

**Anthropology 363.01
Anthropological Perspectives on Religion
Winter 2012**

Time: MoWeFr. 14:00-14:50 p.m

Instructor: Dr. Chris Holdsworth

Email: choldwor@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: SS 840, MWF 12:00- 1:00 p.m.

Or by appointment

Location: ICT122

TA: Paul Bridger

email: jpbridger@shaw.ca

Office Hours

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. Laptops should be used only for taking notes. Since the screens can be distracting to students sitting behind, if you wish to use your laptop please sit toward the back of the class.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Moro P.A, and J.E. Myers (eds), 2010. Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion: A Reader in the Anthropology of Religion (8th edn.). Toronto: McGraw-Hill Humanities/Social Sciences/Languages; ISBN-13: 978-0078140013

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.

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 and handouts.



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.

ASSESSMENT

1. Midterm Exam 1

Date: February 3, 2012

Percent of grade: 25%

2. Midterm Exam 2

Date: March 8, 2012

Percent of grade: 25%

3. Article Response Paper

Date: Various (see reading schedule)

Percent of Grade: 15%

Students will be required to provide a response paper to one of the articles from the text or available on Blackboard. Once an article has been covered in class students may not write a response to it. Students may wish to write more than one response in which case the highest mark obtained will be recorded. Response papers should be submitted on or before the due date by uploading them to Blackboard using the Assignments link in the content area. If you see a green exclamation mark in your grades then you know you have uploaded the assignment correctly.

4. Final Exam

Date: April -16-28, 2012, Exact date, time, and place TBA

Percent of Grade: 35%

Additional information about the exams and response paper will be provided during the first class.

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 who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre 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.

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 Blackmore. More information on the readings for each class will be provided during the first class

Mon Jan 9	Introduction: The Anthropology of Religion
Wed Jan 11	Introduction: The Anthropology of Religion
Fri Jan 13	History of the Anthropology of Religion
Mon Jan 16	History of the Anthropology of Religion
Wed Jan 18	Religious Symbolism
Fri Jan 20	Religious Symbolism
Mon Jan 23	Religious Symbolism
Wed Jan 25	Myth
Fri Jan 27	Myth
Mon Jan 30	Myth
Wed Feb 1	Myth
Fri Feb 3	Midterm Exam 1
Mon Feb 6	Magic and Witchcraft
Wed Feb 8	Magic and Witchcraft
Fri Feb 10	Magic and Witchcraft
Mon Feb 13	Magic and Witchcraft
Wed Feb 15	Gender and Religion
Fri Feb 17	Gender and Religion
Mon Feb 20	No Class Reading Week
Wed Feb 22	No Class Reading Week
Fri Feb 24	No Class Reading Week
Mon Feb 27	Gender and Religion
Wed Feb 29	Gender and Religion
Fri Mar 2	Ritual
Mon Mar 4	Ritual
Wed Mar 6	Ritual
Fri Mar 8	Midterm Exam 2
Mon Mar 12	Religious Specialists
Wed Mar 14	Religion and Healing
Fri Mar 16	Religion and Healing
Mon Mar 19	Religion and Healing
Wed Mar 21	New Religious Movements
Fri Mar 23	New Religious Movements
Mon Mar 26	New Religious Movements
Wed Mar 28	New Religious Movements
Fri Mar 30	New Religious Movements
Mon Apr 2	Contemporary Issues Religion and Global Culture
Wed Apr 4	Contemporary Issues Religion and Global Culture
Fri Apr 6	No Class – Good Friday
Mon Apr 9	Contemporary Issues Religion and Global Culture
Wed Apr 11	Contemporary Issues Religion and Global Culture
Fri Apr 13	Contemporary Issues Religion and Global Culture
Apr -16-25	Final Exam. Exact date, time, and place TBA.