syllabus

Syllabus

ANT3241 - Magic,Ritual, and Belief
Summer A 2020
Ty Matejowsky

Contacting the Professor

Office Hours:11:30AM-1:30PMTuesdays, or by appointment

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Credit Hours: 3
Class Hours: 3
Lab and Field Work Hours: 0
Contact Hours: 3
Prerequisite(s): Sophomore standing. **Corequisite(s)**: None.

UCF Undergraduate Course Catalog Description: Patterns in religious behavior in various societies, with primary emphasis on myth, rite, taboo, and festival social phenomena

Course Description:

This is an upper-division course designed to familiarize students with anthropological perspectives on religion and the supernatural. In this class we will examine topics such as types of belief systems, religious specialists, rituals and symbols, religious use of drugs, divination and magic, witchcraft and sorcery, the occult and revitalization movements. Most course information will pertain to traditional non-Western cultures. This is not a comparative religions class nor a theology class. Students may be exposed to topics that challenge their own established beliefs. Accordingly, topics in the class are best approached with an open mind.

Student Learning Outcomes (Course Objectives)

The objectives of this course are fourfold:

1. to introduce students to various belief systems
2. to explore the concepts of magic and witchcraft
3. to acquaint students with ethnomedicine and the religious use of drugs
4. to examine religious change.

Required Texts (purchase in Bookstore)

Moro, Pamela A. 2012. *Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion: An Anthropological Study of the Supernatural* .Ninth Edition. McGraw-Hill

Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion will serve as the basic text for this course. This selection of articles focuses on topics relevant to the anthropological study of belief systems and the supernatural.

Tools and Items Needed: None

Tests:

There will be three multiple choice exams held on the dates scheduled (see Class Schedule). Each exam will consist of around 30-50 plus questions covering material presented in modules, and readings. Anyone caught cheating on an exam will be at the very least assigned a **zero** for that exam and may be subject to more strict penalties. Students will have one week from the posting of test grades to review their exams. I will not review exam questions with students after this one week period. Exam deadlines are at **11pm on the Fridays** listed on the course schedule. Deadlines are a matter of record since the beginning of class. Students are responsible for knowing and following exam deadlines. If personal/work schedules conflict with exam deadlines, it is the responsibility of students to plan accordingly. I will not honor requests to take missed exams considering students have more than a week to complete them.

Discussion Rubric

5 points (A)	Excellence in posting timely, continuously and responsivel demonstrated according to the following criteria: • Follows assignment instructions of answering module c and providing critical feedback to the original postings c classmates. • **Participates in discussion on separate days (i.e., ea discussion answer and individual response must b on separate days; not all at once).** • Does not repeat (i.e., does not reiterate what has alrea posted, but adds to the discussion by interacting with c and addressing the comments of others). • Applies course information (i.e., students discussion ar integrate information from both assigned readings and modules). • Critical thinking (i.e., discussion postings must demons thinking and/or add new insights to the topic; not simpl information from modules and readings).
4 points (B)	Above Average in criteria listed for "5 points (A)." Included postings that meet many but not all, or are not consistent v for an A.
3.5 points (C)	Adequate in criteria listed for "5 points (A)." Included here that display a basic grasp of topic but only restate material analysis. Included here are also postings and responses th submitted all on a single day regardless of content.
3 points (D)	Serious insufficiency in criteria listed for "5 points (A). Inclu postings that do not display a basic understanding of discu Also included here are postings that fail to provide critical f the postings of at least two classmates. Students will automatically receive a D (regardless of cont weekly discussion assignment if they do not respond to the at least two other students or only provide critical feedback answer the weekly discussion question(s).
0 points (F)	Failing is earned when students do not participate in the di assignment or blatantly plagiarize the work of others.

Course Assignments:

1. Completion of on-line assignments (including any discussion postings, exercises or quizzes) (each discussion assignment counts for 5% of total grade)= 25% total
2. Three non-cumulative, multiple choice exams (each exam counts for approximately 25% of total grade) = 75% total

Discussion Assignments

1. There are 5 discussion assignments that coincide with selected modules (see schedule).
2. Each discussion assignment counts for up to 5 points (5% of total grade).
3. Your answers should be several paragraphs in length (i.e., they should have enough depth to effectively address the module assignment questions).
4. Each discussion posting is evaluated based on information presented in the Discussion Rubric.
5. It is to your advantage to begin work on the discussion questions sooner rather than later. Waiting until the last minute to answer the questions can adversely affect your grade (see Discussion Rubric).

