

ANTHROPOLOGY 121: RELIGION, MAGIC, & WITCHCRAFT

Section 0416

Mon/Wed, 9:35am-11:00am

SSEC 315

Course Description and Approach

Where did I come from and why am I here? Where do we go after we die? Why is there so much suffering in human life? Does anything exist beyond this world? Can I control my fate?

Religion, magic, and witchcraft have all been used by humans in our efforts to answer these and other questions. This course is an introduction to the anthropological study of religion. It is not a theology course, but examines and analyzes the way religion is lived and practiced in diverse cultures. Throughout the course, we will approach religion from a culturally relativistic stance, setting aside questions about the "truth" of various beliefs and practices to explore the way religion is experienced and shapes human life.

Topics covered include mythology, symbolism, ritual, magic, and witchcraft; the course examines the role of religion in human experiences of sickness and death and explores contemporary issues of religious change, conflict, and violence.

Advisory: This course is reading and writing intensive. You are most likely to succeed if you have completed English 28.



Your Instructor

Dr. Angela C. Jenks

Office: SSEC 216M

Phone: 323-242-5513

Email: jenksa@lasc.edu

Feel free to visit me:

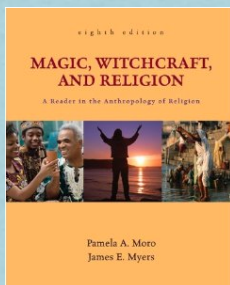
Mon, 4-6pm; Wed, 3-5pm

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course you will be able to:

- 1) Apply anthropological research methods and theoretical approaches to the analysis of religious beliefs and practices
- 2) Assess and analyze the relationship between religious beliefs and practices and other areas of social life
- 3) Demonstrate an understanding of and respect for alternative religious beliefs and practices

Materials



1. Moro and Myers, *Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion*, 8th ed.
ISBN: 0078140013

2. Enrollment in the course Etudes site (<https://myetudes.org>) to access online readings and reading quizzes, study materials, and additional resources

3. Scantron forms and blue/green books for in-class exams (available at the LASC bookstore)

4. Office supplies (pens, pencils, notebook paper,

Course Requirements

This class will involve a variety of activities that introduce you to the anthropology of religion. **You should plan to spend ~10-12 hours a week on work for this class.** Your final grade will be based on the following:

Attendance and In-Class Activities (10% of grade)

The weekly class sessions (Mon/Wed, 9:35-11am) are a main source of learning for the course. **Please arrive to class on time and plan to stay for the entire session.**

There will be multiple in-class activities throughout the semester that are designed to give you an opportunity to apply the concepts we have been learning in class to concrete situations. **No make-up or late assignments will be accepted.** If you are absent and miss a class activity you will not be able to get the activity points.

More than 5 absences may result in your removal from the class. If you decide to drop the course, it is your responsibility to officially withdraw; all students enrolled in the class after the final drop date will receive a grade.

Reading Quizzes (10% of grade)

Complete all required reading assignments and take AT LEAST TEN weekly reading quizzes on the online course Etudes site.

The textbook is an important supplement to the material covered in class. You should complete the required readings before class and come to class prepared to discuss them.

Weekly quizzes designed to guide you through the readings will be posted on the online course Etudes site and will be due by the class period listed in the course calendar.

No make-up quizzes will be given for any reason. **Additional quizzes (beyond the 10 required) will count as extra credit.** Please come see me if you have any trouble accessing the quizzes.

Exams (30% of grade)

There will be three exams: two in class and one on the college-scheduled final exam date.



No make-up exams will be given for any reason. However, your lowest exam grade will be dropped. Your top two exam scores will be included in your final grade.

Exams will include a variety of questions, including matching, multiple choice, identification, short answer, and essays. The exams are not only focused on you repeating factual information, but give you a chance to integrate and apply various issues discussed in class.

Where Can You Find the Textbook?

LASC Bookstore (used)	\$65
Amazon.com (new)	\$36
Chegg.com rental	\$26
Library reserve (2 hrs.)	Free

(Prices as of 1/30/2013)

Course Requirements, continued

Short Reflective Essays (30% of grade)

Six (6) short written exercises (approximately 500 words or 1 single-spaced typed page each) will be required throughout the course. These exercises are designed to give you an opportunity to apply the concepts we are covering in class to your own experiences. These assignments are designed to be informal and reflective but should still be professionally presented; **this means they should be neatly typed, proofread, stapled, and follow academic grammatical conventions.** More information about each assignment will be distributed in class.

