



COURSE SYLLABUS

LIT 905 Folktales from Around the World

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Number of Units: 3 Semester Units

Grade Level: K-8

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce K-8 teachers to folk literature from many cultures. The provided texts include useful background information about the tales' origins, as well as some simple scientific explanations. Persons enrolling in this course will be asked to read the folktales and to design several grade-level appropriate lessons to use in their classroom teaching. Using these folk tales should enrich the teaching of reading and storytelling, including comprehension, vocabulary, and listening skills. The tales also provide a rich link to the study of science, culture, geography, and values. The resources are ideal for ESL learners of all ages.

The Common Core State Standards for Language Arts as well as the five core propositions of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards have provided the guiding principles and philosophical basis for this course. Participants may be asked to make connections between course work and these standards or the standards of their own states.

Course Dates:

This course is self-paced; students may enroll at any time and take up to a year to complete assignments. No course should be completed in less than three weeks (one week per credit).

Course Materials (texts included):

Hamilton, Martha and Mitch Weiss. How and Why Stories: World Tales Kids Can Read and Tell. August House, Inc. Atlanta, 1999.

Sherman, Josepha. Trickster Tales: Forty Folk Stories from Around the World. August House, Inc. Atlanta, 1996.

Materials for this course also include a folder with information about Fresno Pacific University, the Center for Professional Development, and the instructor, plus information on course policies and procedures.

Course Requirements:

To successfully complete this course, participants must submit

1. six written reflective responses to selected folktales.
2. three lesson plans, each focusing on one of the tales read in the course.
3. three lesson evaluations for the experiences designed above.

See the "Schedule of Topics and Assignments" for more details on these assignments.

All work should be typed and sent to the instructor at one time when the course is completed. Please make a copy; work will not be returned. Students have one full year to finish the course but should not send completed work in less than three weeks from registration.

Send completed work by email attachments to: Lmreimer@fresno.edu

OR

Mail all the above items to:

Luetta Reimer
1549 S. Lind Avenue
Fresno, California 93727

IN EITHER CASE, request online grading: <http://ce.fresno.edu/cpd>

National Standards:

This course is designed to reinforce and support the English Language Arts Standards of the Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSS). The Anchor Standards for Reading (Grades K-6) are listed here:

Key Ideas and Details

1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
3. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

Craft and Structure

4. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
5. Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.
6. Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse formats and media, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.
8. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.
9. Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

10. Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards: Five Core Propositions

In addition to the content standards referenced above, this course supports the following core propositions that characterize National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs).

Proposition 1: Teachers are Committed to Students and Their Learning

- NBCTs are dedicated to making knowledge accessible to all students. They believe all students can learn.
- They treat students equitably. They recognize the individual differences that distinguish their students from one another and they take account for these differences in their practice.
- NBCTs understand how students develop and learn.
- They respect the cultural and family differences students bring to their classroom.
- They are concerned with their students' self-concept, their motivation and the effects of learning on peer relationships.

Proposition 2: Teachers Know the Subjects They Teach and How to Teach Those Subjects to Students.

- NBCTs have mastery over the subject(s) they teach. They have a deep understanding of the history structure and real-world applications of the subject.
- They have skill and experience in teaching it, and they are very familiar with the skills gaps and preconceptions students may bring to the subject.
- They are able to use diverse instructional strategies to teach for understanding.

Proposition 3: Teachers are Responsible for Managing and Monitoring Student Learning.

- NBCTs deliver effective instruction. They move fluently through a range of instructional techniques, keeping students motivated, engaged and focused.
- They know how to engage students to ensure a disciplined learning environment, and how to organize instruction to meet instructional goals.
- NBCTs know how to assess the progress of individual students as well as the class as a whole.
- They use multiple methods for measuring student growth and understanding, and they can clearly explain student performance to parents.

Proposition 4: Teachers Think Systematically about Their Practice and Learn from Experience.

