

ANTHROPOLOGY 121

ANTHROPOLOGY OF RELIGION, MAGIC, AND WITCHCRAFT

SPRING 2011

SECTION 0156

9:35-11:00 TTh

VLGE 8344

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Reason about and interpret social and cultural behavior, both past and present, in comparative terms.
2. Be aware of and sensitive to cross-cultural differences with the aim of developing a perspective of cultural relativism and an ability to recognize and avoid ethnocentrism.
3. Apply anthropological principles in everyday life, including as related to self, family, community, and professional careers.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Name the major subfields within anthropology and explain the content of each.
2. Describe the nature of anthropological fieldwork and contrast this methodology with that of other disciplines.
3. Analyze the concepts of ethnocentrism and cultural relativism and use these concepts to judge contemporary social issues.
4. Explain how the term culture is used in anthropology.
5. Describe how anthropologists define the term religion.
6. Explain and differentiate between the different theoretical approaches to the study of religion.
7. Recognize the role that myth plays in religious practice and the ways in which anthropologists analyze myth.
8. Understand the concept of symbol and be able to identify religious symbols in religious art, music, and dance.
9. Explain the concept of ritual and categorize different types of ritual.
10. Compare and contrast different types of religious specialists.
11. Explain altered states of consciousness and describe the role it plays in religious experiences.
12. Compare magic to other aspects of religion.
13. Differentiate between various types of supernatural entities including gods, spirits, souls, ghosts, and ancestors.
14. Explain the concept of witchcraft and compare witchcraft beliefs to other types of beliefs such as magic.
15. Discuss how cultures change through time and analyze the effects of culture contact on the religious systems of small-scale societies.
16. Using the concepts developed in the course; analyze non-mainstream religious practices in the United States including Wicca and various cults.

INSTRUCTOR

Philip L. Stein, Professor of Anthropology Emeritus

Office: VLGE 8346

Office Hours: 9:00-9:30 TTh and by appointment

Email: steinpl@piercecollege.edu

Please put the name of the class in the subject line.

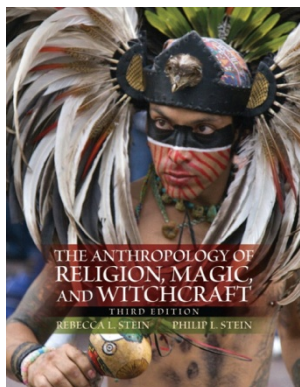
EMAIL COMMUNICATION

The best way to communicate with me is in class or through email. I have a college voicemail box, but I rarely remember to check it.

I do check my email several times a day during the week and occasionally on the weekend. When you send me an email, you will probably not get an instant response, although sometimes you will. Please wait at least 24 hours before re-sending your message or sending a reminder. This response time may be longer if it is over a weekend or I am away from home or office. When I'm on vacation or at a meeting or conference I disconnect myself from all electronic communication.

The answers to most of your questions are in this syllabus. If you send me an email asking me a question when the answer can be found in the syllabus, I'll simply respond, "See the syllabus!"

TEXTBOOKS



The textbook for this course is Stein & Stein, *The Anthropology of Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft*, 3th edition (Prentice-Hall, 2011).

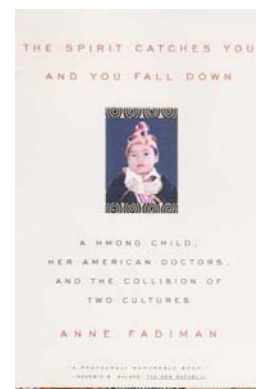
ISBN-13 978-0-205-71811-5

ISBN-10 0-206-71811-6

ISBN-10 0-205-04200-7

(The latter ISBN includes MySearchLab, a web site that provides resources for research and writing papers. Although we will not be using this site in this class, it comes at no additional charge and might prove useful to you. It does not add to the cost of the book.)

You will also be reading *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures* by Anne Fadiman (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998); ISBN 0-374-52564-1 (List \$15). This is not a textbook, which means that the price is relatively low and you should be able to find an inexpensive used copy.



Life used to be simple. I give you the title of the textbook and you run to the bookstore to buy it. But, alas, it is simple no longer. The price of textbooks has increased rapidly and has become a major investment. I am concerned about this. In writing this edition of the text, my coauthor and I worked with the publisher to keep the price as low as possible. I am also serving on a college-wide committee that is looking into the textbook price issue.

However, you will need a copy of the textbook for this course. There are many ways to obtain a copy of the text. Here is some information you will need in order to get the best format and deal.

