

ANT 3241 – Anthropology of Religion-Spring 2013 Section: 1119

Class Time: Monday 3:00-3:50 PM & Wednesday 3:00-4:55 PM Location: Turlington L011

As with culture, this syllabus is subjected to change.

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Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday at 2:00 PM, or by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This introductory course is an anthropological exploration of religion, spirituality, and the supernatural in diverse cultural contexts. We will investigate the performance of rites and rituals, and the cultural expressions of religious beliefs and practices. We will look at religious interactions and expression through comparative cross-cultural analysis. Students will learn basic anthropological theories and concepts of culture and religion from the classical canon, in addition to contemporary approaches, and apply them to a variety of topics.

The primary objectives of this course are:

- To understand anthropological theories, approaches and perspectives of religion;
- To develop an appreciation of the diversity of world religions, practices and belief systems;
- To understand the interplay of religion, society, and politics, and the theories that describe these interplays;
- To understand the functional aspects of religions, myths and symbols; and
- To develop critical thinking skills and improve critical reading and writing skills.

Mutual Respect:

This is not a course in world religions, theology, religious studies, or divinity. 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. While this is an open discussion that encourages everyone's opinion, we will not be debating the truth of any particular orthodoxy or orthopraxy. 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.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIAL:

- A. *The Anthropology of Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft* (3rd Edition). Philip L. Stein and Rebecca Stein. – *On 2-hour reserve at Library West.*
- B. Other readings will be assigned and made available through *e-learning* (Sakai):
(<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>).

COURSE STRUCTURE & REQUIREMENTS:

- A) **Tests:** There are four tests throughout the semester. Tests will be true/false, multiple-choice, and/or short answer. Tests will be based on the book, additional readings, lectures, and videos. Tests will be made available on Sakai under the “Assessment” tab. Tests will open on a designated Friday and closed on Sunday at 11:59 pm. If you do not take the test on either of these three days, you cannot make it up. Scores will not be immediately available after you take the test.
- B) **Mid-Term and Final Exams:** There will be a mid-term exam and a final exam. Exams will be true/false, multiple-choice, and/or short answer. Exams will be based on the book, additional readings, lectures, and videos. Exams will be made available on Sakai under the “Assessment” tab. Exams are given on the designated Wednesday during class session times. On exam days, there is NO class. Scores will not be immediately available after you take the exam.
- C) **Writing Assignments:** There will be four writing assignments based on class readings, videos, and/or lectures throughout the semester. Topics will be assigned as the class progresses. Writing assignments are to be at least 500 words, 2 pages (maximum), double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, 1 inch page margins. Do not include a cover page. Begin your paper with a heading that includes your name, date, assignment (e.g. Writing Assignment #1), and course information. Below your heading, create a title and center it. Papers are submitted in Sakai under the “Assignments” tab. Late writing assignments will be deducted 5% each day. You are responsible for submitting your paper in the appropriate file format (.doc or .docx). Files that are uploaded incorrectly are not considered turned in. Grades will be based on content, grammar, and proper formatting.
- D) **Discussion:** The professor will start a thread on Sakai under the “Discussions” tab each week based on the readings. Student can respond to the professor's question, reply to another student with meaningful thoughts of engagement, or start a new thread regarding the reading. Students must select 5 weeks to respond. Responses are to be at least 4 sentences. The professor will begin a thread each Monday and students will have until Saturday at 7 pm to respond. Therefore, students cannot go back and respond to a previous week for credit.
- E) **Extra credit:** Students who participate during class discussions throughout the semester will receive an extra 2 points. Comments must be meaningful and relate to the content of class discussion. To ensure that we count your participation, you must send an e-mail to the professor *the same day after class* stating your name and reminding us of what you said. Also, students who respond to more than 5 discussion posts will receive an extra 2 points (max. 4 points). Please send an email to the professor to make sure you receive your credit.

<u>Assignment Points:</u>		<u>Course Grading Scale (by %)</u>			
Tests (15 points each):	60 Points	A	93-100	C	74-76
Mid-Term:	40 Points	A-	90-92	C-	70-73
Final Exam:	50 Points	B+	87-89	D+	67-69
Writing Assignments (10 points each):	40 Points	B	84-86	D	64-66
Discussion (5 points each):	25 Points	B-	80-83	D-	60-63
-----		C+	77-79	F	59 and below
Total: 215 Points					

ATTENDANCE AND MAKE-UP POLICY:

Attendance is not taken in this class, but is highly encouraged. Slides will not be posted on Sakai and test materials will not be drawn exclusively from the textbook and additional readings.

All tests and exams are administered on E-Learning. You cannot make up online tests. Exams must be taken during the scheduled time with no exception. *Make-up exams are only scheduled in the case of incapacitating illness or other university-approved absence such as documented family emergency.* In such cases, you must contact the instructor with written documentation from an appropriate authority at least 24 hours before the exam.

