

New Course Request

Indiana University

IUPUI Campus

Check Appropriate Boxes: Undergraduate credit  Graduate credit  Professional credit

1. School/Division DLA 2. Academic Subject Code FOLK-F

3. Course Number 307 (must be cleared with University Enrollment Services) 4. Instructor Ansari

5. Course Title Middle Eastern Folklore

Recommended Abbreviation (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_ (Limited to 32 Characters including spaces)

6. First time this course is to be offered (Semester/Year): F 09

7. Credit Hours: Fixed at 3 or Variable from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

8. Is this course to be graded S-F (only)? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

9. Is variable title approval being requested? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

10. Course description (not to exceed 50 words) for Bulletin publication: Folk traditions of the Arabic, Persian-, and Turkish-speaking peoples, including folk festivals, rituals, folk dances, music, theatre, and verbal behaviors; the influence of Islam.

11. Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at 3 or Variable from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

12. Non-Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at \_\_\_\_\_ or Variable from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

13. Estimated enrollment: 30 of which 0 percent are expected to be graduate students.

14. Frequency of scheduling: annual Will this course be required for majors? no

15. Justification for new course: important, relevant topic

16. Are the necessary reading materials currently available in the appropriate library? yes

17. Please append a complete outline of the proposed course, and indicate instructor (if known), textbooks, and other materials.

18. If this course overlaps with existing courses, please explain with which courses it overlaps and whether this overlap is necessary, desirable, or unimportant.

19. A copy of every new course proposal must be submitted to departments, schools, or divisions in which there may be overlap of the new course with existing courses or areas of strong concern, with instructions that they send comments directly to the originating Curriculum Committee. Please append a list of departments, schools, or divisions thus consulted.

Submitted by: Judy Apector Date 2/19/09 Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Department Chairman/Division Director Dean

Jay Howard Date 2/23/09 \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Dean of Graduate School (when required) Chancellor/Vice-President

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
University Enrollment Services

After School/Division approval, forward the last copy (without attachments) to University Enrollment Services for initial processing, and the remaining four copies and attachments to the Campus Chancellor or Vice-President.

## Course Proposal for IUPUC in Fall 2009

F 307 Middle Eastern Folklore  
IUPUC

Dr. Mohammed Ansari  
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### Course Description

This course will deal with a wide range of folk traditions from different countries of the Middle East. The material will be drawn from Arabic as well as non-Arabic speaking countries like Iran, Israel, and Turkey. Since Jewish Folklore is the subject of a course by itself, the treatment of past or contemporary Jewish folk traditions would be limited. Folk narrative as it reflects varied cultural meanings will constitute the primary point of emphasis, but folk beliefs & customs, folk music, and material folk culture will also be covered as major genres.

### Course Objectives

1. An assessment of the range of folk expressions in different genres among peoples of varying values and practices in the Arabic and non-Arabic-speaking countries of the Middle East
2. A critical understanding of folklore research in the collecting, documenting, and interpreting of material from the distant to the recent past, as well as the contemporary trends in Middle Eastern folklore scholarship
3. An appreciation of folk art embedded in the observance and practice of folk values through an identifiable set of genres of Middle Eastern folklore
4. Offering a folkloristic perspective for students familiar and unfamiliar with the Middle East

### Course Design

This 300-level course is designed to meet the needs of upper classmen in any undergraduate program, and may also be used toward a graduate program in related disciplines. Gathering fresh data from informants who may be first or second generation immigrants and/or conducting academic research for one term paper aimed at testing established theoretical approaches or at formulating new perspective in the interpretation of the new or previously collected data. Weekly class meetings should lead the student familiar with or new to the study of folklore or of the Middle East toward a comprehensive understanding of folklore genres in various cultural contexts.

Class meetings may be once or twice a weekly depending on the scheduling possibilities on the campus. Some online learning is also build into the course structure with particular reference to scholarly Websites of relevance and vale. A few PowerPoint presentations, documentaries movies, and one or two guest speakers should enliven the learning experience in this course.

## Required Textbook

El-Shamy, Hasan M. Tales Arab Women Tell: And the Behavioral Patterns They Display. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University, 1999.

## Recommended Reading

Ben-Amos, Dan. Folktales of Israel. Chicago: University of Chicago, 1981.

El-Shamy, Hasan M. Folktales of Egypt. Chicago: University of Chicago, 1980.

Glassie, Henry. Turkish Traditional Art Today. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University, 1993.

Other references will be explained in class in conjunction with the discussion of folk narrative and other genres of material from the selected countries.

## Requirements

1. Term Paper (10 Pages) Due by the 12<sup>th</sup> week 35% of the final grade

This will be an interview-based or a research oriented project, and may also utilize both secondary and primary sources with reference to one particular genre or type of folk traditions in one or more countries of the region. The students will format the paper in three parts: 1) identification of the genre of choice with comments about the data and the methodology used in data collection, 2) presentation and/or description of the data, and 3) commentary using one or two of the folklore theories.

