

Syllabus

ANT3241: Myth, Ritual, and Mysticism; Section 1228

Professor John White

Spring 2023

Virtual Office Hours: Mondays 8:30 - 10:30 am and by appointment

Course Description

This course explores how cultures across the world conceptualize the supernatural and how these beliefs interact with their lives and environments. Case studies will be drawn from around the world, including South America, North America, Oceania, Asia, Africa, and Europe amongst others, to probe the world of spirits, gods, magic, ritual, and religions. In doing so, we will strive to suspend our ethnocentrism to study the ways in which cultures ascribe meaning to symbols, places, objects, entities, and events in their environments.

Multiple-choice and short-answer quizzes will be due Sunday by Midnight (no accumulative final examination). Additionally, 8 short essays will also be due at this time. In these essays, students will apply class concepts in their analyses of their own sources they find online, describing the ways in which that source is an example of the course content discussed that week using key terms from the text.

Course Objectives

By the end of this semester students enrolled in this course will be able to:

- Cite case studies from around the world to illustrate the diversity of supernatural and religious practices.
- Explain key terms and their importance (e.g. symbol, religion, ritual) using examples drawn from different cultural groups
- Compare and contrast religious specialists
- Discuss consciousness, its alteration, and centrality in religious or supernatural experiences
- Describe examples of how religious belief or supernatural beliefs have interaction with applied topics in the study of environments, conflicts, conservation, and peace.

- Quickly and efficiently conduct digital literature searches for evidence related to one or more keywords

Global Learning Assessments

Every student must answer multiple choice questions which will ask them to show the familiarity they have gained about different religious faiths.

Every enrolled student is expected to complete essay exams during the semester. These essays will ask students to demonstrate mastery of the material covered as well as an ability to apply the acquired knowledge to an improved understanding of the global world.

Global Learning Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the historical and contemporary inter-relatedness of key local, regional and global religious and spiritual issues and events, including beliefs in magic, witchcraft, and sorcery. (GLOBAL AWARENESS)
- Demonstrate the ability to compose an analysis of various perspectives associated with different culturally-based conceptualizations of the supernatural world and their attendant practices and rituals, which can also be linked to different geographic locations on the global stage. (GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE)
- Willingly better engage in a number of problem-solving activities in a variety of sociocultural contexts around the globe.(GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT)

For more information about the Global Learning Student Learning Outcomes, please consult the FIU Global Learning for Global Citizenship.

Global Learning Graduation Honors

FIU's Excellence in Global Learning Graduation Medallion is awarded to students who complete at least four global learning courses, participate in a variety of global co-curricular activities, and complete a capstone consisting of one of the following: a substantial original research project and presentation on a global topic; extensive foreign language study; long-term study abroad; or, a globally-focused internship. The Peace Corps Prep certification is conferred upon students who complete at least three global learning courses, language study, and a global problem-solving project. For more information, visit goglobal.fiu.edu

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Important Information

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

- [Policies](#)
- [Technical Requirements and Skills](#)
- [Accessibility and Accommodation](#)
- [Academic Misconduct Statement](#)
- [Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#)

Expectations of this Course

This is a fully online course. Online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- Review how to get started information located in the course content
- Take the practice quiz to ensure that your computer is compatible with Canvas
- Interact online with instructor/s and peers
- Review and follow the course calendar, including all quizzes and written assignments
- Provide original answers to the essay questions. If it appears that a student has copied from another person's work without citing it (plagiarism), FIU's policies for Academic Misconduct will be followed.

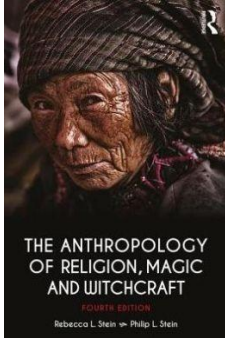
Ground Rules

1. Plagiarism is a serious offense. If you use the work of other authors without giving them credit, you will receive a '0' for the assignment and you will be reported to Academic Affairs. To avoid plagiarism, the essay exams will have to be uploaded on a turnitin.com site associated with this course.

2. Forming a What's App (or similar) group to work together on the quizzes is cheating, and those who share quiz questions or answers will be reported to Academic Affairs.

3. In this course, we will be discussing topics some might consider sensitive, provocative, or taboo such as race, sexuality, and religious beliefs. It is imperative that you express your opinions in a respectful manner.

Textbook and Course Materials



The Anthropology of Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft
Rebecca L. Stein, Phillip L. Stein
Pearson, 4th edition (2017) or 3rd Edition (2011)
ISBN: 9781138692527
E-text is available

You may purchase your textbooks online at the [FIU Bookstore](#)

Readings from this course consist of one textbook and a series of articles. There are also several required films. All readings (with the exception of the textbook and films will be available on the course's Canvas website or shown in class. Required readings for the course are located within the Canvas module for which they are assigned.

Quizzes

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the [Practice Quiz](#) from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. For quiz duration, grading criteria and feedback response time, please review the [important information about quizzes](#) page.

There are eight quizzes based on assigned readings, lectures, and films. These quizzes have multiple choice questions.

Essay Assignments

At the end of each weekly unit, every student will submit a short essay assignment. These essays will ask students to demonstrate an understanding of the material covered that week. To do so, each student will submit a 100-word analytical summary of a digital article or news story (with URL link) related to that week's course topic which they have found online via an academic search engine such as google scholar.

Grading

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available
Module Quizzes	8	60	480
Weekly Analytical Essays	8	60	480

Schedule

Week	Topic
1 (week of October 17th)	The Anthropological Study of Religion
2	Mythology and Symbology
3	Ritual
4	Altered States
5	Religious Specialists
6	Magic Witchcraft

7	Souls, Ghosts, and Death God and Spirits
8 (Week of Dec 3rd)	Search for New Meaning Religion, Conflict, and Peace

Letter	Range	Letter	Range%	Letter	Range
A	Above 930	B	830 - 869	C	700 - 769
A-	900 - 929	B-	800 - 829	D	620 - 699
B+	870 - 899	C+	770 - 799	F	Below 620