All assignments are due **at the beginning of class** on the date listed. You may either bring a printed copy to class or submit an electronic copy in .doc or .pdf format through the course Etudes site (no assignments will be accepted through email).

Because Stuff Happens...

You have one **virtual “stuff happens” late pass** that allows you to complete **one** of the reflective essays within one week after the deadline. After you have used this late pass, however, no additional late activities will be accepted.

Research Paper: Ritual Observation and Analysis (20% of grade)

Anthropological research emphasizes the importance of first-hand experience and participatory observation. **For your final project in the course, you will observe and analyze a ritual event.**

Choose a religiously significant ritual event where you can participate or discreetly conduct observations and where your presence will not be inappropriate or interrupt the flow of events. You should choose an event that you have never been to before and that is *not familiar* to you. Suggestions will be available on the course Etudes site.

Design your research and turn in a 1-paragraph proposal describing the event you propose to observe. Conduct your participant-observation research and write field notes either during your observation or shortly afterward.

Write a 5-7 page paper (typed, 12pt font, double-spaced, 1-inch margins) in which you report on your research and analyze your data. I encourage you to turn in outlines and rough drafts and to come to office hours to discuss your project. **A final copy of your paper is due in class by Wednesday, May 22. Please respect deadlines. Five (5) points will be deducted for each day your paper is late (including weekends and holidays).** If you cannot turn in your paper on time due to extreme circumstances, you must discuss this with me before the due date.

Please do not wait until the last minute to begin this assignment. Feel free to come and see me if you would like to talk more about your particular project.

How Will Your Grade Be Calculated?

In Class Activities	50 pts.
Reading Quizzes	50 pts.
Exams (top 2)	150 pts.
Reflective Essays	150 pts.
Ritual Observation	100 pts.
TOTAL	500 pts.

450-500 pts.	A
400-450 pts.	B
350-400 pts.	C
300-350 pts.	D
Below 300 pts.	F

Professional Conduct

The college classroom is a professional, scholarly setting, and our actions should reflect respect for each other and for the educational process.

LACCD Code of Conduct: You are expected to adhere to the district code of conduct and all policies outlined in the college catalog.

Submitted Assignments: All assignments must be turned in in class or through the Etudes site. Printed assignments should be clean and unwrinkled, clearly typed, and stapled. All assignments should conform to the given instructions and style guidelines.

How to Approach Controversial Topics: Anthropology seeks to understand the diversity of human life. The lectures, discussions, films and assignments required in this class will address many controversial topics related to the study of religion. Some of the examples covered may seem strange and possibly objectionable to you, just as your

own way of life may seem objectionable to others.

This class does not require you to agree with or choose to follow any particular way of life or belief system, and it does not ask you to be uncritical about social or cultural patterns. However, you are expected to approach alternative perspectives with

respect and to listen to and seek to understand unfamiliar points of view. You also have the right to have others respectfully listen to and seek to understand your point of view. Please feel free to come and see me at any point in the semester if you have any concerns.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Learning in this class depends on you completing all required assignments yourself.

Per the LACCD's Board Rule 9803.28, **violations of academic integrity of any type provide grounds for disciplinary action by the instructor or college.**

These violations include, but are not limited to, the following actions: cheating on an exam, plagiarism, working together on an assignment, paper or project when the instructor has specifically stated students should not do so, submitting the same term paper to more than one instructor, or allowing another individual to assume one's identity for the purpose of enhancing one's grade.

Violations of academic integrity will result in no credit for an assignment or exam and possible course failure and referral to the college for disciplinary action. If you are unsure about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, please see the instructor or complete this useful tutorial: <https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/>.



Technology in the Classroom

Electronic devices are useful tools but often distract from learning. Make sure your cell phones, mp3 players, and other machines are silenced and put away during class. **Do not text or make/accept phone calls during class.** Cell phone use will result in no attendance credit for the day, and students may be asked to leave the class or be referred to the Dean of Student Services.

You may bring a laptop, but only to take notes or access relevant class materials like lecture slides. Do not use your laptop to explore the internet, check your email, browse Facebook, etc. If you bring a laptop, sit in the back row or against the wall to avoid distracting other students.

Electronic Communication

Email is the best way to contact me. During the week (M-F), I will respond within 24 hours. I may not always check my email on weekends and holidays.

To allow me to identify your message and respond in a timely manner, please place the words "Anth 121, 0416" in the subject line. Remember to include a salutation, professional language, and your full name in the signature of your message.

