

Folklore 2: The Traditional Ballad

This course will study development of the traditional folk ballad from its origins in the European Middle Ages down to its continuing presence in contemporary North America. The primary focus will be thematic (Tragic Ballads, Supernatural Ballads, Outlaw Ballads, Humorous Ballads, etc), but there will be some opportunity to discuss the traditional ballad in relation to related types like the broadside, and the literary ballad. There will be a strong emphasis upon the ballad in performance throughout, and wherever possible ballad tunes will also be included.

Text: English and Scottish Popular Ballads, ed. F.J. Child (Cambridge edition); available from Long's or at <http://www.zippublishing.com/CoursesWi04/English577.html>

Assignments: 1 presentation (25); 1 paper (30); 1 final exam (30). participation and attendance: (15). Except for the north-american ballads (week 10), the presentations will be given in pairs: two students will be expected to introduce the class to two different versions of the same ballad (wherever possible, one from the British Isles and the other from North America). Any student who so chooses may sing a ballad before the class instead of giving a presentation.

Jan	6	Introduction
	8	“The Gypsy Laddie”
Jan	13	Tragic Ballads
	15	presentations: “Lamkin”; “Clerk Saunders”
Jan	20	Romantic Ballads
	22	presentations: “Barbara Allen”; “Young Bateman”
Jan	27	Supernatural Ballads
	29	presentations: “Lady Isabel and the Elf Knight”; “The Wife of Usher’s Well”
Feb	3	Religious Ballads
	5	presentations: “Cherry Tree Carol”; “The Bitter Withy”
Feb	10	Historical Ballads and Border Ballads
	12	presentations: “Sir Patrick Spens”; “Mary Hamilton”
Feb	17	Movie : The Songcatcher
	19	Ballad workshop: Hark Arbaugh
Feb	24	Outlaw Ballads
	26	presentations: “Geordie”; “Henry Martin”
Mar	2	Humorous Ballads
	4	presentations: “Our Goodman”; “The Farmer’s Curst Wife”
Mar	9	North American Ballads
	11	presentations: “John Hardy”; “Jesse James”; “Stagolee”; “John Henry”; “Pretty Polly”

Websites

- <http://www.acronet.net/~robokopp/folkindx.htm>
- <http://www.smsu.edu/folksong/maxhunter/child.html>
- <http://www.sacred-texts.com/neu/eng/child/>
- <http://www.contemplator.com/folk.html>
- <http://www.contemplator.com/child/cmpltchl.html>
- <http://requiem.net/Child/child.htm>
- [http://www.pbm.com/~lindahl/ballads/early\\_child/](http://www.pbm.com/~lindahl/ballads/early_child/)
- <http://www.legends.dm.net/ballads/index.html>
- <http://www.csufresno.edu/folklore/BalladIndexTOC.html>