

ANT 3241-P80
MYTH, RITUAL, AND MYSTICISM
FALL 2022

Meeting Location: I-75 329

Meeting Time: Tuesday, 3:00am-4:15pm

Instructor: Dr. Aslihan Akkaya

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Office: SIPA 315 (ZOOM)

Office Hours: F, 12-1:00pm (Zoom) & by appt.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the anthropological study of religion and will focus upon phenomena that may be categorized broadly as “religion” and the closely related concept “supernatural”. It is not a theology course but examines and analyzes the way religion is practiced and performed in diverse societies through reviewing central aspects of religion, such as mythology, symbolism, ritual, religious specialists, gods and spirits, witchcraft, and magic. This course will approach these topics from the perspective of anthropology. The course begins with an overview of anthropological approaches and theoretical contributions to the study of religion. We will look at the role religion plays in everyday life via reviewing topics such as sickness, death, and uncertainty. The course ends with an examination of religious change and movements.

UNIVERSITY CORE CURRICULUM COURSE

This course satisfies the following University Core Curriculum requirement for Social Science Group Two (university-required):

- Students will demonstrate the ability to examine behavioral, social, and cultural issues from a variety of points of view. Students will demonstrate an understanding of basic social and behavioral science concepts and principles used in the analysis of behavioral, social, and cultural issues, past and present, local and global.

It is supported by the following learning outcomes for the course:

- Explain how terms such as “culture” and “religion” are defined in anthropology.
- Explain and differentiate between different theoretical approaches to the study of religion.
- Understand the culturally informed and quite diverse imaginations about the supernatural world and supernatural forces in different societal contexts, from the post-industrial global north (Western Europe and North America), to the BRIC countries, and so-called traditional societies in Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Australia.
- Be a better world citizen by understanding the existence of different ways of being human, of being spiritual and religious or atheist.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- Understand the culturally informed and quite diverse imaginations about the supernatural world and supernatural forces in different societal contexts, from the post-industrial global north (Western Europe and North America), to the BRIC countries, and so-called traditional societies in Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Australia.

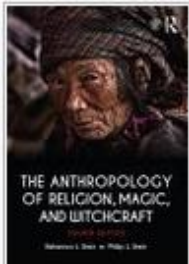
- Better understand the linkages and non-hierarchically determining differences among distinct human beliefs, from more or less complex religious systems, about magic and witchcraft, superstition, sorcery and mysticism.
- Understand the links that exist, differently in different societies, between spirituality, religious beliefs, and conviction of the existence of supernatural forces on one side and other aspects of societies including health care.
- Be able to contextualize their own religious beliefs, spirituality, and/or lack thereof thanks to a better understanding of beliefs they are unfamiliar with.
- Be a better world citizen by understanding the existence of different ways of being human, of being spiritual and religious or atheist.
- Describe the nature of anthropological fieldwork and contrast its methodology with that of other disciplines.
- Explain how terms such as “culture” and “religion” are defined in anthropology.
- Explain and differentiate between different theoretical approaches to the study of religion.
- Explain the concept of ritual and categorize different types of ritual.
- Compare and contrast different types of religious specialists.
- Explain altered states of consciousness and describe the role they play in religious experiences.
- Differentiate between various types of supernatural entities including gods, spirits, souls, ghosts, and ancestors.

GL 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, sorcery and various kinds of superstitions. (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)

TEXTBOOK (REQUIRED)

 <p><i>Required Textbook</i></p>	<p>AUTHOR: Rebecca L Stein and Philip Stein TITLE: The Anthropology of Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft PUBLISHER: Taylor and Francis; 4th edition (2017) ISBN: 9781138692527 All editions are fine (2nd, 3rd, 4th) FREE E-TEXT: https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/fiu/reader.action?docID=4856273</p>
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TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

CANVAS: Additional Readings, Requirements, Course Slides, Project Guidelines, Citation Guidelines will be in CANVAS. You will also use CANVAS to submit your weekly in-class activities and assignments. Login via <http://canvas.fiu.edu/login/> and check that you can access the course website. If you encounter any technical problems, then call UTS at 305.348.2284 or go to Green Library Rm. 150.

ZOOM: We will use Zoom for office hours. We might also use Zoom for emergencies. You will be required to sign in with your FIU ID and password. Click on fiu.zoom.us and use your FIU credentials to sign in. You can also find the Zoom link in your Canvas course (Left menu). Additionally, you can download the Zoom app on your phone and connect via your phone. Make sure you have a working camera and sound.

CLASS STRUCTURE

This is a hybrid course, which means 50% of the course work will be conducted online and 50% in class. Expectations for performance in hybrid course are the same for a traditional course, even though we spend only about half of the time together in a classroom when compared to a normal, face-to-face course. Hybrid courses require a degree of self-discipline, self-motivation, and technology skills that might make these courses more demanding for some students.

