Syllabus

ANT3241-0W60 - Magic, Ritual, and Belief Fall 2022

Ty Matejowsky

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

Course Syllabus

Contacting the Professor

Office Hours:1:00PM-2:00PM Tuesdays, or by appointment

Zoom Office Hours:1:00PM-2:00PM Tuesdays (non-mandatory)

Office: Phillips Hall, Third Floor, room 309G

Phone: (407) 823-4611

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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.

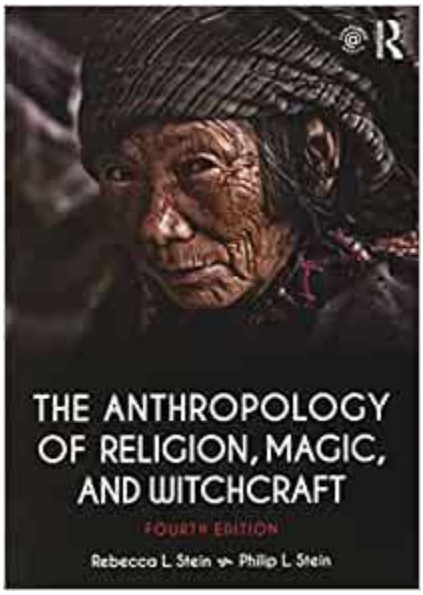
Course Objectives

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)

Stein, Rebecca L. and Philip L. Stein 2017. ***The Anthropology of Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft***. Fourth Edition. Routledge.



The Anthropology of Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft (2017) 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 7 *Ethnomedicine* and 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 40-60 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, • Follows assignmen postings of at least • Does not repeat (i. with classmates an • Applies course info readings and week • Critical thinking (i.e not simply recite in
4 points (B)	Above Average in criteria list consistent with, criteria for ar
3.5 points (C)	Adequate in criteria listed for materials and analysis.
3 points (D)	Serious insufficiency in criteri of discussion topic. Also inclu classmates.
0 points (F)	Failing is earned when studen

Course Assignments:

1. Completion of **nine** on-line discussion assignments (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 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. Discussion assignment questions can be found on the last page of the designated module.
4. Students must first publish their answers to the appropriate discussion forum before having access to their classmates' postings.
5. Students who submit a blank posting to gain access to the previously submitted work of others will be subject to a grade reduction or possible zero.
6. Your answers should be several paragraphs in length (i.e., they should have enough depth to effectively address the module assignment questions).
7. Each discussion posting is evaluated based on information presented in the Discussion Rubric.
8. 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 the quality of your graded submission (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 announced in this fashion. **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.**

Schedule

ANT3241 - Magic,Ritual, and Belief

Ty Matejowsky

ANT3241– 0W60 Fall 2022
Class Schedule

Week of	Topics	Readings & Assignments	Assignments Due
8/22/22	**Introduction to the course**	**Read** course syllabus, course protocols, course home	**Attendance assignment due Friday August 26 at 11:59pm Eastern Time.**
8/29/22	**Module 1: Anthropology of Religion**	**Read** *The Anthropological Study of Religion* (pp. 1-31) **Complete on-line assignment for Module 1.**	**On-line assignment for Module 1 due Friday September 2 at 11:59pm Eastern Time.**
9/5/22	**Module 2: Religious Specialists**	**Read** *Religious Specialists* (pp.127-144) **Complete on-line assignment for Module 2.**	**On-line assignment for Module 2 due Friday September 9 at 11:59pm Eastern Time.**
9/12/22	**Module 3: Rituals and Symbols**	**Read** *Religious Symbols (pp. 58-81); Ritual* (pp. 82-109) **Complete on-line assignment for Module 3.**	**On-line assignment for Module 3 due Friday September 16 at 11:59pm Eastern Time.**
9/19/22	**Exam One**	**Take on-line exam covering Modules 1-3**	**Exam One is due Friday September 23 at 11:59pm Eastern Time**
9/26/22	**Module 4: Witchcraft & Sorcery**	**Read** *Witchcraft* (pp. 233-250) **Complete on-line assignment for Module 4.**	**On-line assignment for Module 4 is due Friday September 30 at 11:59pm Eastern Time.**

10/3/22	**Module 5: Magic & Divination**	**Read** *Magic* and *Divination* (pp. 145-170) **Complete on-line assignment for Module 5.**	**On-line assignment for Module 5 is due Friday October 7 at 11:59pm Eastern Time.**
10/10/22	**Module 6:** **Religious Use of Drugs**	**Read** *Altered States of Consciousness* (pp. 110-126) **Complete on-line assignment for Module 6.**	**On-line assignment for Module 6 is due Friday October 14 at 11:59pm Eastern Time.**
10/17/22 & 10/24/22	**Exam Two**	**Take on-line exam** 2 **covering Modules 4-6**	**Exam Two is due Friday October 28 at 11:59pm Eastern Time**
10/31/22	**Module 7: Ethnomedicine**	**Read** *Disease Etiologies in Non-Western Medical Systems* by George Foster (downloaded document) **Complete on-line assignment for Module 7**	**On-line assignment for Module 7 is due Friday November 4 at 11:59pm Eastern Time.**
11/7/22	**Module 8: Death: Ghosts, Souls & Ancestors**	**Read** *Souls, Ghosts, and Death* (pp. 172-204) **Complete on-line assignment for Module 8**	**On-line assignment for Module 8 is due Friday November 11 at 11:59pm Eastern Time.**
11/14/22	**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 November 18at 11:59pm Eastern Time**.
11/21/22 & 11/28/22	**Exam Three**	**Take on-line exam 3 covering Modules 7-9**	**Exam Three is due Friday December 2 at 11:59pm Eastern Time.**