- NBCTs model what it means to be an educated person—they read, they question, they create and they are willing to try new things.
- They are familiar with learning theories and instructional strategies and stay abreast of current issues in American education.
- They critically examine their practice on a regular basis to deepen knowledge, expand their repertoire of skills, and incorporate new findings into their practice.

Proposition 5: Teachers are Members of Learning Communities.

- NBCTs collaborate with others to improve student learning.
- They are leaders and actively know how to seek and build partnerships with community groups and businesses.
- They work with other professionals on instructional policy, curriculum development and staff development.
- They can evaluate school progress and the allocation of resources in order to meet state and local education objectives.

Learning Outcomes:

Persons completing this course will be able to

- 1) utilize, in their teaching, a wide range of folktales from many cultures. (CCSS 1-9; NBPTS Props. 1-4)
- 2) design ways to use these folktales to stimulate an appreciation for literary folklore traditions. (CCSS 1-9; NBPTS Props. 1-4)
- 3) teach vocabulary and comprehension through folktales. (CCSS 1-9; NBPTS Props. 1-4)
- 4) incorporate strategies for building cultural/ethnic awareness and sensitivity through reading and discussion. (CCSS 1-9; NBPTS Props. 1-4)
- 5) facilitate and encourage student thinking about values and character traits that lead to productive behaviors in family and society. (NBPTS Prop. 1)
- 6) connect lessons to state or national standards. (NBPTS Prop. 5)

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

A. Reading: Read all of the tales in these two texts:

Hamilton, Martha and Mitch Weiss. How and Why Stories: World Tales Kids Can Read and Tell. August House, Inc. Atlanta, 1999.

Sherman, Josepha. Trickster Tales: Forty Folk Stories from Around the World. August House, Inc. Atlanta, 1996.

B. Response:

1. Using a literature handbook or some other reference source, define “folktale” and identify the major categories of tales, such as trickster tales, animal tales, and magical tales.
2. Select **six** of the folktales and write a brief (approximately 200 words) reflective essay on each. Do not summarize or re-tell the tale; rather, discuss the central idea or theme of the tale and offer a personal evaluation of the tale’s effectiveness. Identify those elements that specifically contribute to the tale’s likely success with your students. Include your observations on the nature and/or characteristic traits of the tale (using categories identified in #1)

C. Classroom Integration: Use folktales as part of three lessons with your class. (See section D for suggestions.)

1. **Design** and **teach*** three lessons each incorporating a folktale. You may use the tales discussed in B (above) or other tales from the course texts. Follow the accepted lesson plan format for your district or a plan that is functional for your teaching situation. While it should be specific and detailed, it need not be more than one or two pages. Each plan should include the following elements:
 - a. Grade level
 - b. Date presented
 - c. Folktale used
 - d. Lesson objectives
 - e. Outline of presentation procedures
 - f. Methods for evaluating or assessing student progress and growth
 - g. Standards addressed
2. **Evaluate*** the success of each lesson. Write three short paragraphs responding to these questions.
 - a. How fully were your objectives met?
 - b. How did students respond?
 - c. How might you adjust the lesson or reinforce the concepts taught?

D. Suggestions for Use: This list offers some examples or suggestions of the many ways folktales could be used in the classroom. Feel free to use your own creativity and to experiment with a variety of activities.

1. Read aloud a folktale to the class. Or, follow the guidelines and tell the folktale instead. Invite student response.
2. Using the prompts in the text, encourage students to try telling the stories in their own words.
3. Encourage students to dramatize one of the folktales for their class or for another group of students. Use sets and costumes as appropriate.
4. After reading a folktale, discuss with students the characteristics of the oral tradition as demonstrated in folktales. Introduce the elements of fiction such as plot, setting, and theme.
5. Focus on the values (or the lack thereof) exemplified in folktales. Some of these may include racial or ethnic attitudes, interpersonal conflicts, family relationships, honesty, friendship, love, personal responsibility, or disappointment and satisfaction.
6. Challenge students to examine cultural and/or gender stereotypes in the folktales.
7. Encourage students to identify the country in which each folktale originated on a globe or map. Explore the geographical and historical facts about the country.
8. Ask students to make lists of similarities and differences between themselves and the characters in the tales. What does the human family have in common?

