

Anthropology 363.01
Magic, Witchcraft & Gods: Anthropology of Religion
Fall 2016

Time: TuTh 3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Chris Holdsworth

Email: choldwor@ucalgary.ca

Office ES710B

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

Location: EDC 179

TA: Achuroa

Email:

Office:

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/780331>

- 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 Department of Anthropology and Archaeology’s policy on intellectual honesty.

Academic Accommodations:

The academic accommodations policy can be found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>.

It is the student’s responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodations and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact them at 403-220-6019. Students that have not registered with the SAS are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. More information about the academic accommodations can be found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access>.

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). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys.

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology's FOIP (Freedom of Information and Privacy) policy requires all reports/examinations to be returned to students during class time or the instructor's office hours. Any term work not picked up will be placed in the Anthropology Office (SS 854) for distribution. Any student not wishing to have their work placed in the office must make alternate arrangements with the course instructor early in the term.

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 13 | Introduction |
| Thurs Sept 15 | The Anthropological study of Religion |
| Tues Sept 20 | The Anthropological study of Religion |
| Thurs Sept 22 | History of the Anthropology of Religion |
| Tues Sept 27 | Myth Symbolism and Worldview |
| Thurs Sept 29 | Myth Symbolism and Worldview |
| Tues Oct 4 | Magic and Witchcraft |
| Thurs Oct 6 | Magic and Witchcraft |
| Tues Oct 11 | Midterm Exam 1 |
| Thurs Oct 13 | Gender and Religion |
| Tues Oct 18 | Gender and Religion |
| Thurs Oct 20 | Gender and Religion |
| Tues Oct 25 | Ritual |
| Thurs Oct 27 | Ritual |
| Tues Nov 1 | Ritual |
| Thurs Nov 3 | Religious Specialists |
| Tues Nov 8 | Midterm Exam 2 |
| Thurs Nov 10 | Religion and Healing |
| Tues Nov 15 | Religion and Healing |
| Thurs Nov 17 | No Class – Reading Day |
| Tues Nov 22 | Religion and Healing |
| Thurs Nov 24 | New Religious Movements |
| Tues Nov 29 | New Religious Movements |
| Thurs Dec 1 | New Religious Movements |
| Tues Dec 6 | Contemporary Issues Religion and Global Culture |
| Tues Dec 8 | Summary and Conclusion |
| Dec 12-22 | Final Exam. Exact Date, Time, and Location TBA |