Buying the book new

This is a new edition, having been published in November 2010. The publisher's retail price is \$61.13, but the actual price varies quite a bit depending on where you buy it. (You can buy a new copy through MyPearsonStore, through the publisher's website, for \$55.02 at

www.mypearsonstore.com/bookstore. Pearson is the parent company of Prentice Hall.) You can also purchase a new copy of the book through the Pierce College Bookstore or through many online sources such as Amazon.com.

When deciding where to buy a new copy there are many things you need to consider.

1. What is the price of the book?
2. Will tax be charged? How much?
3. How much is shipping and handling? Or is shipping free?
4. How long will it take to get the book?
5. What is the return policy if you decide to drop the class?
6. Can you sell back the book at the end of the semester and for how much?

In considering the Pierce College Bookstore you should note that you can obtain a full refund if you should drop the class.

Accessing an online copy

The eText version of the text is available at www.coursesmart.com for \$30.57. I have not had any experience with the eText version, but they advertize many features including word and topic search, highlighting and note taking functions.

If you have never purchased an eText from Coursesmart, you are eligible for a free trial. Select the textbook and click on the Free Trial button.

Buying a used copy

Being a new book there are probably few used copies available. Typically the price of a used copy is about 75 percent the price of a new copy, but this varies considerably.

Renting a copy of the book

The Pierce College Bookstore does not rent this book at the present time, but many online sources do. One of the major renting sources is Chegg.com. In considering renting the book consider how long you will have it and any shipping charges you will have to pay, both to receive the book and to return it at the end of the semester. There are also late charges if you do not return the book on time.

Using an older edition of the text

I often have a student who has access to an older edition of the text from a friend or finds an inexpensive copy of an older edition online. While this is not an ideal situation, you can probably succeed in the class using the second edition. However, reading assignments will be given using the page numbers in the third edition.

Using a free copy

I have placed a copy of the textbook on 2-hour reserve in the Pierce College Library.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

In this course learning will take place in three venues. Your task is to integrate the information and activities in all three.

- Lecture – The lecture is the core of the course. You are responsible for *all* information given in lecture, including videos.
- Reading – The textbook and lecture will cover much of the same material—most of the time, but not always. It is important that you integrate your lecture notes and the reading. You are also being asked to read a second book.

- Online – The syllabus, course outline and schedule, study guides, handouts, observation project, weekly quizzes, grades and other material are found on Pierce OnLine.

PIERCE ONLINE

This is a regular, in-person class. Yet this class will be enhanced with material posted on Pierce Online (Moodle). The fact that you are reading this syllabus means that you have successfully logged onto Pierce OnLine.

- The top section of the class home page contains several documents that will help you get through the course. Here you will find the **Syllabus** and the **Course Outline and Schedule**. The schedule will be updated if the schedule should change. You will also be notified of any schedule changes by email.
- In order to encourage you to read the Syllabus you may earn up to 10 points by taking the **Syllabus Quiz**. The quiz consists of 10 multiple-choice questions. You will have 15 minutes to complete the quiz. The quiz must be completed by the end of the second week of the semester, Friday, February 18, at 11:55 p.m. You may take the quiz up to 3 times, but you must wait at least one hour between tries. The highest of the 3 scores will be counted.
- The top section also includes a section for **Announcements**. Announcements will also be sent automatically to the email address that was used in creating your account.
- **Study Guides** (called **Lessons**) and instructions for the **Ritual Observation Project** are available online. Finally, you find the 4 online **Quizzes** described below.
- If you click on **Grades** in the left column you will see a list of all of the points that you may earn in the course. Quizzes are given and graded online. In-class exam scores will be posted online and will not be returned in class.

Make sure that you have easy and reliable Internet access. I may be an expert in anthropology, but I am definitely not an expert on computer systems. I will not be able to assist you in solving computer-related problems. If you are having technical problems with Pierce OnLine, you can submit a Help Ticket from the Pierce OnLine Home Page.

STUDY GUIDES (LESSONS)

Study guides (labeled Lessons) will be posted periodically throughout the course. The study guides will provide you with the specific reading assignments within each chapter, list of terms to know, study questions, supplemental reading, and interesting websites. However, information contained in the study guides that is not covered in lecture or in the textbook will not be on the exams.

- ***Please note that the study guide is not a substitute for the lecture or textbook.*** The study guides do **not** contain all of the material that will be covered on the exams. Any material from the lectures or textbook may be included on an exam even if it doesn't appear in the study guide.

ONLINE QUIZZES

You will be asked to take 4 online quizzes. Each quiz will be given approximately a week before each quarterly exam. Each quiz will consist of 10 multiple-choice questions and will be worth 10 points. You will have 48 hours in which to take the quiz. You may take each quiz only once; you must complete each quiz within a 15-minute time limit. There are no makeup quizzes. If you miss a quiz, you will receive a score of 0 for that quiz.