In addition, this class will operate as an interactive lecture, which means that most of the class time will be used to do the harder work of assimilating that knowledge (through problem-solving, discussion, or debates). In this vein, this course utilizes Team-Based Learning (TBL). You will be assigned to a team at the beginning of the semester. Teams are different than groups. You will understand the difference during the first week of the semester. You will be expected to get prepared for classes by completing the work outside of class and coming to class to apply that knowledge through team activities, projects, and debates. Thus, regular attendance, student preparedness, and meaningful participation are expected of each student. Coming prepared to participate in class discussions and applying your knowledge from assigned work to do problem-solving will allow all of you to better work through and conceptualize difficult concepts and theories, and to apply these theories to your own experiences and learn from each other. Module summaries will guide you in getting prepared for each class. Team assignments and debates will then help you to further your understanding and collaboratively put your knowledge into practice.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This course will use mixed teaching and learning methods to better accommodate the particularities of students. We will have individual, group, and team-based projects and evaluations.

1. MODULE SUMMARIES (10 OUT OF 13)	40%
2. TEAM ASSIGNMENTS (13 OUT OF 14)	25%
3. ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION GRADE	10%
4. GLOBAL LEARNING PROJECT	25%
TOTAL	100%

The cut-off points (as a percentage) for all work will be:
94 A, 90 A-, 87 B+, 83 B, 80 B-, 77 C+, 73 C, 70 C-, 67 D+, 63 D, 60 D-.

1. MODULE SUMMARIES (40%)

After you complete the required work for each module, you will be asked to write a short summary on the assigned work. You can find the guidelines and rubric for these summaries in CANVAS. You will submit these assignments via CANVAS before each class. These assignments will be about 1-2 page, 12-inch font, and 1-inch margins. You can miss 3 module summaries with no penalty. Additionally, you can submit two late. Points will be deducted for lateness. (Global Awareness, Global Perspective)

2. TEAM ASSIGNMENTS (25% OF GRADE)

The weekly class sessions are a main source of learning in this course. Please arrive classes on time and plan to stay for the entire session. There will be multiple activities during class sessions throughout the semester. These may include short reflections, film viewing guides, and other team-based activities. No make-up or late assignments will be accepted (unless you have a documented excuse). Missing more than one team activity will have a negative effect on your grade in the class. You will mostly work in teams to complete in-class activities. You will be assigned to permanent teams during the second week of the semester. At the end of the semester, you will assess your team members' individual performances. Your team grade will be calculated based on points collected as a team, your team performance, my evaluation of your team performance, presentation & participation grade, and attendance. Each team member will receive an individual team grade based on these factors. Each assignment will be completed in class and will be submitted through CANVAS during class time. (Global Awareness, Global Perspective, Global Engagement)

3. ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION GRADE (10% OF GRADE)

Each week teams will present their work that they complete during class time to other teams. Be ready to present your in-class team activity/discussion points to class. I will ask different teams to present their work each week. In addition, you will be required to participate in class discussions. Some team members would volunteer to share their team's perspective/votes on certain issues. You have to choose a different volunteer each time. You will earn 10% by only presenting your work to others in addition to participating in in-class discussions. Your attendance is another factor that would affect your team presentation, participation, and attendance grade. Arriving late might affect your team grade in addition to presentation and participation grade. (Global Awareness, Global Perspective)

4. GL PROJECT: BEYOND MY CULTURAL COMFORTS PROJECT (25%)

For this individual project students are required to write a term paper (5-6 pages) that will be based on both library research and brief fieldwork conducted in at least one South Florida religious or spiritual community to which the students don't belong. The project would analyze one chosen ritual from a specific community and/or religion. Detailed guidelines and rubric for this project can be found in CANVAS. (Global Awareness, Global Perspective, and Global Engagement)

GRADES

CANVAS - My Grades: Check your grades periodically. It is your responsibility to check your grades in CANVAS and inform us on missing grades/assignments before the semester ends. Canvas

GENERAL CLASS POLICIES

1. **Attendance:** You may have one absence and you may be tardy twice per semester without penalty. Any absence or tardy beyond one will result in you being marked down by two points in the overall class. Any absence or tardy beyond two will result in you being marked down by four to five points in the overall class. If you need to miss a class due to illness (medical doctor's note), Covid-related (P-3 app and note from FIU), religious observances or team participation (official paper work) you must notify me before class. I will accommodate legitimate, verifiable cases of illness and emergencies in addition to religious holidays (two-weeks in advance notice).