Help and Resources

COURSE WEBSITE

Information for this course can be found through **Etudes**. The course website includes assigned readings, reading quizzes, other assignments, study guides, and recommended resources.

If you have never used this system before:

1. Go to <https://myetudes.org>
2. Log in with your student ID number as your user id and the four digit month and day of your birth.
3. If you are officially enrolled in this course, you will see a tab for the class at the top of the page.

If you have any problems logging in to the course page or with the Etudes system, please contact Etudes technical support at <http://etudes.org/gateway/etudes-student-help-lasc>.

BSS Labs: The Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSS) department computer lab is located in SSEC 213. You will be able to access the course site and complete online assignments there. In addition, you can meet with a study group or talk with other BSS students and faculty in SSEC 309.

Student Success Center: The Student Success Center is located in SSEC 110 and 110A and offers individual and group tutoring (both in person and online) as well as computer, internet, and printing access. For more information, go to: <http://cte.lasc.edu/content/student-success-center>

Smarthinking Online Tutoring: Smarthinking connects students with online tutors for a number of subjects. For this class, the online writing lab may be the most useful resource. You can submit a draft of any writing assignment and receive detailed feedback within 24 hours. To access this system, go to: <http://www.lasc.edu/smarthinking.html>.

Library: The main library is an excellent resource. You can find the assigned textbook for this class there as well as a number of older anthropology textbooks, ethnographies, and films. Many books are available in either print or electronic versions. In addition, the library offers computer access, copy machines, and librarians who can assist with catalog searches. You can find more information and the library catalog at: http://www.lasc.edu/students/library/about_library.html

DSPS

The disabled students programs and services (DSPS) ensure access to educational programs and resources for all students. Many services are available for qualifying students, including special counseling, note taking services, alternative testing, reading assistance, tutoring, and specialized equipment. Any student who feels she/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact DSPS in room SSB 117 to discuss your specific needs. For more information, go to: <http://www.lasc.edu/dsps/index.html>



Ask Your Instructor!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions that are not answered by this syllabus. Email me, send me a message through the Moodle site, or drop by my office during my office hours (Mon., 4-6pm and Wed., 3-5pm).

Behavioral and Social Science (BSS) department and administration:

If you have any concerns or grievances about this class that are not addressed by the professor, please contact (in the following order), Dr. Tamara Howard, Chair of BSS; Ms. Stephanie Brasley, Dean of BSS; and Ms. Trudy J. Walton, Executive Vice President.

Course Schedule and Assignments

Changes to this schedule may be made as necessary.

TOPIC	DATE	WHAT TO READ	WHAT'S DUE?
Week 1: Introduction to the Course and to Anthropology	Mon, 2/4	No readings.	Log on to the Etudes site and post in the introduction forum
	Wed, 2/6	--Miner, Body Ritual Among the Nacirema, pgs. 135-138.	Bring to class: A list of 10 things you believe to be true
Week 2: Key Concepts in the Anthropology of Religion	Mon, 2/11	--Chapter 1 Introduction, pgs. 1-5. --Geertz, Religion, pgs. 6-15 --Harris, Why We Became Religious; Evol. of the Spirit World, pgs. 16-19	
	Wed, 2/13	--Lee, Religious Perspectives in Anthropology, pgs. 20-27 --Moro, Thai Buddhism, pgs. 34-41	Reading quiz 1 online
Week 3: Symbolism	Mon, 2/18	NO CLASS: Presidents' Day	
	Wed, 2/20	--Chapter 2 Introduction, pgs. 42-45 --Wolf, The Virgin of Guadalupe, pgs. 67-71 --Serpent-Handling as Sacrament, pgs. 77-82	Reading quiz 2 online Reflective essay 1: Religious Autobiography
Week 4: Mythology	Mon, 2/25	--Leonard and McClure, The Study of Mythology, pgs. 46-57	
	Wed, 2/27	--Beattie, Nyoro Myth, pgs. 58-62 --Douglas, Taboo, pgs. 72-76	Reading quiz 3 online
Week 5: Ritual	Mon, 3/4	--Chapter 3 Introduction, pgs. 83-86 --Esterik, Ritual and the Performance of Buddhist Identity, pgs. 428-434	Reflective essay 2: Myth/ Folktale Analysis
	Wed, 3/6	--Csordas, A Handmaid's Tale, pgs. 126-134 --Rappaport, Ritual Regulation of Environmental Relations, pgs. 116-125	Reading quiz 4 online
Week 6: Rites of Passage	Mon, 3/11	--Turner, Betwixt and Between; pgs. 87-96	Research paper proposal due
	Wed, 3/13	EXAM 1	EXAM 1 in class

Last Day to Add
a Class

Feb. 16 (noon)

Last Day to Drop
WITHOUT a "W"

Feb. 18

Last Day to Drop
with a "W"

May 5

Course Schedule and Assignments, continued

Changes to this schedule may be made as necessary.

