

Witchcraft and folklore

Eng 407 (DCE)
A Literary View of Witchcraft and the Occult

Of course this class will be held at night. Luckily, students are not asked to conduct personal research or investigation (especially as the last recorded captured vampire was two years ago in New York City).

There will be two main emphases to this body of knowledge. The first is a literary view of the occult and witchcraft. This study will be supplemented by background texts, like "Witchcraft and Satanism," by Simmions and "Things That Go Bump in the Night," by Louis Jones.

Ann Marie Prengaman, teacher of this course and known for her courses on whodunits and thrillers, sees this part of the course as "the classical and romantic approach to the occult as seen in our better-known authors."

The second part of the course is an analytic survey of some of the most recent and most popular occult literature.

This class will have no formal lectures, no midterm and the option of a final or a paper. Class discussion will be emphasized.

Those who are habitually absent will be dealt with in a fitting manner, Prengaman remarked.

Tom Sowa

Eng 419G American Folklore

Students can look forward to collecting folklore in the field this next quarter in Barry Toelken's American Folklore class.

"The real library is still out there," said Toelken. "Instead of writing term papers, I want to give the students the opportunity to do some creative field study."

Beginning with a study of American Indian folklore, the class will study the secular traditions of the United States. Puritan, Frontier, Black, and Chicano folklore will also be examined, along with the folklore of geographic areas, occupations, and religious groups.

The class is limited to an enrollment of 65, with seniors and graduate students having priority. However, there is also a course called Introduction to Folklore and Myth (Eng. 250) being taught this spring. Those who don't get into either class this next term may find it encouraging to learn that the English Department intends to have another folklorist on its staff next year.

The format for American Folklore will be an hour of lecture followed by an hour of discussion twice a week.

Deborah Peterson

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