***NOTE: If you are completing this course during summer break or when you are not teaching, you may omit the teaching and evaluation of the lessons without penalty by preparing one additional lesson (for a total of four).**

Evidence of Learning:

- Instructor observed evidence of understanding of course objectives as demonstrated through student's reflective writing assignments. (Assignment B2)
- Instructor observed evidence of understanding literary concepts and terminology as demonstrated through student's reflective writing assignments. (Assignments B2, C1-2)
- Student included the use of critical thinking skills. (Assignment B2)
- Student demonstrated an understanding of course objectives by identifying how course content and terminology may be used in his/her teaching. (Assignments B2, C1-2)
- Student demonstrated his/her understanding of effective design of lesson plans and made connections to state content and/or professional teaching standards. (Assignment C)

Grading Policies and Rubric:

Grades will be determined using the following percentages:

Reading responses to six folktales: 40%

Classroom lessons (3) using folktales : 45%

Evaluation of lessons (3): 15%

Total scores determine the final grade:

90 - 100% = A

80 - 89% = B

79% or below = no credit

All coursework must reflect a minimum "B" quality to receive credit. The discernment between an A and a B is at the discretion of the instructor, based on the quality of work submitted (see assignment rubric). Participants may request either a letter grade (A or B) or credit (CR). Coursework falling short of a "B" or Credit grade will be returned with further instructions. Every person with a score of 80% or above will receive three semester units of credit.

Scoring Rubric

Type of Assignment	90 – 100 points Exceptional	80 – 89 points Adequate	70 – 79 points Not Acceptable
Written responses	Student's written responses show an exceptional investment of time, energy and thoughtful reflection. The work submitted by the student is original and thorough. The student effectively organizes key insights and demonstrates evidence of interaction with the texts.	Student's written responses show an adequate investment of time, energy and thoughtful reflection. The work submitted by the student is complete, but lacks thoroughness and originality. The student sufficiently organizes insights and demonstrates evidence of interaction with the readings.	Student's written responses show little investment of time, energy and thoughtful reflection. The work submitted by the student does not show adequate thought or effort.
Lesson design	Lesson plans show an exceptional investment of time, energy and thoughtful reflection. Student consistently makes connections to local instructional goals/standards and implements research-based strategies and approaches.	Lesson plans show an adequate investment of time, energy and thoughtful reflection. Student makes some connections to local instructional goals/standards and research-based strategies and approaches.	Lesson plans submitted by the student do not show adequate thought or effort, and may not address specific goals.
Lesson evaluations	Student includes the use of critical thinking and reflection in the evaluation of lessons implemented.	Student includes the use of reflection in the evaluation of lessons implemented, but may lack sufficient detailed analysis.	Student does not demonstrate critical thinking or reflection in the evaluation of lessons implemented.
Presentation	Student effectively organizes key insights into a thoughtful and well-written presentation.	Student includes several key insights in an adequately written response.	Student response lacks key insights and is carelessly written.

Instructor/Student Contact

Students are warmly invited to contact the instructor at any time with concerns, questions, or comments related to course work. They are specifically asked to do so after finishing Assignment B1. At the completion of the course, the instructor will comment on the student's work and make suggestions, if needed.

Policy on Plagiarism

All people participating in the educational process at Fresno Pacific University are expected to pursue honesty and integrity in all aspects of their academic work. Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will be handled according to the procedures set forth in the Fresno Pacific University Catalog.

University Information

Graduate level course work reflects Fresno Pacific University's Desired Student Learning Outcomes as it applies to professional development to demonstrate the following:

- Oral and written communication in individual and group settings
- Content knowledge, and application of such knowledge in the student's area of interest to affect change
- Reflection for personal and professional growth
- Critical thinking
- Computational/methodological skills to understand and expand disciplines, including an understanding of technological systems