

- Folklore, MAIS Concentration
- Graduate Certificate in Folklore

PROGRAM PROFILE



The field of folklore explores the processes of tradition that move through multiple expressive forms, such as folktales, folk beliefs, folk medicine, folk art, folksong, and literature. Because the study of folklore is based on ethnographic fieldwork, folklore offers students a chance to work in communities and collect living traditional materials that are critical to human identity and values. Interdisciplinary by nature, folklore thrives on local particularities as well as compelling global connections.

Folklore study prepares students for careers in arts agencies, cultural agencies, governmental organizations, and teaching institutions. It provides an excellent foundation for advanced study in the humanities and social sciences.

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MASTERS DEGREE

The 36-credit master's degree program in interdisciplinary studies (MAIS) offers a concentration in folklore. Students take special topics courses in folklore and electives, a course focusing on folklore scholarship, a research course, an internship, and a culminating project or thesis. In close consultation with an advisor, students choose an area of specialization from the following:

- Public Folklore (e.g. museums, archives, arts and humanities councils, and nonprofit organizations)
- Ethnicity and immigration
- Folklore and literature

- Folklore and the teaching of writing and literature
- Folklore and history
- Folklore and conflict resolution

Alternatively, students can develop their own specialization with a path of study chosen in consultation with an advisor. Other options, drawing on university strengths, include applied storytelling or combining the study of folklore with fields such as editing, mythology, art history, gender studies, or communication.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN FOLKLORE

The Department of English offers an 18-credit graduate certificate in folklore. Students can complete the certificate as a stand-alone program or in conjunction with any master's or doctoral degree program.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA FOLKLIFE ARCHIVE

Begun in 1977 by Professor Margaret Yocom, the Archive houses over 1800 fieldwork papers completed by George Mason folklore students. A resource for research and for training in folklore and archival work, the Archive is open to the George Mason community, the public, and scholars throughout the world. See a list of the Archive's holding at folklore.gmu.edu/nvfa. A Graduate Research Assistantship in folklore is available through the Archive. The Northern Virginia Folklife Archive is affiliated with the American Folklife Center's Ethnographic Thesaurus Project and with the American Folklore Society's Archives and Libraries Section.

FACULTY

Co-directors

Debra Lattanzi Shutika, English—Latin American folklore, Appalachian folklore, bodylore, and folklore and sense of place.

Margaret Yocom, English—traditional narrative, storytelling, traditional arts, family folklore, folklore and gender, folklore and creative writing, and ethnographic writing.

Affiliated Faculty

The Folklore Program at George Mason University is supported by more than 30 faculty members representing eleven departments and programs across the university.

Amal Amireh, English—Middle Eastern literature and oral tradition

Eric Anderson, English—American Indian literatures, U.S. Southern Studies, American fiction

Andrew Bickford, Sociology and Anthropology—Medical anthropology, public health and masculinity, Vietnam

John Burns, Religious Studies—Religion and Mythology, Religious Fundamentalism, Religion and Drama

Yoonmee Chang, English—Asian American literature and ethnography of ethnic enclaves

Keith Clark, English—African American literature and oral tradition

Sara Cobb, Conflict Analysis and Resolution—Narrative and conflict resolution

Susan Crate, Environmental Science and Policy—Cultural ecology

Robert DeCaroli, History and Art History—Art and the mythology of India, China, Southeast Asia

Cindy Fuchs, English—Film

David Haines, History and Art History—Migration, kinship, governance, East and Southeast Asia

Roger Lancaster, Cultural Studies—Social inequality, gender/sexuality, Mexico, Central America

James Lepore, Dance—Dance and traditional dance

Cynthia Lont, Communication—Video production

Carol Mattusch, History and Art History—Mythology and art

Amelia Rutledge, English—Medieval literature, Celtic/Norse/Classical mythology, children's literature

Jessica Scarlata, English—Film, media and national narratives in postcolonial and diasporic cultures

Zachary Schrag, History and Art History—Interactions between Americans and their physical surroundings

Linda Seligmann, Sociology and Anthropology—Latin America and anthropology

Whitney Shiner, Religious Studies—Oral tradition and the Bible

James Snead, Sociology and Anthropology—Andean South America, U.S. Southwest

Susan Trencher, Sociology and Anthropology—American culture, the anthropology of anthropology

Susan Tichy, English—Poetry, Scottish ballads

Thomas Williams, Sociology and Anthropology—socialization and enculturation processes, psychological anthropology

Martin Winkler Modern and Classical Languages—Classical mythology and literature

Terry Zawacki, English—Ethnographic writing and composition

WHY FOLKLORE AT GEORGE MASON?

Because of the diversity of interdisciplinary offerings at George Mason, folklore students can design their own specialized paths, combining folklore and conflict resolution, folklore and environmental studies, folklore and performance, and more. Because of George Mason's location, students are able to do internships at a wide range of area institutions of national significance in folklore: the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress, the Center for Folklife Programs and Cultural Heritage at the Smithsonian Institution, the National Council of the Traditional Arts, the Cultural Affairs Division of Arlington County, the Virginia Folklife Program. Because George Mason is a member of the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area, students have access to folklore classes at other area universities.

Named the #1 national university to watch by *U.S. News & World Report*, George Mason University is an innovative, entrepreneurial institution with global distinction in a range of academic fields. Located in the heart of Northern Virginia's technology corridor near Washington, D.C., Mason prepares its students to succeed in the work force and meet the needs of the region and the world.

See folklore.gmu.edu for more information on folklore at George Mason.

See chss.gmu.edu/howtoapply for complete details on the application process.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Concentration in Folklore

MAIS

4400 University Drive, MSN 5G3

Enterprise Hall 414

Fairfax, VA 22030

703-993-8762

mais@gmu.edu

mais.gmu.edu

Graduate Certificate in Folklore

Department of English

4400 University Drive, MSN 3E4

Robinson Hall A 487

Fairfax, VA 22030

703-993-1180

englgrad@gmu.edu

folklore.gmu.edu

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

College of Humanities and

Social Sciences

4400 University Drive, MSN 2D2

College Hall C119

Fairfax, VA 22030

703-993-3699

703-993-8714 (fax)

chssgrad@gmu.edu

chss.gmu.edu/howtoapply