EXAMS

For the purpose of exams, this course is divided into 4 quarters. Each quarter will conclude with a quarterly exam worth 100 points, which will be given in class. Exams will include multiple choice and essay questions. The fourth exam will be given at the same time as the final exam during final exam week. The lowest of the 4 exam grades will be dropped. The final exam, worth 50 points, will review the major points of the entire course.

- The first 3 exams will be given in class on the dates indicated in the schedule. The fourth quarter exam and the final exam will be given together on Thursday, June 2, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. This is the only time these exams will be given. ***The final exam will not be given early for any reason!***
- You are to bring to class before the first exam 4 Scantrons form 886E. For each exam you will be given a blank Scantron from the file of Scantrons that have been collected from the class.
 - When you bring the 4 Scantrons to class please clip them together with a paper clip and place your name on a sticky note that will be provided. Do not write your name on the Scantrons. Do not fold the Scantrons.
 - If you fail to bring the Scantrons to class by the day of the exam you will be given a blank Scantron to use, but 10 points will be subtracted from your score.
- Exam grades will be posted online as soon as the grading is completed.
- The answers to exam questions will not be discussed in class. Keys for the exams will be available for review in the instructor's office. Any and all errors on the first 3 exams must be reported to the instructor no later than the start of the final exam. No corrections to the first 3 exams will be made after the start of the final exam.
- ***Makeup exams will not be given in this course for any reason.*** If you miss an exam, a grade of zero will be recorded. However, since the lowest of the four exam grades will be dropped, the zero will not count. If you miss a second exam, that exam will remain a 0. (Note: A grade of zero recorded because of academic dishonesty, i.e., cheating, will remain a 0 and will not be dropped even if it is the lowest grade. The next lowest grade will be dropped instead.)
- If you fail to take the final exam, an Incomplete will be recorded *only* if you request the Incomplete from the instructor no later than Friday noon, June 3, and you are passing the course. An Incomplete will be assigned only for missing the final exam and not for failing to complete any of the other assigned work. If you do not make up the final exam within one year from the end of the semester, the Incomplete automatically becomes a grade of "F". If you miss the final exam and fail to request an Incomplete, you will be assigned the grade of "F" for the course.



STANDARDS FOR GRADING ESSAYS

The following standards will be used in grading essay questions on exams. Each answer is worth a maximum of 5 points.

5	You successfully answered the question following the instructions. You read and understood the material and were able to use the presented information in your work. All work that was not your own was appropriately referenced. There were very few or very unimportant errors. Your assignment was interesting to read and showed that you truly understood the question and the concepts.
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4	You successfully answered the question following the instructions. You read and understood most of the material and were able to use the presented information in your work. All work that was not your own was appropriately referenced. There were a few errors. Your paper did not show the depth of understanding, level of analysis, and completeness of a 5 paper.
3	You successfully answered the question following most the instructions. You read and understood much of the material and were able to use the some of the presented information in your work. All work that was not your own was appropriately referenced. There were several errors. Your paper did not show the depth of understanding, level of analysis, and completeness of a 4 paper.
2	You answered the question following many of the instructions. You read and understood some of the material and were able to use some of the presented information in your work. All work that was not your own was appropriately referenced. There were many important errors. Your analysis was weak and/or incomplete.
1	You answered the question, but you did not follow many of the instructions. All work that was not your own was appropriately referenced. Your work showed that you probably read the assigned material with little understanding. You did not totally understand the question, and some of your material was not on the topic. There were many important errors. Your analysis was very weak.
0	You did not follow the instructions. Your work showed that you probably did not read the book or understand the presented material. You did not understand the question, and your essay was not on the topic. Your analysis was very weak. There were a great many errors. Some of your work may not have been your own.

This is a college level class that is transferable to the university. I expect all essay answers to use standard college-level English. I am not an English instructor and I am not going to correct your English usage. But I will take off points for assignments that contain an excessive number of misspelled words and grammatical errors. Be sure that you capitalize the start of each sentence. And please divided your essay into paragraphs. You will be graded primarily on content. But a poorly written essay conveys a sense of sloppy thinking and is difficult to read. This will be reflected in your grade.

OBSERVATION PROJECT

You will be asked to complete a ritual observation project worth a maximum of 50 points. Details will be given later in the course.

STUDENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The Standards of Student Conduct can be found on pages 168-169 in the Fall Schedule of Classes. Violations of academic honesty and integrity include “cheating on examinations [or] assignments... (allowing another student to copy one’s answers or copying the answers of other students; exchanging information by any means)....; submitting for a grade the words, ideas, and/or written work ... of another person without giving due credit to that person.”