TOPIC	DATE	WHAT TO READ	WHAT'S DUE?
Week 7: Altered States of Consciousness and Religious Use of Drugs	Mon, 3/18	--Chapter 5 Introduction, pgs. 184-187 --Harner, The Sound of Rushing Water, pgs. 214-219	Reflective essay 3: Rite of Passage
	Wed, 3/20	--Kiyaani and Csordas, On the Peyote Road, pgs. 207-209 --Furst and Coe, Ritual Enemas, pgs. 210-213 --Hutson, The Rave, pgs. 220-234	Reading quiz 5 online
Week 8: Sickness, Healing, and Ethnomedicine	Mon, 3/25	--Chapter 6 Introduction, pgs. 236-239 --Lehmann, Eyes of the Ngangas, pgs. 240-248 --Rebhun, Swallowing Frogs, pgs. 249-260	
	Wed, 3/27	--Greenfield, Hypnosis and Trance Induction, pgs. 196-206 --Fadiman, The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down, pgs. 269-275	Reading quiz 6 online
Week 9: SPRING BREAK	Mon, 4/1	NO CLASS: Spring Break	
	Wed, 4/3	NO CLASS: Spring Break	
Week 10: Religious Specialists	Mon, 4/8	--Chapter 4 Introduction, pgs. 139-141 --Turner, Religious Specialists, pgs. 142-149	Reflective essay 4: Ethnomedicine
	Wed, 4/10	--Brown, Dark Side of the Shaman, pgs. 158-161	Reading quiz 7 online
Week 11: Souls, Ghosts, Ancestors	Mon, 4/15	--Chapter 8 Introduction, pgs. 328-331 --Barber, The Real Vampire, pgs. 332-337	
	Wed, 4/17	--Metcalf, Death Be Not Strange, pgs. 345-348 --Brandes, The Cremated Catholic, pgs. 349-354	Reading quiz 8 online
Week 12: Magic	Mon, 4/22	EXAM 2	EXAM 2 in class
	Wed, 4/24	--Chapter 7 Introduction, pgs. 276-281 --Malinowski, Rational Mastery by Man, pgs. 314-319 --Gmelch, Baseball Magic, pgs. 320-326	Reading quiz 9 online

Course Schedule and Assignments, continued

Changes to this schedule may be made as necessary.

TOPIC	DATE	WHAT TO READ	WHAT'S DUE?
Week 13: Witchcraft	Mon, 4/29	--Brain, An Anthropological Perspective on the Witchcraze, pgs. 283-289 --Luhmann, The Goat and the Gazelle, pgs. 299-307	Reflective essay 5: Magical Thinking
	Wed, 5/1	--McPherson, Sorcery and Concepts of Deviance, pgs. 290-298 --Evans-Pritchard, Consulting the Poison Oracle, pgs. 308-313	Reading quiz 10 online
Week 14: Religion and Change: Syncretism and Revitalization Movements	Mon, 5/6	--Chapter 9 Introduction, pgs. 356-359 --Mason, I Bow My Head to the Ground, pgs. 97-107 --Brown, Vodou, pgs. 338-344	
	Wed, 5/8	--Wallace, Revitalization Movements, pgs. 360-365 --Kehoe, The Ghost Dance, pgs. 366-370 --Worsley, Cargo Cults, pgs. 371-375	Reading quiz 11 online
Week 15: New Religious Movements; Religious Conflict and Terrorism	Mon, 5/13	Barkun, Reflections after Waco, pgs. 177-182 Lewis, Urban Rastas, pgs. 376-380	Short essay 6: Religious Artifact
	Wed, 5/15	Fluehr-Lobban, Islamic Law, pgs. 397-407 Hoodfar, The Veil in their Minds and on Our Heads, pgs. 412-427	Reading quiz 12 online
Week 16: Religious conflict, cont.; Wrap-Up and Review	Mon, 5/20	Juergensmeyer, Religious Terror and Global War, pgs. 435-443	
	Wed, 5/22	No readings.	Ritual Observation and Analysis due
Week 17: Final Exams	Mon, 5/27	NO CLASS: Memorial Day	
	Wed, 5/29, 10:15 am-12:15 pm	Exam 3	