Students will have one week from the posting of discussion grades to review their exams. I will not review discussion questions with students after this one week period. Discussion assignment deadlines are at 11pm on the Fridays listed on the course schedule. Deadlines are a matter of record since the beginning of class. Students are responsible for knowing and following discussion assignment deadlines. If personal/work schedules conflict with discussion assignment deadlines, it is the responsibility of students to plan accordingly. I will not honor requests to redo missed discussion assingments considering students have more than a week to complete them.

Grading Scale:

A	B	C	D	F
	B+ = 88-89	C+ = 78-79	D+ - 68-69	
A > 93	B = 83-87	C = 73-77	D = 63-67	F = 59 or below

A- = 90-92	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72	D- = 60-62	

Changes in the Syllabus

The instructor reserves the right to make appropriate changes in the syllabus, the testing procedure and the grading basis, if in the professional judgment of the instructor, such modification is in the best interest of fulfilling the course objectives and assuring the academic integrity of the course and the institution. There Any changes of this type will be announced in class. It is the student's responsibility to keep up on course information if s/he is absent. **If there is anything that appears unclear to students regarding course grading policies, assignment/exam deadlines, or other matters related to class, it is the responsibility of students to contact the professor for clarification. NO EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES IN THIS CLASS. Please do NOT email me to inquire about exceptions to this policy at the end of the semester.**

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ANT3241 –Summer 2020– AW60
Class Schedule

Week of	Topic	Readings & Assignments	Assignments Due
5/11/20	**Introduction to the course**	**Read** course syllabus, course protocols, course home, *The Anthropological Study of Religion* (pp. 1-5); *Studying Religion Anthropologically by Jack David Eller* (pp.	**None**

	Module 1: Anthropology of Religion	6-14); *Why We Became Religious & The Evolution of the Spirit World by Marvin Harris* (pp. 25-29).	
5/18/20	**Module 2:** **Religious Specialists** **Module 3:** **Rituals and Symbols**	**Read** *Shamans, Priests, and Prophets* (pp.140-142); *Religious Specialists* by Victor W. Turner (pp. 143-150); *Ritual* (pp. 86-89); *Betwixt and Between: The Liminal Period in Rites de Passage* by Victor W. Turner (pp. 90-100). **Complete on-line assignment for Module 2.** **Take on-line exam covering Modules 1-3.**	**Both on-line assignment for Module 2 and Exam One are due Friday May 22 at 11pm Eastern Time.**
5/25/20	**Module 4:** **Witchcraft & Sorcery** **Module 5:** **Magic & Divination**	**Read** *The Goat and the Gazelle: Witchcraft* by T.M. Luuhrmann (pp. 307-315); *Sorcery and Concepts of Deviance among the Kabana, West Britain* by Naomi M. McPherson (pp. 298-306);*Witchcraft, Sorcery, Divination, and Magic* (pp. 284-287); *Baseball Magic* by George Gmelch (323-329). **Complete on-line assignment for Module 5.**	**On-line assignment for Module 5 due Friday May 29 at 11pm Eastern Time.**
6/1/20	**Module 6:** **Religious Use of Drugs**	**Read** *Altered States of Consciousness and the Religious Use of Drugs* (pp. 186-189); *Ritual Enemas* by Peter T Furst and Michael D. Coe (pp.205-209); *The Sound of Rushing Water* by Michael Harner (pp. 210-215). **Complete on-line assignment for Module 6.** **Take on-line exam covering Modules 4-6.**	**On-line assignment for Module 6 and Exam Two are due Friday June 5 at 11pm Eastern Time.**

6/8/20	**Module 7:** **Ethnomedicine** **Module 8:** **Death: Ghosts, Souls & Ancestors**	**Read** *Illness, Healing, and Religion* (pp. 231-233); *Disease Etiologies in Non-Western Medical Systems* by George Foster (pp.234-241); D*eath, Ancestors, Ghosts, and Souls* (pp. 330-332); *Death Be Not Strange* by Peter Metcalf (pp. 340-343); *Day of the Dead in Oaxaca* by Kristin Norget (pp. 353-361); *The Real Vampire* by Paul Barber (uploaded document). **Complete on-line assignment for Module 8.**	**On-line assignment for Module 8 due Friday June 12 at 11pm Eastern Time.**
6/15/20	**Module 9:** **Revitalization Movements**	**Read** Revitalization Movements by Anthony F.C. Wallace (uploaded document); *The Ghost Dance Religion* by Alice Beck Kehoe (uploaded document); *Cargo Cults* by Peter M. Worsley (uploaded document). **Complete on-line assignment for Module 9.** **Take on-line exam 3 (non-cumulative final) covering Modules 7-9.**	**On-line assignment for Module 9 and Exam Three (non-cumulative final) is due Friday June 19 at 11pm Eastern Time.**