



SLAV 148 Introduction to Slavic Folklore

Sample research topics

"Baba Yaga was riding in a mortar, using a pestle to urge it on, and sweeping away her tracks with a besom."
http://myths.e2bn.net/library/1157818026/babayaga_flying_teach.jpg

Slavic & Eurasian Studies

Watson Library, Room 519

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NOTE: Topics focus on Slavic folklore (i.e. the vampire in Slavic folklore tradition)

Genres	Themes
<p>Poetic genres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bylina (Kievan cycle; Novgorod cycle)• Epic poetry (South Slavic)• Lament• Chastushka <p>Prose Genres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Myth• Legend• Folktale (Magic tale or wondertale)• Folktale (Animal tale)• Folktale (Anecdotal tale or tale of everyday life) <p>Small genres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Riddles• Proverbs <p>Gods and Land Spirits</p> <p>Upper pantheon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perun <p>Lower Pantheon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Domovoi• Rusalka <p>Characters of Wondertales</p> <p>Baba Yaga Vasilisa the Beautiful Vampires/Werewolves/Shapeshifters Trickster</p> <p>Characters of Byliny and Epic songs</p> <p>Ilya Muromets Sadko Prince Marko</p>	<p>Prophylactic (protective) magic of the Slavs Productive magic of the Slavs Divination during major Slavic holidays</p> <p>Slavic life rituals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• birth rituals• marriage customs• funeral customs <p>Neo-pagans Witchcraft – Russian/Ukrainian Witchcraft – Balkan Witchcraft – Czech/Slovak Ballads/folk songs of the Slavs Animal Magic/Animism Dual belief/dual faith/dvoeverie Banya/bathhouse Folk art and toys Folklore in Gogol/Pushkin Cossack Folktales/Legends Siberian Shamans Evil Eye Omens Folk-healers Soviet folklore/folkloristics Charms and Incantations</p> <p>NOTE: Topics could be further limited to one or more groups of Slavs</p>