

Anthropology of Religion

ANT 3241 – Spring, 2011

Class Meeting Times: Monday 3:00-3:50 pm, Wednesday 3:00-4:55 pm

Instructor: Paulette McFadden
Office Hours: MW 1:00-3:00 pm
Office: Turlington B335

TA: Tess Kulstad
Office Hours: M 8:30-10:30, W 11:30–12:30
Office: Turlington B335

Required Texts:

Anthropology of Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft (3rd Edition)

Philip L. Stein and Rebecca Stein

ISBN #: 0205718116

Black Elk Speaks: Being the Life Story of a Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux

Nicholas Black Elk and John G. Neihardt

ISBN#: 0803283857

Additional reading materials will be available to download from the course website.

Course Description:

This introductory course is designed for students who have little or no previous experience with anthropology. It will introduce students to basic concepts of anthropology and the anthropological perspective on religion. Students will learn various theories of religion as it relates to culture and society and will examine religious expression from a cross-cultural perspective.

Course Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, each student will:

- Have a basic understanding of anthropology and how the anthropological perspective is useful for the study of religion
- Have knowledge of different theories of religion as it relates to culture and society
- Understand the functions of rituals, myths and symbols.
- Develop a deeper understanding of the diverse ways and reasons that people around the world universally practice religion
- Develop an appreciation for the wide range of religious practices and understand how these practices compare cross-culturally.
- Understand the relationship between religion, politics, and economics.

Mutual Respect:

This course does not seek to promote or disrepute any particular religious belief, practice, or person. All religious practices will be regarded as forms of social and cultural expression. Open discussion is encouraged and everyone's opinion is valid as we strive to understand the topic in a spirit of free inquiry and critical thinking. Students should leave any preconceived notions and prejudices behind when they enter the classroom and at all times remember to be respectful of other's opinions.

Grading:

Grades will be determined from four tests, five on-line quizzes, and five in-class pop quizzes.

Students are expected to complete assigned readings prior to class. Make-up tests and assignments are only granted if arranged prior to the date in this syllabus, or when accompanied by appropriate documentation (i.e. doctor's note). Your grades will come from the following:

Four exams - 53% (160 possible points), five on-line quizzes – 33% (100 possible points), 5 in-class pop quizzes – 3% (10 possible points), and one 2-4 page paper – 10% (30 possible points), for a total of 300 possible points.

Breakdown of Grading:

Four Exams: Each exam will consist of a mix of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions worth 40 points and will constitute 13% of your final grade. **[Total Points: 160]**

Five on-line Quizzes: Students will take five on-line quizzes at various times during the semester through the e-learning site. Each quiz will be worth 20 points and will constitute 7% of your final grade. **[Total Points: 100]**

Five Pop Quizzes: Quizzes will be taken at the end of class time at various points in the semester and will cover materials from the readings and lecture for that class. Each quiz is worth 2 points. **[Total Points: 10]**

Experiential Project: The student will attend an organized religious service (i.e. Catholic Mass, Jewish prayer service, etc.), spiritual ceremony (i.e. Native American sweat lodge or pipe ceremony), or interview a religious practitioner (i.e. a cleric, priest or shaman) that is outside the usual religious orientation or experience of the student. The student will write a 2-4 page paper outlining their experience, comparing it to their previous experiences with religion, and discussing how that experience has furthered their understanding of religion from an anthropological point of view. The paper constitutes 10% of your final grade. **It is due Wednesday, April 13, 2011.** **[Total Points: 30]**

Extra Credit: Extra credit opportunities will be presented on exams and at various times throughout the semester.

Total Points: 300 (it is possible to earn more than 100% if you earn extra credit).

Course Grading Scale (by %):

A - 93-100	A- 90-92.9	B+ 87-89.9	B 84-86.9	B- 80-83.9
C+ 77-79.9	C 74-76.9	C- 70-73.9	D+ 67-69.9	D 64-66.9
D- 60-63.9	E 59.9 and below			

To figure your grade, simply divide the total points you have earned by the total possible points. This will give you the percentage. For instance, if you earn 250 points during the semester, divide that by 300, giving you 83% -- or an "B-."

24-hour Grade Dispute Policy

Students who wish to discuss grades on assignments and exams should contact the instructor within 24 hours of posting to arrange a meeting time. Please do not wait until the end of the semester to

question grades or request special consideration. Twenty-four hours after posting, all grades are final.

Attendance and Make-up Policies:

Attendance is not taken in this class, but is highly encouraged. Students not in attendance cannot make-up pop quizzes, view videos, or take exams. The only exception to this rule is if you discuss alternate plans with the instructor prior to the absence or produce proper documentation afterwards (e.g. doctor's note). **Other than this stated exception, this policy is non-negotiable.**

Academic Honesty:

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. As a registered student in this course and at the University of Florida, you have agreed to the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University." If you are caught plagiarizing or cheating on exams you will receive an automatic zero and will be referred to University administration for disciplinary action. If you have any questions please refer to the University's Honor Code which is available online at:

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html>.

