
**Anthropology 363.01
Magic, Witchcraft & Gods: Anthropology of Religion
GFC Hours 3-0
Fall 2023**

Instructor: Dr. Chris Holdsworth

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Office Hours: M 3-4 pm or by appointment

Lecture Location: CHC 105

Lecture Days/Time MWF 2:00 pm - 2:50 pm

Teaching Assistant: Galina Belolybskaya

TA Email: galina.belolyubskaya@ucalgary.ca

Prerequisite(s): None

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 the study of religion. Topics covered include myth, divination, 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:

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology is committed to student knowledge and skill development.

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

1. Discuss 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's religious beliefs have helped them to organize and give meaning to their lives.
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 the role of religion within one's own society through comparison of religion in other cultures.

READINGS AND TEXTBOOKS:

There is no textbook for the course. Links to required readings will be available in a separate document on D2L.

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY and EQUIPMENT:

- A computer and/or cell phone with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security and malware updates.
- A Top Hat Account
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. 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 289763; password is: Magic2023 (Case sensitive)
 - You must use your UofC email to enroll.

SUPPLEMENTARY FEES

None

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

The grade in the course will be determined based on the following:

EXAM SCHEDULE

1. Midterm Exam 1

Date: Wednesday September 27

Percent of grade: 30%

2. Midterm Exam 2

Date: Monday October 23

Percent of grade: 30%

3. Midterm Exam 3

Date: Wednesday November 22

Percent of grade: 30%

4. Final Exam

Date: Wednesday Dec 6

Percent of grade: 10%

- All exams will be non-cumulative.
- All exams will be multiple choice, except for any deferred exams (see below).

- The material covered will depend on how far we get in the course before each midterm. An email will be sent out about a week before the exam detailing the material to be covered on the exams
- Exams are closed book. The use of aids such as textbooks, course notes or electronic devices are not permitted during the exam

Deferral Exams

- Missed exams cannot be made up without the approval of the instructor.
- Exams may only be deferred in the case of serious illness or medical emergency, religious observance, or domestic affliction (see: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-final-exams>)
- If you know ahead of time that you have conflict with the date of an exam (e.g. you require a medical procedure that day) please email the instructor as soon as possible to arrange to write a deferred exam.
- Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for a missed exam. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, or a statutory declaration, etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note. Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.
- Students who miss an exam have up to **48 hours** to contact the instructor to ask for a makeup exam.
- Students who do not schedule a makeup exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup exam, and will receive a mark of zero on the exam.
- Once approved, a makeup exam must be written within **two weeks** of the missed exam on a day and time scheduled by the instructor.
- **Makeup exams will be essay-style questions.**
- The instructor also reserves the right to transfer the weight of a missed exam to remaining exams, or make other arrangements with the student. This will only be done in exceptional circumstances.
- No extra credit or 'make up' work is available in this class.
- You do not need to pass each course component to earn a passing grade in the class.

Reappraisal of Graded Term Work: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

Reappraisal of Final Grade: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Department of Anthropology and Archaeology Grading Scheme:

A+	95 – 100%	B+	80 – 84.9%	C+	67 – 70.9%	D+	55 – 58.9%
A	90 – 94.9%	B	75 – 79.9%	C	63 – 66.9%	D	50 – 54.9%
A-	85 – 89.9%	B-	71 – 74.9%	C-	59 – 62.9%	F	< 50%

Land Acknowledgement

The University of Calgary, located in the heart of Southern Alberta, both acknowledges and pays tribute to the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7, which include the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprised of the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut’ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3.

Acknowledgment and Respect for Diversity

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology views diversity of identity as a strength and resource. Your experiences and different perspectives are encouraged and add to a rich learning environment that fosters critical thought through respectful discussion and inclusion.

COURSE POLICIES

Cell Phone and Laptop Policy

Cell phones must be turned off during the class except when in use for Top Hat. 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 all emails to me or the TA you must use your U of C email address.
- In any email correspondence please begin with the course code (anth363) in the subject line followed by the subject of your message.
- Please use an appropriate greeting. I do not reply to emails using my first name or that begin with “hey” etc. Do not skip a greeting altogether.
- Please send an email only where the questions or concerns are of a personal nature. All other questions about content, exams, or processes should be asked in class or on D2L FAQ section, as other students will also benefit from the answers.
- Most of the time, you can expect a reply to an email within 24 hours.
- Please do NOT expect an immediate reply. I also rarely reply to emails evenings or weekends.
- I will not reply to emails that are not signed with your name.
- Please also use include your UofC Id
- Do not hesitate to email me. Your communication is important to me.
- Concise emails are appreciated.
- Emails are preferred to phone calls. If you do phone me and I do not answer do not leave a message as I do not check them

