Arts in Education: A Resource Handbook II.* East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Museum, 2008. ([FAE](http://class_schedule) on the class schedule) **Note:** Available as a free download at [http://www.folkartsineducation.org/index.php](http://www.folkartsineducation.org/index.php). You can also order a hard copy from this site.

Simons, Elizabeth Radin. *Student Worlds, Student Words: Teaching Writing Through Folklore.* Portsmouth, NH: Boynton/Cook, 1990. **Note:** This book is out of print and unavailable at the WKU bookstore, but used copies can be easily found online – e.g., on alibris.com.

**ONLINE:** Many other readings and resources will be accessed online; see the selected websites at the end of the syllabus.

**BLACK BOARD:** Short readings not available on the web can be found on the class blackboard site. If anyone has problems accessing online materials, please talk to Prof. Evans. Readings available at the Blackboard site are marked **BB** on the class schedule.


**SCHEDULE OF CLASSES**

1/28. Introduction. Visit by Mark Brown, Brent Bjorkman and Scott Gilbert. Discussion of Kentucky Crafted, National Basketry Organization (we will work with them at Kentucky Crafted), and other Kentucky Arts Council issues.

2/4. Folklore and Education: Encompassing the Field. Visit by Rebecca Smith & Virginia Siegel, to discuss the “Dress to Express” Project.
Foreward (by Bonnie Stone Sunstein) and Introduction (by Lynne Hamer and Paddy Bowman), TSD.
Paddy Bowman, “‘I Didn’t Know What I Didn’t Know’: Reciprocal Pedagogy”, TSD.
Browse through the resources listed in FAE.
Familiarize yourself with the *Local Learning Network*. 
2/11. Folk Arts, Web Pages, Resources.
Rita Moonsammy, “Passing It On,” Auctioneering Lesson Plan, FAE.
Amanda Dargan, “Art at the Threshold: Folk Artists in an Urban Classroom,” TSD.
Maida Owens with Eileen Engel, “A Tale of Discovery: Folklorists and Educators Collaborate to Create and Implement the Louisiana Voices Educator’s Guide,” TSD.
Debora Kodish and William Westerman, “Negotiating Pitfalls and Possibilities,” BB.
Familiarize yourself with Louisiana Voices and Wisconsin Folks websites (both accessible from FAE).

Familiarize yourself with Kentucky Core Academic Curriculum. These can be found on the Kentucky Department of Education website, https://education.ky.gov/curriculum/Pages/default.aspx. Curricula relevant to class will mostly be under “Content/Program Areas” on the menu to the left. Please browse these. Also browse the standards (also on the menu), but these are less important for class. In Kentucky (and in many states), core content/standards are continually in transition, and have an ambiguous relationship with Common Core (National) Standards: see http://www.corestandards.org/ for national standards.

2/18. Writing.
Simons, Student Worlds, Student Words.
Lisa Rathje, “’When Lunch Was Just Lunch and Not So Complicated’: (Re)Presenting Student Culture Through an Alternative Tale,” TSD.
Spurrin’ the Words excerpts, FAE and BB.


3/4. Spring Break!

Jan Rosenberg, “From “Me” To “We”: Folklore and Education, Three Early Twentieth-century Educators, and the Evolution of the Field of Folklore and Education,” The Folklore Historian 29 (2012), 16-33. BB.
Anne Pryor, Debbie Kmetz, Ruth Olson, and Steven A. Ackerman, “Here at Home: Learning Local-Culture Pedagogy Through Cultural Tours,” TSD.
Familiarize yourself with the Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures website, http://csumc.wisc.edu/.

Heath, Ways With Words.

Gwendolyn Meister with Patricia Kurtenbach, “Every Student Rich in Culture,” TSD.
Nelda Ault, “Folk Just Means People,” selections. BB.
Hmong Cultural Tour website, http://csumc.wisc.edu/hmong/about.
Check out the webpage of Philadelphia’s Folk Arts and Cultural Treasures Charter School, http://www.factschool.org/.

**4/1. Reflective Essays Due.**

4/1. Human Rights Education.
Activity: Survey the lesson plans at Teaching Tolerance, find one you especially like, and present it (briefly) to the class. https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/lessons.
Amnesty International “Human Rights Friendly Schools” Toolkit & “Write for Rights” Toolkit. BB.
Familiarize yourself with the Teaching Tolerance website, and Amnesty International Education website.


4/15, 4/22. Student-led activities.

**4/29. Lesson plans due.**
Sunstein and Chiseri-Strater, *Fieldworking.*
Lynne Hamer, “Turning the University Inside Out: The Padua Alliance for Education and Empowerment,” TSD.
Paddy Bowman and Lynne Hamer, “Conclusion: Learned Lessons, Foreseeable Futures,” TSD.

5/6. Final Exam.

SELECTED FOLKLIFE IN EDUCATION WEB SITES.

**4-H Fishing Program.** [http://www.4hfishing.org/](http://www.4hfishing.org/). Based in Colorado, with a folklore emphasis (especially “People and Fish”). **Note:** This link seems to be problematic.