Student Conduct:

All students must comply with the Student Conduct Code which can found at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/studentconductcode.php>. Any behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to benefit from the instructional program will not be tolerated. Please turn off cell phones and all other electronic devices before class. Laptops may only be used to take notes. Disruptive students will be asked to leave.

Texting or talking on cell phones during class is not allowed.

Disability Accommodations:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. The Disability Resource office is located in 001 Reid Hall. Further information can be found at www.dso.ufl.edu/drp.

UF Counseling Services:

Resources are available on campus for students having personal or goal oriented problems

1. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575
2. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 391-1171 (personal counseling)
3. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161
4. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601

Class Schedule:

Week	Reading	Topics	Assignments
Week of Jan 3 rd		Class Introduction	
Week of Jan 10 th	The Dimensional Analysis of Worldviews in "Theory and Method in the Study of Religion" – pgs. 147-149 Textbook - Chapter 1	What is Anthropology? The Anthropological Perspective The Definition of Religion	<u>E-learning quiz 1</u> Due by 7:00 pm on Friday, January 14 th
Week of Jan 17 th	"Theory and Method in the Study of Religion" - pgs. 1-4; Introduction from "Eight Theories of Religion" – pgs. 3-11;	Various Theories of Religion <i>Optional Reading:</i> "Darwin's God" NY Times article at http://www.nytimes.com/2007/03/04/magazine/04evolution.t.html	Martin Luther King Holiday (Monday, January 17 th)
Week of Jan 24 th	Textbook – Chapters 2 and 3	Mythology, Religious Symbols Sacred Space and Sacred Time	Video 1 – In the Light of Reverence
Week of Jan 31 st	Textbook – Chapter 4	Ritual and Religious Obligations	<u>Exam 1</u> Wednesday February 2 nd Chapters 1, 2, and 3 of textbook, additional readings, and lectures
Week of Feb 7 th	Textbook – Chapter 5 "Mysticism" – Pages 45-50 and 140 "Black Elk Speaks" – Chapters 1-8	Altered States of Consciousness, Mysticism	<u>E-learning quiz 2</u> Due by 7:00 pm on Friday, February 11 th
Week of Feb 14 th	Textbook – Chapter 6 "Black Elk Speaks" – Chapters 9-17	Religious Practitioners: Shaman, Priests, Other Religious Specialists	
Week of Feb 21 st	"Black Elk Speaks" – Chapters 18-26 Chapter 5 - <u>Black Elk Speaks</u> , in "The Ghost Dance"	Spirituality and the Lakota Sioux of North America	Video 2 <u>E-learning quiz 3</u> Due by Friday, February 25 th

Week of Feb 28 th	Textbook – Chapter 7	Magic and Divination	<u>Exam 2</u> Wednesday, March 2 nd Chapters 4, 5, and 6 of textbook, additional readings, and lectures
Week of March 7 th			Spring Break!
Week of March 14 th	Textbook – Chapter 8	Souls, Ghosts and Death	Video 3
Week of March 21 st	Textbook – Chapter 9 Textbook – Chapter 10	Gods and Spirits Witchcraft	
Week of March 28 th	Textbook – Chapter 11 Pgs. 133-142 in “The Ghost Dance” (Link to .pdf on e-learning)	Revitalization Movements/Handsome Lake	<u>Exam 3</u> Wednesday, March 30 th Chapters 7, 8 and 9 of textbook, additional readings, video, and lectures
Week of April 4 th	Textbook – Chapter 11 Read “New Age Spirituality” at http://www.religioustolerance.org/newage.htm	Adaptation and Change Neo-Paganism and Revival New Religious Movements	<u>E-learning quiz 4</u> Due by Friday, April 8 th
Week of April 11 th		Guest Speaker	Video 4 (Baraka) <u>Experiential Project Paper Due</u> in class April 13 th
Week of April 18 th		Religion in politics and economics Fundamentalism	<u>E-learning quiz 5</u> Due by Friday, April 22 nd

Final Exam – Wednesday, April 27th 8:00-10:00 PM - Chapters 10 and 11 of textbook, additional readings, videos and lectures

Bibliography

Happold, F.C.

1963 *Mysticism: A Study and an Anthology*. Penguin Books. London.

Kehoe, Alice Beck

2006 *The Ghost Dance: Ethnohistory and Revialization*. Waveland Press. USA.

Black Elk, Nicholas and John G. Neihardt

2004 *Black Elk Speaks*. University of Nebraska Press. USA.

Olson, Carl

2002 *Theory and Method in the Study of Religion*. Wadsworth Publishing. USA.

Pals, Daniel L. (editor)

2006 *Eight Theories of Religion*. Oxford University Press, USA.

Stein, Philip L., and Rebecca Stein

2010 *Anthropology of Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft*. 3rd edition. Allyn & Bacon. USA.