Protocols

Protocols and Policies
ANT3241 - Magic, Ritual, & Belief

Exam/Quiz Protocols

1. Read the entire **Quiz Introduction** page before you click on the "Begin Quiz" button to familiarize yourself with the quiz/exam procedures. You have access to this page each time you access a quiz or exam in Webcourses. You may want to print it out for future reference. If you have any further questions it is your responsibility to contact the professor for clarification.
2. Unless otherwise noted, students will have only **ONE** opportunity to take the exam.
3. Requests for resetting exams will be considered on a case by case basis. Forgetting or overlooking exam deadlines is **NOT** considered a valid reason for a reset request.
4. If you have technical problems that prevent you from completing the exam it is your responsibility to contact the professor **within 24 hours** and requests the exam be reset. This will only be done at the professor's discretion for what is determined as compelling reasons.
5. Exams will only be reset **ONCE** for technical issues.
6. Exam submissions will only be accepted through the Quiz function of Webcourses. Using any other method of submitting exam/quiz answers will **NOT** be accepted and may result in a failing grade.
7. Students will have one week from the end of each exam period to contest or request clarification for specific exam questions. After this time, such requests will **NOT** be entertained.

Email Protocols

1. Be sure and check your e-mail at least once per week (but more often is better).
2. Use e-mail to send a general question about the course to one of the instructors .

3. When sending e-mail to one of the instructors, always put "ant3241" (without the quotes) in the "Subject" line.
4. Be courteous and considerate. It is important to be honest and to express yourself freely but being considerate of others online is just as important as in the classroom.
5. Make every effort to be clear. Online communication lacks the nonverbal cues that fill in much of the meaning in face-to-face communication.
6. Do the following in every e-mail message you send during this course:
    1. Sign your e-mail messages
    2. Do not use all caps. This makes the message very hard to read and is considered "shouting."
    3. Check spelling, grammar, and punctuation (you may want to compose in a word processor, then cut and paste the message into the forum or e-mail).
    4. Break up large blocks of text into paragraphs and use a space between paragraphs.
7. Abbreviate when possible: Examples:
    1. IMHO = in my humble/honest opinion
    2. FYI = for your information
    3. BTW = by the way
    4. Flame = antagonistic criticism
    5. :-) = happy face for humor
8. Never assume that your e-mail can be read by no one except yourself; others may be able to read or access your mail. Never send or keep anything that you would not mind seeing on the evening news.

Discussion Protocols

1. Be courteous and considerate. It is important to be honest and to express yourself freely but being considerate of others online is just as important as in the classroom.
2. Make every effort to be clear. Online communication lacks the nonverbal cues that fill in much of the meaning in face-to-face communication.
3. If you want to send a message to the instructor or to another student, use e-mail rather than the Discussion Topic.
4. Use the appropriate Discussion Topic.
5. Use the following conventions when composing a Discussion Topic post:
6. Avoid "I agree" type posts, they take up space on the Discussion Topic and will not be counted for credit.
7. Do not use all caps. This makes the message very hard to read and is considered "shouting."
8. Check spelling, grammar, and punctuation.
9. Try to avoid posting large blocks of text but when you must, break them into paragraphs and use a space between paragraphs.

Academic Integrity

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of ConductLinks to an external site.. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in

1. Unauthorized assistance: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.
2. Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.
3. Commercial Use of Academic Material: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.
4. Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work.
5. Plagiarism: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.
6. Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
7. Helping another violate academic behavior standards.

For more information about Academic Integrity, students may consult The Center for Academic Integrity (Links to an external site.).
For more information about plagiarism and misuse of sources, see "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices (Links to an external site.)."

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating

Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, *The Golden Rule*Links to an external site.. UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to academic misconduct. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, click hereLinks to an external site..

Course Accessibility

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need disability-related access in this course should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) <http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/> (Ferrell Commons 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone 407-823-2371). Through Student Accessibility Services, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student.

Campus Safety

Though most emergency situations are primarily relevant to courses that meet in person, such incidents can also impact online students, either when they are on or near campus to participate in other courses or activities or when their course work is affected by off-campus emergencies. The following policies apply to courses in online modalities.

- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to ucf.eduLinks to an external site. and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.

Makeup Assignments for Authorized University Events and Co-curricular Activities

Students who represent the university in an authorized event or activity (for example, student-athletes) and who are unable to meet a course deadline due to a conflict with that event must provide the instructor with documentation in advance to arrange a make-up. No penalty will be applied. For more information, see the UCF policyLinks to an external site.

Deployed Active Duty Military Students

Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the

semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.