**Alaska Native Knowledge Network.** [http://ankn.uaf.edu](http://ankn.uaf.edu). A huge online network. For K-12 teacher resources, click on Acurriculum resources@ on the home page. Of particular note are the lesson plans which use indigenous knowledge and learning methods to teach science and math, but the site contains links to many other resources. And the spiral chart is cool! See also [http://www.alaskool.org/curriculumindx.html](http://www.alaskool.org/curriculumindx.html).

**American Folklife Center, Library of Congress.** [http://www.loc.gov/folklife](http://www.loc.gov/folklife). In addition to online publications such as AFolklife and Fieldwork,@ contains thousands of photographs, recording and documents, many of which could easily be used in education projects. See also the Veteran=s History Project [http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets](http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets), the Local Legacy sites, which give information on culturally important sites and events in each state, [http://www.loc.gov/folklife/roots/ac-home.html](http://www.loc.gov/folklife/roots/ac-home.html), and StoryCorps, [http://www.loc.gov/folklife/storycorpsfaq.html](http://www.loc.gov/folklife/storycorpsfaq.html) (see also StoryCorps in this bibliography).

**American Folklore Society.** [http://afsnet.org](http://afsnet.org). Includes links to the Education and Public Programs sections, and many other resources.

**American Folklore Society, Folklore & Education section.** [http://www.afsnet.org/?page=FolkloreEd](http://www.afsnet.org/?page=FolkloreEd). Includes information, links, and the online newsletter. Students can join the Education section ($10) without paying full society dues.


Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures. http://csumc.wisc.edu. Based out of Wisconsin, the CSUMC offers a wealth of excellent web-based materials for exploring local cultures, including cultural tours, curriculum guides, podcasts, films, and student projects. Click on the various categories under Education and Outreach. The Field Guide to Local Culture and the Hmong Cultural Tour are outstanding; also of note are the Dane County Cultural Tour and Wisconsin Weather Stories, various other tours, and the materials from ESL classes.

Center for Understanding the Built Environment. https://cube-education.org/. Includes lesson plans and resources that explore the built environment in the K-12 classroom.


City Lore. http://www.citylore.org. With a focus on the folklife of New York City, this organization also works with teachers nationally. Click on “Education”; many other parts of this website are well worth exploring.


Digital Traditions. https://www.knowitall.org/series/digital-traditions. From the McKissick Museum in South Carolina, this site offers resources and lesson plans on related to South Carolina (sea grass baskets, African-American celebrations, etc.), and many links to related sites.


schools.

Folkpatterns. Created for the Michigan 4-H program. An older but influential set of lesson plans for foodways, family folklore and other topics. [https://www.canr.msu.edu/folkpatterns/resources](https://www.canr.msu.edu/folkpatterns/resources).

Folkstreams. [http://www.folkstreams.net](http://www.folkstreams.net) is a video-streaming site built as a national preserve of American folk culture documentaries and offers users extensive background materials for each film. Lesson plans and other educational materials are available for many of the films; click on “Educators Portal” on the left side of the main page, and on “Generations Portal” for using the documentaries in community settings.


Kentucky Department of Education. The Kentucky Core Academic Standards can be found at [https://education.ky.gov/curriculum/Pages/default.aspx](https://education.ky.gov/curriculum/Pages/default.aspx). Specific content and standards can be found on the menu on the left.

Kentucky Folklife Program. [https://kentuckyfolklife.org/](https://kentuckyfolklife.org/).

Kentucky Public Television. [http://www.ket.org/education/](http://www.ket.org/education/). Links to a number of teacher’s guides, mostly free, from KET. Includes World of Our Own: Kentucky Folkways, both the video series (streamed online) and the teacher’s guide [https://www.ket.org/education/resources/world-kentucky-folkways/](https://www.ket.org/education/resources/world-kentucky-folkways/) (scroll to the bottom for the teacher’s guide).


Local Learning Network. [http://locallearningnetwork.org/](http://locallearningnetwork.org/). Web site of the National Network for Folk Arts in Education, with many links to national and local resources. This is the best general website for Folklore & Education resources in the U.S., and home to the Journal of Folklore and Education, [http://www.locallearningnetwork.org/journal-of-folklore-and-education/](http://www.locallearningnetwork.org/journal-of-folklore-and-education/). An extensive collection of articles (including some used in class) can be found by clicking on “Resources” and then “Library” or “CARTS Resources.” For regular updates on the Folklore & Education field, see the e-bulletins, [https://www.locallearningnetwork.org/news/news-bulletins/](https://www.locallearningnetwork.org/news/news-bulletins/) (with a picture of Eleanor).


Louisiana Voices: An Educator=s Guide to Exploring Our Communities and Traditions. [http://www.louisianavoices.org](http://www.louisianavoices.org). Written for Louisiana classrooms, this large and outstanding guide can serve as a model for any state or region.

Mariachi Education Resources. [http://www.sobrino.net/mer/](http://www.sobrino.net/mer/). Designed for the mariachi student or researcher.