2. Short Report One (3 Pages) Due by the 6<sup>th</sup> week 15% of the final grade

The students will select one set of tale texts from the Course Textbook for an explanation of the main narrative genre and possible sub-genres reflected in the stories. A closer examination of one story for its structure, or its cultural functions will constitute the interpretive part for this report.

3. Short Report Two (4 Pages) Due by the 10<sup>th</sup> week 20% of the final grade

This report, which can be used as preliminary or supplementary research for the term paper, will enable the students to choose one scholarly article or one chapter in a book, other than the textbook, to assess the contribution of the scholar and to comment on the work in the value of its data and the scope of its folkloristic analysis.

4. Exam One - Short Answer Type – In the 5<sup>th</sup> week 10% of the final grade

This exam will test a basic understanding of the fundamental concepts of folklore studies with particular reference to the folk narrative traditions of the selected Middle Eastern folk cultures. The students will answer two questions from a list of four.

5. Exam Two - Take-Home Essay - Due on the scheduled Final Exam date - 15% of the final grade

The questions will offer hypothetical scenarios of events for the students to establish what may indeed be recognized as valid folklore and why. The students will then apply a theory of folklore to explain the cultural meanings which may be implicit in the event. The recommended length for this essay would be two pages with a separate APA style title page.

6. Attendance & Participation

5% of the final grade

Weekly attendance is required, and therefore a student will give up 6 points for missing each week's class or classes. If for some reason a student is unable to maintain her/his commitment to the course learning, she/he should follow the procedure for withdrawal from the course by the withdrawal deadline.

**Grading**

The students will receive scores for each of the required items, including attendance, and a cumulative course score will be calculated according to the value of each item. The final course score will be converted to a letter grade according to the following scheme.

96-100	A+	92-95	A	89-91	A-
86-88	B+	82-85	B	79-81	B-
76-78	C+	72-75	C	70-71	C-
69 or less	F				

The "I" – Incomplete – grade will not be assigned unless a student documents some extenuating circumstances, and if at least 80% of the course work is completed before the end of the semester. Additionally, the student as well as the instructor will have to sign a contract for submission to the Registrar indicating the proposed completion of the course work within a specific time frame as required by IUPUC.

**Course Schedule**

Week # 1

The concept/s of folklore as an academic discipline with particular reference to the folk cultures of the Middle East

Week # 2

Identifiable genres and sub-genres in the geo-cultural region of the selected countries with an explanation of all the folklore theories

Week # 3

Definition and clarification of the folk narrative in the Arab world as discussed by El-Shamy and Others

Week # 4

Familial bonds and tensions depicted in El-Shamy's collections with reference to his psycho-analysis.

Week # 5

Role of women as subjects and story-tellers projecting a value system as well as a folk art form – additional consideration of the feminist approach to the Arab narratives

Week # 6

Narratives in the non-Arabic speaking cultures of the region – religious and secular legends of Iran from the distant to the recent past

Week # 7

Folk values captured in Jewish folktales in the context of historical, religious, and ethnic diversities

Week # 8

Archetypal heroes and dynamics of story-telling in folk epics & Review of material covered

Week # 9

Turkish epic of “Dede Korkut” & its impact on Turkish folk history – application of the historical-reconstructional theory

Week # 10

Henry Glassie’s commentary on Turkish folk art & an assessment of art as being integral to folk craft processes with some reference to examples of folk architecture

Week # 11

Superstition and manifestations of folk religion across the region – diversity of value systems generated by saints and Sufis

Week # 12

Individual and communal interactions in frameworks of traditional conduct of daily affairs of events of ritual and celebration, including occupational folk traditions

Week # 13

Genres and contexts of musical traditions and other performing folk arts – ethnomusicological considerations

Week # 14

An evaluation of folk foodways as bridges between the abstract and the tangible, and the related folk cultural identities

Week # 15

Unity in Diversity – a patchwork of Arab and non-Arab folk worlds of the Middle East – Course Review & Student Presentations

Week # 16

Exam

The above schedule is subject to rearrangement of topics and inclusion or exclusion of items. Guest speakers and other events will supplement the informational content as well as the range of interpretations.

### **Honesty Statement**

IUPUC is committed to maintaining academic integrity. Any form of plagiarism – essentially the presentation of material from published or unpublished sources without due credit to the authors and in formats established for academic writing – will result in the rejection of paper or papers and a subsequent “F” grade for the course.

### **ADA Statement**

IUPUC is also committed to providing all possible assistance to any student with any documented disability. We want to make sure that the learning experience is as productive as it can be for every student.

### **E-Portfolio**

Every student is encouraged to include references to this course material and the accompanying course requirements for facilitating an electronic version of academic achievements. Students should contact their respective program coordinators for the procedure in the compilation of e-portfolio data.