

Anthropology 363.01
Magic, Witchcraft & Gods: Anthropology of Religion
Fall 2015

Time: TuTh 3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Chris Holdsworth

Email: choldwor@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: ES710B Thurs 2:15- 3:15 p.m. or by appointment

Location: EDC 179

TA: Ana Castro

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course begins by examining the various theoretical approaches anthropologists have used to understand the topics of perennial interest in the anthropology of religion: spirit possession, divination, ritual, witchcraft, magic and symbolism. The relationship of religion to healing, gender, and power, is also examined. The course concludes by looking at new religious movements and contemporary topics such as the relation between religion, terrorism and nationalism.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of this class, students will:

- 1 Be able to identify and distinguish between the basic concepts, theories methods and central issues in the anthropological study of religion;
- 2 Be able to apply anthropological principles and concepts to critically assess religion within one's own society through study of religion in other societies and cultures.
- 3 Gain a better understanding and appreciation of the diversity of religious expression in the world and the ways people have organized their lives and given meaning to their experiences.
- 4 Be able to demonstrate the links between the individual, their social world, and global religious processes.
- 5 Have improved their verbal and written communication skills through in-class discussion as well as a response paper and essay-style exams.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Moro P.A (ed), 2013. *Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion: A Reader in the Anthropology of Religion* (9th edn.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill. ISBN-13: 978-0078034947

Additional Readings

Links to additional readings will be made available on D2L.

FORMAT

This class will follow an interactive lecture-discussion-seminar format based on the readings, which contain both classic and contemporary articles, and the occasional film. The classes are intended to contextualize and expand on the readings, and will not repeat or cover all the material in the text but will elaborate on selected topics to provide a deeper understanding of the material. Examples of various anthropological

perspectives will be drawn from non-Western as well as Western cultures. Assigned textbook readings may be augmented with additional readings links to which will be provided on D2L.

COURSE POLICIES

Desire to Learn (D2L): All course materials and information, as well as unofficial grades, will be posted on D2L.

Email Policy

In any email correspondence please begin with the course code (anth363) in the subject line along with the subject of your message. Most of the time, you can expect a reply to an email within 24 hours. Please do NOT expect an immediate reply. You should also know that I will only rarely reply to emails on the weekends. Also I will not reply to emails that are not signed at least with your first name.

Cell Phone and Laptop Policy

Cell phones must be turned off during the class except when in use for Top Hat Monocle (see below). Laptops and tablets should be used only for taking notes. Since the screens can be distracting to students sitting behind, if you wish to use your laptop or tablet please sit toward the back of the class.

TopHat

- Students are required to set up a Top Hat (TH) account. TH will be used to assess participation and comprehension which are grade components (see below) for the course. The university has a site license for the application and accounts can be set up at <https://app.tophat.com/register/student/>
- The TH URL for the course is: <https://app-ca.tophat.com/e/467959>
- The password for the course is: Religion (Case sensitive)

ASSESSMENT

1. Midterm Exam 1

Date: October 6

Percent of grade: 25%

2. Midterm Exam 2

Date: November 3

Percent of grade: 25%

3. Final Exam

Date: Dec 11-22, Exact date, time, and place TBA

Percent of Grade: 40%

Exams will be 50% multiple choice and 50% short answer. **Exams Are Not Cumulative.**

4. Participation

Top Hat

Date: Various

Percent of Grade 10%

GRADING SCHEME:

Each item of course work will be weighted as above and a final mark out of 100 calculated. This will then be converted to a letter grade as follows:

A+	94.9–100	A	89.9–94.8%	A-	84.9–89.8 %
B+	79.9–84.8 %	B	74.9–79.8 %	B-	70.9–74.8 %
C+	66.9–70.8 %	C	62.9–66.8 %	C-	58.9–62.8 %
D+	54.9 %– 58.8%	D	49.9–54.8 %	F	49.8 and below

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

Plagiarism: “to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one’s own” (Webster’s). Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will automatically result in a failing grade for the submission. Any student caught plagiarizing may also be subject to additional University sanctions. Students are expected to be familiar with the Anthropology Departments policy on intellectual honesty available at: <https://www.anth.ucalgary.ca/home/links/intellectual-honesty-guidelines>

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

It is the student’s responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability and require academic accommodation you need to register with Student Accessibility Services. Please contact their office at 220-8237. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/> Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

DEFERRED EXAMS:

Deferral of a mid-term exam must be cleared with the instructor. Deferral will be granted only in cases of personal injury, illness, or immediate family emergency. An official note or other documentation explaining the reason for the absence is required. Deferral of the final exam requires Registrar approval.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION:

In the event that the classroom should need to be evacuated due to an emergency situation please note that the primary assembly point shall be at the Social Sciences Food Court

USRI:

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student

Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri).

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

The University of Calgary is committed to protecting the privacy of individuals who work and

study at the University or who otherwise interact with the University in accordance with the standards set out in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Please refer to the following link for detailed information:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF LECTURES

Please note that this is a tentative schedule and may vary slightly since some topics may require more or less time to cover. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on D2L. More information on the readings for each class will be provided during the first class

Tues Sept 8	Introduction
Thurs Sept 10	The Anthropological study of Religion
Tues Sept 15	The Anthropological study of Religion
Thurs Sept 17	History of the Anthropology of Religion
Tues Sept 22	Myth Symbolism and Worldview
Thurs Sept 27	Myth Symbolism and Worldview
Tues Sept 29	Magic and Witchcraft
Thurs Oct 1	Magic and Witchcraft
Tues Oct 6	Midterm Exam 1
Thurs Oct 8	Gender and Religion
Tues Oct 13	Gender and Religion
Thurs Oct 15	Gender and Religion
Tues Oct 20	Ritual
Thurs Oct 22	Ritual
Tues Oct 27	Ritual
Thurs Oct 29	Religious Specialists
Tues Nov 3	Midterm Exam 2
Thurs Nov 5	Religion and Healing
Tues Nov 10	Religion and Healing
Thurs Nov 12	No Class – Reading Day
Tues Nov 17	Religion and Healing
Thurs Nov 19	New Religious Movements
Tues Nov 24	New Religious Movements
Thurs Nov 26	New Religious Movements
Tues Dec 1	Contemporary Issues Religion and Global Culture
Thurs Dec 3	Contemporary Issues Religion and Global Culture
Tues Dec 8	Summary and Conclusion
Dec 11-22	Final Exam. Exact Date, Time, and Location TBA