



THE WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY  
ANTH 260 – 80  
MYTH AND FOLKLORE AND THE MODERN WORLD

WELCOME



Hello. I'm Dr. Anita M. Barrow, your professor for Anth 260-80 taught fully on-line. Learning about Anthropology can be fun and practical. I look forward to meeting you *online* on **Saturday, December 26, 2010**. Start preparing for the class now. Review Blackboard usage and make sure your computer is in good working order. Purchase books.

### **Campus E Mail**

Use the Campus address assigned to students for all email communication in this course. Check your Campus e-mail regularly and delete old messages. Campus e-mail addresses have limited space. A full box will block your ability to receive e-mails.

### **Communicate in Microsoft Word**

All files submitted in this course must be in Microsoft word. No exceptions. Files that are not sent in Microsoft Word cannot be opened and will not be graded.

### **Blackboard: Help for the Online Course**

While there are no required face- to- face meetings, students are required to work with student technology consultants (STC'S) [www.wpunj.edu/stc/](http://www.wpunj.edu/stc/) in the Atrium or another Campus computer lab if this is their first on-line course. Students who are familiar with on-line course formats are encouraged to work with STC'S to improve their skills or review Blackboard usage.

On-line instructions for logging on to the course and getting started on Blackboard may be found at [http://www.wpunj.edu/bb/students/policies\\_s.htm](http://www.wpunj.edu/bb/students/policies_s.htm)

Student training workshops in computer technology and multimedia applications are held in the Atrium, Room 121, and at the Valley Road Campus, Room 104. Blackboard's homepage <http://bb.wpunj.edu/> contains several other features designed to assist students with reporting problems, help files and using e-mail.

This is a *three week intensive* course and students need to log on to the course daily, Monday – Friday and check their e-mail with regularity. Assignments include reading, projects, a powerpoint presentation, group work and discussion boards.

Make sure that you have access to a working computer with the programs needed to successfully complete the course. No make-up assignments are given in this class.

Use Campus or public computers found, for example, in libraries and at other Universities, if you do not have a computer or when you experience computer problems.

Consult with IRT staff should you experience technical difficulties. You may fill out a problem form <http://euphrates.wpunj.edu/bb/sc/> or call the University help desk, at extension # 4357.

### **Accessing Blackboard:**

To log on to Bb point your web browser to <http://bb.wpunj.edu> and click the Login button in the upper left. Then enter your username and password in the spaces provided and click login again -- you'll find your course Bb sites listed on the right.

Some things to be aware of working with Blackboard:

1. You probably won't find all your courses listed; the only ones that will appear are those that have been activated by the professor teaching the course. Professors who don't use Blackboard will not activate their courses.
2. Your username is comprised of your last name and first initial, usually appended with a numeral. If you don't know your WPUNJ system username password you can use the Username lookup link at <http://bb.wpunj.edu> , or go to it directly at: [https://webapps.wpunj.edu/misc/username\\_lookup/username\\_lookup.cfm](https://webapps.wpunj.edu/misc/username_lookup/username_lookup.cfm)

3. If you are already logged in to the WPUNJ system through WPCConnect you won't have to re-enter your username and password -- just click the first login button.
4. Extensive Bb help, including a number of dynamic animations, can be found at <http://www.wpunj.edu/irt/teambb/student/>
5. You can always obtain Bb help by using the Problem Report form at <http://bb.wpunj.edu> , or by going to it directly at: <http://euphrates.wpunj.edu/bb/sc/> .

### **WPUNJ Student Email:**

To log on to WPUNJ Student Email point your web browser to <http://student.wpunj.edu> and enter your username, then RETURN. A dialogue box will pop up, into when you re-enter your username and password, then RETURN.

Some things to be aware of as you work with Student email:

1. Blackboard courses will use student email; third-party email addresses will not work on Bb.
2. If you are already logged in to the WPUNJ system through WPCConnect you won't have to re-enter your username and password -- just click the Email tab.

### **Course Description**

This course covers the same material as a classroom-based Anthropology course in an on-line format. The course is highly interactive. Students must be able to work largely independently keeping up weekly with assignments.

A detailed Syllabus will be posted (*Syllabus*) on the first day of class. Announcements may be posted notifying students of any changes/additions to the Syllabus.

**Anth260: Myth and Folklore and the Modern World** is designed to give students an overview of issues anthropologists are interested in when they study myth and folklore in contemporary society. Although we will focus on the collection and analysis of American folklore, myths and corresponding rituals will also be examined globally within the holistic and cross-cultural context of the discipline of socio-cultural anthropology.

## Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students should have developed a basic understanding of the following.

1. Holistic and cross-cultural functions of myth and folklore in the modern world.
2. Various folk beliefs, their origins and corresponding rituals related to culture and cosmology.
3. The complex and changing interrelationships between myth, folklore, cosmology, human nature and culture.
4. How to interpret and collect folklore.

## Texts

Texts for this course are available for purchase online or in person at the William Paterson University bookstore (<http://www.efollett.com/> )

Dundes, Alan.	<u>Interpreting Folklore.</u>
Dundes, Alan.	<u>Work Hard and You Shall Be Rewarded</u>
Brunvard, Jan H.	<u>The Vanishing Hitchhiker: American Urban Legends and their Meanings.</u>

## Course Requirements

### BLACKBOARD

The course utilizes Blackboard as a major tool for communication and learning.

First and foremost, students must have the proper equipment and software.

1. A cable modem or DSL for optimum or best internet access.
2. A Windows XP (or higher) or MAC operating system.
3. An account with your own internet service provider (ISP), with a browser and e-mail.
4. MS Office (Word)
5. Powerpoint

Secondly, before taking this course you should know how to:

1. Use Microsoft word.
2. Web the Internet and use e-mail.
3. "Paste" assignments into your email and answers into indicated exam boxes during a test.
4. Access (log onto) and use Blackboard features.
5. Access your Campus email address  
[http://ww2.wpunj.edu/directories/stud\\_email.cfm](http://ww2.wpunj.edu/directories/stud_email.cfm)
6. Use (or be willing to learn) powerpoint and other media applications.
7. Use Blackboard and its applications including posting images onto a discussion board.

### **Attendance**

*Active* attendance, online presence, is very important to your success in this concentrated summer class. Log on daily, Monday – Friday, and consistently participate in assigned work.

Post thoughtful and substantive contributions to class discussions. More than a mere "hi", "okay", "I agree or disagree." Add to the discussion when you log on and support your opinions with documentation from, i.e., assigned readings and other academic sources.

Participate regularly in group discussion boards and submit group work according to posted instructions, guidelines and time frames established by the group.

### **Powerpoint Presentations**

Students will have an opportunity to create power point presentations on myth and folklore within a cross-cultural context.

Popular topics selected by students include ghosts, monsters, holidays, urban legends, workplace, occupations, weird New Jersey, weddings, dating, campus life, angels, life after death, funerals, fraternities/sororities, lawyers, nerds, blondes, sports, superstitions, psychics, and the paranormal.

Group discussion boards are set up to allow daily discourse, file exchanges, e-mail and virtual classroom as needed by each group. STC's provide individual help and on-site classes in power point for students. Log onto <http://www.wpunj.edu/stc/tws/> for information about student workshops.

## Assessment

Student Grades are based on the following:

- A. Exams (35 % of your grade).
- B. Class Participation in FAQ, Group Discussion Boards and Projects. (30 % of your grade) These are good forums to earn extra credit.
- C. Group powerpoint presentation (35% of your grade)

Extraordinary work and participation in any area result in extra-credit and up to five points added on to a student's final grade point average.

### **FAQ: Questions About The Class, Course Content and Assignments?**

FAQ allows for frequent on-line communication among students and faculty. Post all questions about the class, course content, and assignments in the weekly discussion board forum marked **FAQ**. Students are encouraged to respond to their classmates questions in **FAQ**. I will also address questions in **FAQ** 3x weekly—generally on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

### **'Netiquette'**

Remember to use good 'netiquette' in any online communication. A good source about netiquette is Arlene H. Rinaldi's "The Net Users Guidelines and Netiquette," Florida Atlantic University, 1994 available from Net.com. Jane Hutchison from William Paterson University offers the following suggestions adapted from Ms. Rinaldi.

1. Check the discussion frequently and respond appropriately on subject.
2. Focus on one subject per message and use pertinent subject titles.
3. Capitalize words only to highlight a point or a title. Capitalizing otherwise is generally viewed as **SHOUTING!**
4. Be courteous, professional and careful with your online interaction.
5. Post constructive comments.
6. Avoid Plagiarism: cite all quotes, references, and sources.
7. Don't forward someone else's message without their permission.
8. Use humor carefully. Let others know you are being humorous. Be careful not to include offensive, angry, or inflammatory materials.

