

The mission of the New Jersey Folk Festival (NJFF) is to celebrate the folk traditions of the diverse communities of New Jersey. Our festival is one of only a handful of large-scale, multi-arts folk festivals in North America organized and managed by undergraduate students. This year's student staff is composed of fourteen coordinators, each with a designated role. The faculty is committed to providing students with hands-on, service-learning experience. Students in this course develop management and leadership skills and written and verbal communication skills. The course encourages initiative and student ownership of the festival. Our task is one of applied folklore. We assemble the folklore and folklife of all ethnic groups and classes in New Jersey and present their cultural traditions with respect.

The Monday night class is divided into two parts: formal classroom instruction and business meeting. During the first half of the class, the focus will be on the academic study of folk music, folk festivals and folk arts. We will discuss course materials including musical performances, scholarship on folklore, and leadership development. The second half of the class is the business portion over which the Festival Manager will preside. This portion represents the service-learning component of the course in which students will apply their knowledge to produce and manage the folk festival.