

ANTH 4811: Anthropology of Carnival and Collective Joy
T/TH 2:30-4 OA 1025 (Zoom)

Instructor: Melinda Vandenberg Giles
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Expanded Course Description: Tracing back to ancient European festivals celebrating symbolic renewal and representing the chaos and freedom of the pre-lenten period, carnival has travelled to many countries where local traditions reflect a variety of diverse influences. This course will examine the history of carnival as an expression of revelry and joy, but also as a reversal of institutionalized norms and a space for expression otherwise repressed. The course will be structured as a seminar in which each student will have the opportunity to explore a particular carnival and region of the world in detail and lead the class discussion through assigned readings, videos, music, dance, dress, food, and/or a power point presentation. This will be an immersive and highly participatory class.

Course Requirements:

Lecture proposal: 20%

Lecture: 40%

Reading Journal: 40%

Required Text:

Dancing in the Streets: A History of Collective Joy by Barbara Ehrenreich.

Each student will create their own reading list for the week and post on D2L the week before they present.

Schedule of Topics and Readings:

WEEK 1: History of Carnival

Sept 5 Introductions and Course Expectations

Dancing "Introduction: Invitation to the Dance"

Dancing "Chapter 1: The Archaic Roots of Ecstasy."

Sept 7 *Dancing* “Chapter 2: Civilization and Backlash.”

Dancing “Chapter 3: Jesus and Dionysus.”

WEEK 2: The Purpose of Carnival

Sept 12 *Dancing* “Chapter 4: From the Churches to the Streets: The Creation of Carnival.”

Dancing “Chapter 5: Killing Carnival: Reformation and Repression.”

Sept 14 *Dancing* “Chapter 6: A Note on Puritanism and Military Reform.”

WEEK 3: Carnival and Repression

Sept 19 *Dancing*: “Chapter 7: An Epidemic of Melancholy”

Dancing: “Chapter 8: Guns Against Drums: Imperialism Encounters Ecstasy.”

Sept 21 *Dancing* “Chapter 9: Fascist Spectacles.”

WEEK 4: Carnival Revival

Sept 26 *Dancing* “Chapter 10: The Rock Rebellion”

Sept 28 *Dancing* “Chapter 11: Carnivalizing Sports”

Dancing “Conclusion: The Possibility of Revival.”

WEEK 5: Brazilian Carnival

Oct 3

Oct 5

WEEK 6: Trinidad and Tobago Carnival

Oct 17

Oct 19

WEEK 7: Dutch Carnival

Oct 24

Oct 26

WEEK 8: Venice Carnival

Nov 2

WEEK 9: Spanish Carnival

Nov 7

Nov 9

WEEK 10: Goa Carnival

Nov 14

Nov 16

WEEK 11: New Orleans Mardi Gras

Nov 21

Nov 23

WEEK 12: Quebec Winter Carnival

Nov 28

Nov 30

Assignments and Evaluation

Table of Assignments

Assignment	Due date	Value	Length
Lecture Proposal	Due 2 weeks before lecture	20%	1-2 pages
Lecture	Scheduled date: Must post readings one week before lecture	40%	
Reading Journal	Nov 30	40%	6-8 pages

Assignment Policies

- If you require an extension, you must ask for one BEFORE the due date.
- Unless you ask for (and receive) an extension, late essays will be penalized by 5% per day and will no longer be accepted after 7 days.
- All assignments must be in AAA format, double spaced, with 1” margins, and in 12 point font.
- Exceptions to these policies are allowed only with a doctor’s note or other appropriate documentation.
- All Assignments should be submitted on D2L. The course will be available both in person and via Zoom.

Details of Assignments

Reading Journal: The journal is an opportunity to express your thoughts/responses/critical reviews of bi-weekly readings and lectures. Please present the date/title/reading/lecture discussed before each entry. Use this opportunity to establish connections and comparisons between the readings etc. What did you learn from the readings and the lectures? What did you connect with, and what did not resonate? Please present your reasoning in a critical/informed way. You can also comment on class discussions and films.

Lecture Proposal: Present your ideas for your week of lectures including the proposed readings and potential film suggestions. Please include at least 3 academic references and unlimited non-academic references.

Lecture: Select the week you would like to present. You will be responsible for both classes that week. Prepare a slideshow, lecture information and any potential films or extra resources. The first class will be for films and lectures and the second class will be for questions and discussion. Everyone in the class is responsible for doing the readings each week in advance and actively participating in the discussion. You can choose to work with a partner but then you will be responsible for two weeks.

Collaboration/Plagiarism Rules

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of someone else's words and/or ideas. Not acknowledging your debt to the ideas of a secondary source, failing to use quotation marks when you are quoting directly, buying essays from essay banks, copying another student's work, or working together on an individual assignment, all constitute plagiarism. Resubmitting material you've submitted to another course is also academic dishonesty. All plagiarized work (in whole or in part) and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean, who is responsible for judging academic misconduct and imposing penalties. The minimum penalty for academic misconduct is a 0 on the assignment in question. It might also be subject to more severe academic penalties. See the [Code of Student Behaviour](#)¹.

University Policies

- Students in this course are expected to conform to the [Code of Student Behaviour](#).
- **Accommodations:** Lakehead University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities in accordance with the terms of the [Ontario Human Rights Code](#)². This occurs through a collaborative process that acknowledges a collective obligation to develop an accessible learning environment that both meets the needs of students and preserves the essential academic requirements of the course. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact [Student Accessibility Services \(SAS\)](#)³ and register as early as possible.

This course outline is available online through the [Desire2Learn or My Courselink](#)⁴ site for the course.

¹ <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/academics/academic-support/skills-for-success/responsibilities>

² <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/ontario-human-rights-code>

³ <http://studentaccessibility.lakeheadu.ca>

⁴ <https://mycourselink.lakeheadu.ca/d2l/home>

Class Policies

D2L

I will be using D2L to post PDFs of course readings and announcements and also to access Zoom. All class readings must be posted on D2L a week before your lecture.

Policy on Extensions

Extensions will only be granted in emergency situations with appropriate documentation. Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day and you will receive 0% after 7 days unless prior arrangements have been made. Emailed assignments will not be accepted.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty (for instance, plagiarism) is a serious offence. Please see the web site: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/policies/student-related/code-of-student-behaviour-and-disciplinary-procedures/node/1046>. Please keep in mind that I have zero tolerance for any forms of plagiarism.