ANT3241-0W59 - Magic,Ritual, and Belief

Ty Matejowsky

(no face-to-face meetings; strictly online)

Course Syllabus

Contacting the Professor

Office Hours:1:00PM-3:00PM Tuesdays, or by appointment

Office: Phillips Hall, Third Floor, room 309G

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Contacting the Teaching Assistant

Whitney Margaritis

Office hours by appointment

Webcourses (preferred)

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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.

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 or online)

Moro, Pamela A. . 2013. *Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion: A Reader in the Anthropology of Religion*. 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. There will also be some downloaded documents that students will read for Module 9 Revitalization Movements.

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 assigned a **zero** for that exam.

Discussion Rubric

5 points (A)	Excellence in posting timely, continuously and responsively to others as demonstrated according to the following criteria: · Follows assignment instructions of answering module question(s) and providing critical feedback to the original postings of at least two classmates. · ***Participates in discussion on separate days (i.e., each***

	discussion answer and individual response must be submitted on separate days; not all at once). · Does not repeat (i.e., does not reiterate what has already been posted, but adds to the discussion by interacting with classmates and addressing the comments of others). · Applies course information (i.e., students discussion answers must integrate information from both assigned readings and weekly modules). · Critical thinking (i.e., discussion postings must demonstrate critical thinking and/or add new insights to the topic; not simply recite information from modules and readings).
4 points (B)	Above Average in criteria listed for "5 points (A)." Included here are postings that meet many but not all, or are not consistent with, criteria for an A.
3.5 points (C)	Adequate in criteria listed for "5 points (A)." Included here are postings that display a basic grasp of topic but only restate materials and analysis. Included here are also postings and responses that are submitted all on a single day regardless of content.
3 points (D)	Serious insufficiency in criteria listed for "5 points (A). Included here are postings that do not display a basic understanding of discussion topic. Also included here are postings that fail to provide critical feedback to the postings of at least two classmates. Students will automatically receive a D (regardless of content) for their weekly discussion assignment if they do not respond to the postings of at least two other students or only provide critical feedback but do not answer the weekly discussion question(s).
0 points (F)	Failing is earned when students do not participate in the discussion 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)= 45% total
2. Three non-cumulative, multiple choice exams (each exam counts for approximately 18.33% of total grade) = 55% total

Discussion Assignments

1. There are 9 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).

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. 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. **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– 0W59 Spring 2021
Class Schedule

Week of	Topics	Readings & Assignments	Assignments Due
1/11/21	**Introduction to the course**	**Read** course syllabus, course protocols, course home	**Attendance assignment due Friday January 15 at 11pm Eastern Time.**
1/18/21	**Module 1: Anthropology of Religion**	**Read** *The Anthropological Study of Religion* (pp. 1-5); *Studying Religion Anthropologically by Jack David Eller* (pp. 6-14); *Why We Became Religious & The Evolution of the Spirit World by Marvin Harris* (pp. 25-29); **Complete on-line assignment for Module 1.**	**On-line assignment for Module 1 due Friday January 22 at 11pm Eastern Time.**
1/25/21	**Module 2:** **Religious Specialists**	**Read** *Shamans, Priests, and Prophets* (pp.140-142); *Religious Specialists* by Victor W. Turner (pp. 143-150); **Complete on-line assignment for Module 2.**	**On-line assignment for Module 2 due Friday January 29 at 11pm Eastern Time.**
2/1/21	**Module 3: Rituals and Symbols**	**Read** *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 3.**	**On-line assignment for Module 3 due Friday February 5 at 11pm Eastern Time.**
2/8/21	**Exam One**	**Take on-line exam covering Modules 1-3**	**Exam One is due Friday February 12 at 11pm Eastern Time**
2/15/21	**Module 4:** **Witchcraft & Sorcery**	**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); **Complete on-line assignment for Module 4.**	**On-line assignment for Module 4 is due Friday February 19 at 11pm Eastern Time.**
2/22/21	**Module 5:** **Magic & Divination**	**Read** *Witchcraft, Sorcery, Divination, and Magic* (pp. 284-287); *Baseball Magic* by George Gmelch (323-329);	**On-line assignment for Module 5 is due Friday February 26**

		Complete on-line assignment for Module 5.	**at 11pm Eastern Time.**
3/1/21	**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.**	**On-line assignment for Module 6 is due Friday March 5 at 11pm Eastern Time.**
3/8/21 & 3/15/21	**Exam Two**	**Take on-line exam** 2 **covering Modules 4-6**	**Exam Two is due Friday March 19 at 11pm Eastern Time**
3/22/21	**Module 7:** **Ethnomedicine**	**Read** *Illness, Healing, and Religion* (pp. 231-233); *Disease Etiologies in Non-Western Medical Systems* by George Foster (pp.234-241); **Complete on-line assignment for Module 7**	**On-line assignment for Module 7 is due Friday March 26 at 11pm Eastern Time.**
3/29/21	**Module 8:** **Death: Ghosts, Souls & Ancestors**	**Read** *Death, Ancestors, Ghosts, and Souls* (pp. 330-332); *Death Be Not Strange* by Peter A. Metcalf (pp. 340-343); *Day of the Dead in Oaxaca* by Kristin Norget (pp. 353-361); *The Real Vampire* (downloaded document) **Complete on-line assignment for Module 8**	**On-line assignment for Module 8 is due Friday April 2 at 11pm Eastern Time.**
4/5/21	**Module 9:** **Revitalization Movements**	**Read** *Revitalization Movements* by Anthony F.C. Wallace (downloaded document); *The Ghost Dance Religion* by Alice Beck Kehoe (downloaded document); *Cargo Cults* By Peter M. Worsley (downloaded document); **Complete on-line assignment for Module 9**	**On-line assignment for Module 9 is due Friday April 9 at 11pm Eastern Time**.
4/12/21 & 4/19/21	**Exam Three**	**Take on-line exam 3 covering Modules 7-9**	**Exam Three are due Friday April 30 at 11pm Eastern Time.**