Michigan Traditional Arts Program. [http://traditionalarts.msu.edu/](http://traditionalarts.msu.edu/). Affiliated with the Michigan State University Museum. Click on Programs, scroll down to “Educational Program.” Includes Folkpatterns (4-H), Michigan Voices, and many other useful resources. “Folkpatterns” can also be found here: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/folkpatterns/resources](https://www.canr.msu.edu/folkpatterns/resources).

Montana Heritage Project. [http://www.montanaheritageproject.org/](http://www.montanaheritageproject.org/). An excellent writing program for teachers and students, with an emphasis on place, community and folklore. Unfortunately this has not been maintained, but it is still worth checking out.

Museum of International Folk Art. [http://www.internationalfolkart.org/learn/](http://www.internationalfolkart.org/learn/). Includes a number of curriculum guides related to online folk art exhibits, with lesson plans and activities.

National Council for Preservation Education (NCPE). [http://www.ncpe.us/](http://www.ncpe.us/). The main site for historic preservation education. Geared toward higher education rather than K-12, but contains many useful links to websites and resources. Also the place to go for historic preservation internships.
National Endowment for the Arts. http://arts.gov/publications/imagine-introducing-your-child-arts. Imagine! Introducing Your Children to the Arts, a guide for parents to be used with children ages 3-8, can be downloaded.

National Museum of the American Indian. http://www.nmai.si.edu. Provides online teaching guides, bibliographies of student resources, and virtual exhibits. Scroll down, then click on Education on the menu at the bottom.


NEH Edsitement. http://edsitement.neh.gov/. This National Endowment for Humanities site includes links to many useful websites in humanities education.


Open Folklore. http://openfolklore.org/. There are lots of interesting resources here, but it can take some browsing to find them. Check out the “Folklore Teaching Resources Collection” (mostly syllabi for college classes, 2011 or earlier), https://scholarworks.iu.edu/dspace/handle/2022/9607.

Oregon Folklife Network. http://ofn.uoregon.edu/. Click on “Resources,” then on “Folk Arts in Education” on the drop-down menu.

Philadelphia Folklore Project. http://folkloreproject.org/educational-tools. Contains a number of excellent lesson plans dealing with human rights, immigrant cultures and other topics, and information on the Folk Arts and Cultural Treasures Charter School, the only folklore charter school (as far as I know).


Public Broadcasting System. http://www.pbs.org. Scroll down, and click “PBS teachers.” Resources include online lessons such as River of Song (www.pbs.org/riverofsong) with lessons on traditional music along the Mississippi; The New Americans (www.pbs.org/kcet/newamericans) on immigration; Africans in America (www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia); Ken Burns = Jazz (www.pbs.org/jazz/classroom/); American Roots
Music (http://www.pbs.org/americanrootsmusic/); The Blues (http://www.pbs.org/theblues/classroom.html); and many others.


Promotes student engagement in community based work. Includes units on rural poetry and many other topics. The August 2003 issue of Rural Roots includes articles on folklore.

Rural Voices Radio. http://www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/doc/programs/rvr.csp is the first spoken work production of the National Writing Project. The stories feature original writings by students and teachers from diverse rural regions throughout the U.S.

Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. http://www.folklife.si.edu/. Scroll to the bottom and click on “Education.” Offers many resources including online curricular materials (e.g., Borders and Identity about the U.S./Mexican border, Discovering Our Delta, etc.), educational kits to order, and guidelines for doing oral histories and creating exhibits in the classroom.


Teaching Tolerance. https://www.tolerance.org/. An outstanding website maintained by the Southern Poverty Law Center. Includes resources on teaching tolerance and combating prejudice in the classroom. Click on “Classroom Resources.” Also offers access to the journal Teaching Tolerance, which includes articles on using folklore in the classroom in the Fall and Spring 2002 issues.

Texas Folklife Resources. http://www.texasfolklife.org. Clicking on “Education” under “browse by category” on the menu will bring up links to a number of interesting curriculum packets including several on music; including curriculum guides for powwows and for conjunto music.

Traditional Arts in Upstate New York. http://tauny.org/. Contains lesson plans tied into several of TAUNY’s programs, including Good Food Served Right and The Registry of Very Special Places.

Vermont Folklife Center. http://www.vermontfolklifecenter.org. The VFC has developed many cutting edge educational materials. Click on “Education.” Also, see the online lessons on doing fieldwork, and the link to “Youth Radio Vermont.” Also of interest are the beautiful children’s
picture books based on materials from the VFC archives, [https://www.vermontfolklifecenter.org/shop/?category=Children%27s+Books](https://www.vermontfolklifecenter.org/shop/?category=Children%27s+Books).

**Western Folklife Center.** [http://westernfolklife.org](http://westernfolklife.org). Lots of material on cowboy poetry including lesson plans, and many other interesting resources. The Deep West Video Program teaches film making to youth.


See also the (out of date but still useful) list of Folklore & Education websites, [http://www.afsnet.org/?page=FolkloreEdWebsites](http://www.afsnet.org/?page=FolkloreEdWebsites).