48-HOUR GRADE DISPUTE POLICY:

Students who wish to discuss grades on assignments and exams should contact the instructor within 48 hours of posting to arrange a meeting time. Do not wait until the end of the semester to question grades or request special consideration.

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 assignments, 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.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcode.php>

STUDENT CONDUCT:

All students must comply with the Student Conduct Code which can found at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/currentstudents.php>. Behavior that interferes with 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. **Requests for accommodations must be made by Friday—January 11th, 4pm.** 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

COURSE SCHEDULE, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

****This schedule is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice****

	Dates	Lecture Topic	Readings	*On Sakai	Assignment
Week 1	Jan. 7 th Jan. 9 th	Course Introduction What is Anthropology? What is Religion? What is the Anthropology of Religion?	Chapter 1 of Textbook *Atkinson and Hammersley, <i>Ethnography and Participant Observation</i>		
Week 2	Jan. 14 th Jan. 16 th	Opening Frameworks	*Tylor, <i>Religion in Primitive Culture</i> *Durkheim, Excerpt from <i>The Elementary Forms of Religious Life</i> * Geertz, Excerpt from <i>Religion as a Cultural System</i> *Weber, Excerpt from <i>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism</i>		
Week 3	MLK: No Class Jan. 23 rd	Mythology	Chapter 2 of Textbook * Douglas, “Taboo” * Daugherty, “Serpent-Handling as Sacrament		Test 1, due Sunday January 27 th
Week 4	Jan. 28 th Jan. 30 th	Symbols	Chapter 3 of Textbook *Ortner, “On Key Symbols” *Wolf, “The Virgin of Guadalupe: A Mexican National Symbol”		Writing Assignment #1, due Feb. 3 rd
Week 5	Feb. 4 th Feb. 6 th	Ritual, Part A	Chapter 4 of Textbook * Lehmann, “Eyes of the <i>Ngangas</i> : Ethnomedicine and Power in Central African Republic” * Mason, “ ‘I bow my head to the ground’ :Creating Bodily Experience Through Initiation”		Writing Assignment #2, due Feb. 10 th
Week 6	Feb. 11 th Feb. 13 th	Ritual, Part B	* Rappaport, “Ritual Regulation of Environmental Relations Among a New Guinea People” * Csordas, “A Handmaid’s Tale: The Rhetoric of Personhood in American and Japanese Healing of Abortions” *Miner, “Body Ritual Among the Nacirema”		Test 2, due Sunday Feb. 17 th
Week 7	Feb. 18 th Feb. 20 th Feb. 25 th	Possession	Chapter 5 of Textbook *Hutson, “The Rave: Spiritual Healing in Modern Western Subcultures”		
Week 8	Feb. 27 th	MIDTERM EXAM ***The exam will open at 3:00 pm and close at 5:00 pm***			
Week 9	Spring Break – Be safe and have fun ☺				

Week 10	March 11 th March 13 th	Religious Specialists	Chapter 6 of Textbook * Brown, "Dark Side of the Shaman" * Reichel-Dolmatoff, "Training for the Priesthood Among the Kogi of Colombia" *Barkun, "Reflections After Waco: Millennialists and the State"	Writing Assignment #3, due March 17th
Week 11	March 18 th March 20 th	Magic	Chapter 7 of Textbook *Malinowski, "The Role of Magic and Religion" *McPherson, "Sorcery and Concepts of Deviance Among the Kabana, West New Britain" *Luhmann, "The Goat and the Gazelle: Witchcraft" *Evans-Pritchard, "Consulting the Poison Oracle Among the Azande"	
Week 12	March 25 th March 27 th	Witchcraft	Chapter 10 of Textbook *Evans-Pritchard, "Witchcraft Explains Unfortunate Events" *Badstuebner, "Drinking the Hot Blood of Humans": Witchcraft Confessions in a South African Pentecostal Church"	Test 3, due Sunday March 31 st
Week 13	April 1 st April 3 rd	Spirits, Ghosts, and Souls	Chapter 8 of Textbook *Brown, "Vodou" *Metcalf, "Death Be Not Strange" *Brandes, "The Cremated Catholic: The Ends of a Deceased Guatemalan"	Writing Assignment #4, due April 7th
Week 14	April 8 th April 10 th	Gods and Spirits	Chapter 9 of Textbook	
Week 15	April 15 th April 17 th	New Meaning	Chapter 11 of Textbook *Boellstorff, "Between Religion and Desire: Being Muslim and Gay in Indonesia"	Test 4, due Sunday April 21 st
Week 16	April 22 nd April 24 th	Multi-culturalism, Gender, and Fundamentalism	*Stam, "Multiculturalism and the Neoconservatives" *Bernal, "Islam, Transnational Culture and Modernity in Rural Sudan" *Hoodfar, "The Veil in their Minds and On Our Heads: Veiling Practices and Muslim Women:"	
	May 2nd	FINAL EXAM ***The exam will open at 8 am and close at 5 pm***		