A person who knowingly conducts himself or herself in a dishonest manner shall receive a 0 for the exam or writing assignment and a report of the act will be sent to the Dean of Student Services for disciplinary action.

In this course you will be taking weekly quizzes online. Occasionally we have found a student who attempts to deliberately use the computer system in violation of student academic integrity. You are warned that Moodle has several built-in safeguards that are not visible to students to detect un-

lawful manipulation of the system as well as tools for hunting down suspected online cheating. Any such unlawful activity will be forwarded to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.

Please note that the instructor has a zero-tolerance policy with respect to violations of academic integrity. There are no excuses for cheating, and none will be accepted—or even listened to.

GRADING

A total of 450 points may be earned in this course as follows:

Assignment/Activity	Points Possible	Percent of Total Grade
Syllabus Quiz	10	2
First Exam	100*	22
Second Exam	100*	22
Third Exam	100*	22
Fourth Exam†	100*	22
Ritual Observation Project	50	11
Online Quizzes	40	9
Final Exam	50	11
Total	450	100

* Lowest of these 4 grades will be dropped.

† Fourth exam will be given at the same time as the final exam.

A record of all points earned in this course can be viewed in Pierce OnLine by clicking on Grades in the left-hand column of the course home page. Grades will be posted in Pierce OnLine as soon as the exam or writing assignment has been graded.

COURSE GRADE

The points required for specific grades are:

A	405-450	90-100%
B	360-404	80- 89%
C	293-359	65- 79%

D	225-292	50- 64%
F	0-224	0- 49%

- The Credit/No Credit option is available for this course. See the Schedule of Classes for details.
- In accordance with Section 76244 of the California Education Code, the only basis for an instructor to change a grade is instructor error. In the absence of an instructor error the final grade in this course is a *final* grade.
- Any error in grading must be brought to the attention of the instructor no later than one year after the last day of class. A grade cannot be changed after one year even if an error has been made.
- The course grade will be based upon the exams, quizzes, and ritual observation project only. ***There is no extra credit, retaking of exams or additional assignments in this class.***
- Please note that the college does not mail grades to students. You may obtain your final grade through the college website or by ordering a transcript. You are encouraged to check all grades since errors cannot be rectified after one year.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The instructor *will* exclude from the class all students who do not attend the first meeting of the class.

- Although attendance will be taken at each class meeting, attendance will not be used in the direct determination of the course grade. In other words, points will not be given for attendance. However, attendance will be one of several subjective factors used in determining grades for students on the borderline between 2 grades.
- Students who are absent for 3 consecutive lectures *may* be excluded from the class. Be sure to notify the instructor if you are absent for an extended period of time.
- ***Students who would rather spend class time sending text messages, twittering, visiting with friends, reading the newspaper, studying for other courses, and involving themselves in other activities not related to the class are encouraged not to bother coming to class. (However, please inform the instructor of your decision since students who are frequently absent may be excluded from the class unless the instructor knows that the student wishes to continue in the class.) Students engaged in these activities will be asked to leave.***
- While it is the intention of the instructor to drop nonattending students, the instructor will take no responsibility if he fails to do so. Thus it is strongly suggested that *you* officially drop the class if you decide to stop attending. If you stop attending class and fail to officially drop through the Admissions Office, and the instructor fails to exclude you, you will receive a final grade of “F” in the course.
- There are three drop dates for this class.

February 22	Last day to drop class and receive a refund of fees
March 6	Last day to drop class without a “W” appearing on your transcript
May 8	Last day to drop class with a “W” appearing on your transcript

USE OF LAPTOPS AND CELL PHONES IN CLASS

You may use a laptop in class for the purpose of taking notes as long as its use does not disturb the class. While emailing, texting, and similar activities in class is just plain stupid (students who engage in such activities usually earn poor or failing grades in the course), I have more important things to do than to police the use of such devices. If you plan to use electronic equipment for purposes other than note taking, you are to sit in the last row where I can ignore you. However, if your activity disturbs me or any other member of the class, you will be asked to leave. Obviously the ringing and other sounds made by cell phones, etc., are highly disruptive to the class. (See section on Attendance.)

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

If you are a student with special needs, please contact the Special Services Office in the Student Services Building or phone the Special Services office at (818) 710-4219.

HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS CLASS

Success in college depends on a great many factors. Among these are study skills and time management skills. While most of us are reluctant to admit that we don’t have our act together, success is frequently the result of a willingness to ask for help. It is strongly suggested that you make use of the college’s Learning Center and the Distance Learning tutorials. You can also access Study Guides and Strategies on-line at <http://www.studygs.net>.