Expectations

- It is expected that students will attend all classes.
- That students will let me know of an issue that may impact their success in the course as soon as possible.
- Students can expect an email about any changes to the course such as a change in the topics covered and the dates.
- Students can expect an email to remind them of upcoming important dates.
- Unless otherwise noted, grades will be posted within two weeks following an exam.
- Exams will not be returned to the student.
- Students are welcome to go over their exams and discuss the results during office hours.
- Students are encouraged to make notes of classroom discussions and lectures, since this practice requires that students develop the ability to actively attend to the material under consideration and to quickly summarize pertinent information in a coherent manner.
- Recording of lectures is not permitted unless a student with a disability who is registered with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) has an accommodation to make audio recordings of course material. 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. Any audio recording by students with permission to record them may do so only for the purposes of private study by the individual student.
- All lectures, and discussions during office hours, will be recorded by the instructor.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/student-services/access>. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor or the Department Head. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Accommodation-Policy.pdf>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity. The University Calendar includes a statement on the principles of conduct expected of all members of the university community (including students, faculty, administrators, any category of staff, practicum supervisors, and volunteers), whether on or off university property. This statement applies in all situations where members of the university community are acting in their university capacities. All members of the university community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the principles of conduct statement, which is available at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect.

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary, and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html. Often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are (1) presenting another student's work as your own, (2) presenting an author's work or ideas as your own without adequate citation, and (3) using work completed for another course. Such activities will not be tolerated in this course, and students suspected of academic misconduct will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-procedure>

For students wishing to know more about what constitutes plagiarism and how to properly cite the work of others, the Department of Geography recommends that they attend Academic Integrity workshops offered through the Student Success Centre: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing. Information on Instructor Intellectual Property can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/intellectual-property-policy>

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) 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.

SUPPORTS FOR STUDENT LEARNING, SUCCESS, AND SAFETY

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre

- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND READINGS

- Please note that this schedule is tentative.
- Some topics will require more attention than others, and we will take more time with them.
- If necessary, the schedule of classes and readings will be updated.
- Any schedule changes will be announced via email and posted to the notice board on D2L.
- Readings refer to chapters in the text, and to the authors. Links to the articles by the authors listed is on a separated document on D2L

Date	Topic	Readings
W Sep 6	Introduction	
F Sep 08	Continued	
M Sep 11	The Anthropological study of Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Eller Chapter 1 pp. 1-11. •Metcalf
W Sep 13	Continued	
F Sep 15	Continued	
M Sep 18	History of the Anthropology of Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Eller Chapter 1 pp. 11-26 •Geertz
W Sep 20	Continued	
F Sep 22	Myth, Symbolism and Worldview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Douglas •Wolf
M Sep 25	Continued	
W Sep 27	Midterm Exam 1	
F Sept 29	Magic and Witchcraft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gmelch • Malinowski • Evans-Pritchard Chapter 8
M Oct 2	Continued	
W Oct 4	Continued	
F Oct 6		
M Oct 9	Thanksgiving Day No Classes	
W Oct 11	Continued	
F Oct 13	Gender and Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Hoodfar •Wagner et al.
M Oct 16	Continued	
W Oct 18	Continued	
F Oct 20	Continued	
M Oct 23	Midterm Exam 2	
W Oct 25	Ritual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Miner •Turner •Smith

		Suzuki
F Oct 27	Continued	
M Oct 30	Continued	
W Nov 1	Religion and Healing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Foster •DeRogatis •Maduro •Halperin
F Nov 3	Continued	
M Nov 6	Continued	
W Nov 8	New Religious Movements Pt 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Weiser •Worsley •Wallace •Eller Ch. 7 •Williamson and Pollio •Daugherty •Zeller •Luhmann •Bennett
F Nov 10	Continued	
Nov 12-18	Term Break, No Classes	
M Nov 20	Continued	
W Nov 22	Midterm Exam 3	
F Nov 24	New Religious Movements Pt 1	
M Nov 27	Continued	•Klocek
W Nov 29	Continued	
F Dec 1	Contemporary Issues Religion and Global Culture	
M Dec 4	Continued	
W Dec 6	Final Exam	

IMPORTANT DATES

M Sept 4	Labour Day, No Classes
T Sept 5	Start of Classes
R Sept 14	Last day to drop a class without a financial penalty
F Sept 15	Last day to add or swap a course
F Sept 22	Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.
S Sept 30	National Truth and Reconciliation Day
M Oct 9	Thanksgiving Day, No Classes.
M Nov 13	Remembrance Day Observance
Nov 12-18	Reading Break. No classes.
W Dec 6	Fall Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses.
Dec 9-20	Fall Final Exam Period.

Dec 25-31	Holiday Observance, University Closed.
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<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html#fall2017>