

**Department of Anthropology and Archaeology
University of Calgary
Anthropology 363.01
Magic, Witchcraft & Gods: Anthropology of Religion**

Fall 2019

Time: MWF 2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Chris Holdsworth

Email: choldwor@ucalgary.ca

Office: ES710B

Hours: MWF 3-4:00 p.m.

or by appointment

Location: EDC 179

TA: Nicola Guthrie

Email: nicola.guthrie@ucalgary.ca

Office:

Hours:

PREREQUISITE: Anthropology 203

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course applies the basic principles of socio-cultural anthropology to the study of religion. It begins by examining the various theoretical approaches anthropologists have taken to understand the topics of perennial interest in the anthropology of religion: possession, divination, myth, ritual, witchcraft, magic, and religious symbolism. We also look at the relationship of religion to healing, gender, and power. The course concludes by examining new religious movements and contemporary topics such as the relation between religion, terrorism, and nationalism. What is not discussed or debated in this course are the truth statements of any religion, nor is this course a survey of world religions.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify and distinguish between the basic concepts, theories, methods, and central issues in the anthropological study of religion.
2. Examine different religions from a culturally relative perspective while also recognizing and avoiding ethnocentrism.
3. Value the diversity of religious expression in the world, and the ways people have organized their lives and given meaning to their experiences.
4. Discuss religion's role in contemporary debates about gender, health and well-being, terrorism, nationalism, and other social relationships.
5. Apply anthropological principles and concepts to critically assess religion within one's own society through comparison of religion in other cultures.

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 follows 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.

DESIRE TO LEARN (D2L):

All course materials and information, as well as unofficial grades, will be posted on D2L.

TOPHAT

Students are required to set up a Top Hat (TH) account. TH will be used to survey class opinion, assess comprehension, and for other purposes. A 10% participation mark will be based on Top Hat quizzes. The university has a site license for the application and accounts can be set up at:

<https://app.tophat.com/register/student/>

- Join Code is 382813; password is: Religion2019 (Case sensitive)

ASSESSMENT

- **Exams Are Not Cumulative**
- Exams will be 50% multiple choice and 50% short answer.
- Midterm exams will consist of 20 multiple choice questions plus 5 short answer questions out of a choice of 8.

1. Midterm Exam 1

Date: September 27

Percent of grade: 20%

2. Midterm Exam 2

Date: October 16

Percent of grade: 20%

3. Midterm Exam 3

Date: November 6

Percent of grade: 20%

4. Participation (Top Hat)

Date: Daily. 13 questions will be asked during the term worth 1 mark each. Most will be 50% participation mark, 50% for correct answer. The final mark will be out of 10.

Percent of grade: 10%

5. Final Exam

Date: Dec 9-16, (Registrar Scheduled) Exact date, time, and place TBA

Percent of Grade: 30%

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

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

Fri. Sept 6	Introduction
Sept 9-13	The Anthropological study of Religion
Sept 16-20	History of the Anthropology of Religion
Sept 23-27	Myth Symbolism and Worldview Sept 27 Midterm 1
Sept 30-Oct 4	Magic and Witchcraft
Oct 7-Oct 11	Magic and Witchcraft
Oct 14	Thanksgiving Day No classes
Oct 16-Oct 18	Gender and Religion Oct 16 Midterm 2
Oct 21-Oct 25	Gender and Religion
Oct 28- Nov 1	Ritual
Nov 4- Nov 8	Ritual Nov 6 Midterm 3
Nov 11- Nov 15	Reading Week No classes
Nov 18-Nov 22	Religion and Healing
Nov 25-Nov 29	New Religious Movements
Dec 2-Dec 6	Contemporary Issues Religion and Global Culture
Dec 9-Dec 16	Registrar Scheduled final Exam Exact date, time, and place TBA

COURSE POLICIES

Cell Phone and Laptop Policy

Cell phones must be turned off during the class except when in use for Top Hat (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.

Email Policy

In any email correspondence please begin with the course code (anth361) 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 and immediate reply. You should also know that I only rarely reply to emails evenings or weekends. Also I will not reply to emails that are not signed at least with your first name.

Deferred Exams:

A student who is absent from a test for legitimate reasons must discuss an alternative course of action with the instructor. Deferral of the final exam requires Registrar approval. The instructor at their discretion may transfer the percentage weight for the test to the final examination, if there is a final examination in the course, set another test, etc. Documentation supporting the reason for missing an exam may be required. Deferred exams may be in a different format than the regularly scheduled exam, e.g. essay style questions instead of multiple choice questions. Students must be aware that they are responsible for payment of any charge associated with the medical assessment and documentation as this service falls outside the realm of services provided by the Provincial Health Care Plan

Academic misconduct

The University expects Students to conduct Academic Activities with integrity and intellectual honesty and to recognize the importance of pursuing and transmitting knowledge ethically. “Academic Misconduct” includes such things as Cheating, Falsification; Plagiarism, Unauthorized Assistance and failure to comply with exam regulations or an Instructor’s expectations regarding conduct required of Students completing academic assessments. Academic Misconduct is a serious form of intellectual dishonesty with significant consequences. Students who participate in, or encourage the commission of, Academic Misconduct will be subject to disciplinary action which could include Probation, Suspension, or Expulsion from the University. For more information see the Student Academic Misconduct Policy

(<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>)

Instructor intellectual property

Lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor includes copyright protected works under the Copyright Act and all forms of electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, laboratories, tutorials, presentations, performances, electronic (computer) information, the duplication of course material, and to the translation of recordings or transcriptions of any of these materials to another form by electronic or mechanical means by students is not permitted, except.

- As a formal accommodation as assessed by the Student Accessibility Services and only for individual private study and only at the discretion of the instructor.
- With the permission of the instructor, students without a formal accommodation may audio record lectures, provided that the student and instructor sign a release form available from departmental and faculty offices. A copy of the Release form shall be retained by the instructor and by the department in which the course is offered. Any audio recording by students is permitted only for the

- purposes of private study by the individual student. Students may not distribute, email or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person.
- For any other use, whether by duplication, transcription, publication, sale or transfer of recordings, written approval must be obtained from the instructor for the specific use proposed.
 - Any use other than that described above (e.g. distributing, emailing or otherwise communicating these materials to any other person, constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion.
 - Students are encouraged to make notes of classroom discussions, lectures, demonstrations etc.

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. The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology keeps exams and any term work not picked up for a minimum of one year after which it is destroyed. Please refer to the following link for detailed information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

Academic Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies. Students requesting an Accommodation on the basis of Disability are required to register with Student Accommodation Services (SAS) by submitting a Request for Accommodation in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>). SAS will issue a Letter of Accommodation which must be presented to either designated contact person within the Department or the appropriate Instructors within 10 days of the beginning of term. Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfill requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

Copyright

All **students** are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Support and Resources:

Non-course-specific related information can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>

Note: information here includes

- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Safewalk