***MISSING MORE THAN ONE CLASS WITHOUT AN OFFICIAL EXCUSE WILL BRING YOUR OVERALL GRADE DOWN 2 POINTS PER CLASS MISSED. ***

2. **Conduct in the Classroom:** Students are expected to treat the professor and other students with dignity and respect, especially in cases where a diversity of opinion arises. If students disrupt the learning process or act in a disrespectful and/or threatening behavior toward the professor or other students in class, they will be asked to leave the class. However, if the same student continues engaging in disruptive behavior, they will be subjected to disciplinary action, including removal from the course.
3. **Joining a Team:** Each team will have 5 students in it. During week 1 and 2, I will explain how to form a team and enroll in your team on CANVAS. During Week 1, you will be working in a temporary team. You are required to join your team through CANVAS to receive grades for your team assignments. At the end of the semester, you will evaluate your team member's individual performances.
4. **Tardiness:** Assignments received after the deadline will lose 1/2 or 1 grade; one week and over 2 full grade or more. Only 3 late work accepted.
5. **Plagiarism/Academic Honesty:** As an FIU student, you are always expected to abide by university's policies particularly those governing academic honesty and plagiarism as they appear in the FIU Student Handbook. If you are not familiar with how to avoid plagiarism, you will receive some instruction and additional guidelines in this course. In sum, should anything you/your team produces cite any data, research or information that you have not generated, and which is not general knowledge then you must cite it appropriately following one of the disciplinary conventions of the academic disciplines represented by the faculty teaching this course. More information about citation formatting will be given to you via Blackboard. Please become completely familiar with bibliographic styles and citation conventions. If you do not cite others' work adequately you can be accused of plagiarism and FIU takes these accusations very seriously. Several of your written assignments will be submitted using Turnitin.com to check your work for plagiarism. Finally, I reserve the right to alter the syllabus as needed. You will be notified of any changes.
6. **Academic Conduct:** Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and to honestly demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

Please notify the faculty prior to or immediately upon commencement of this course about your accommodation needs as in accordance with FIU policy. You will be accommodated accordingly.

This **syllabus** is **subject to change** at the discretion of the faculty. Students will be notified of such changes ahead of time via email.

COURSE OUTLINE

T: Textbook

C: CANVAS

MODULE 0

INTRODUCTIONS

August 24, Wednesday

Introduction, Syllabus Review, Team-based Learning, Brief Introduction to Anthropology, Getting to Know Each Other

SUBMIT "SYLLABUS and COURSE CONTRACT" BEFORE WEEK 2 CLASS

MODULE 1

INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY

August 31, Wednesday

The Concept of Culture, Ethnography, Fieldwork, Cultural Relativism vs. Ethnocentrism, The Anthropological Perspective, Etic and Emic Perspectives, Theory and Methods in Anthropology

SUBMIT MODULE-1 SUMMARY BEFORE CLASS

MODULE 1- READINGS and VIDEOS

Chapter 1: The Anthropological Study of Religion, Read only till pg. 15 (The Study on Religion) (T)

Article: Nacirema (C)

Watch and Review Lecture Slides (C)

Video: Off the Veranda

Check CANVAS for additional required work for this module.

Optional Readings

-Edward B. Taylor, Animism (C)

-Clifford Geertz, Religion as a Cultural System (C)

-Max Weber, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism (C)

MODULE 2

DEFINING RELIGION

Sept 7, Wednesday

The Anthropological Study of Religion, The Anthropological Perspective, What is "Religion"?, Attempts at Defining Religion, Theoretical Approaches to the Study of Religion, Orientalism

SUBMIT MODULE-2 SUMMARY BEFORE CLASS

MODULE 2- READINGS AND VIDEOS

Chapter 1: The Anthropological Study of Religion, Read from pg 15 till the end (T)

Article: Durkheim, The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life (C)

Article: <https://guidoverboom.com/towards-an-anthropological-definition-of-religion-947694182c00>

Watch and Review Lecture Slides (C)

Video: Orientalism: <https://fiu.kanopy.com/video/edward-said-orientalism>

Check CANVAS for additional required work for this module

Optional Readings

- Edward B. Taylor, Animism (C)
- Clifford Geertz, Religion as a Cultural System (C)
- Max Weber, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism (C)

MODULE 3 MYTHS AND SYMBOLS

Sept 14, Wednesday

Myths and Symbols, The Nature of Myths, Understanding Myths, Approaches to Analysis of Myths, In-class Activities and Discussions

SUBMIT MODULE-3 SUMMARY BEFORE CLASS

MODULE-3 READINGS and VIDEOS

Chapter-2: Mythology (T)

Article: Bronislaw Malinowski, The Role of Myth in Life (C)

Article: 'Those are our Eiffel Towers, our pyramids': Why Standing Rock is about much more than oil
<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2017/may/15/those-are-our-eiffel-towers-our-pyramids-why-standing-rock-is-about-much-more-than-oil>

Article: Standing Rock, #NoDAPL, and Mni Wiconi: <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/series/standing-rock-nodapl-and-mni-wiconi>

Watch and Review Lecture Slides (C)

-Check CANVAS for additional required work for this week!

Optional Readings

- Edmund Leach, Genesis as Myth (C)
- Bronislaw Malinowski, Myth in Primitive Psychology (C)
- Marcel Griaule and Germaine Dieterlen, The Dogon (C)

MODULE 4 RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS

Sept 21, Wednesday

Religious Symbols, Sacred Art, Sacred Space and Time, The Symbolism of Music and Dance, In-class Activities

SUBMIT MODULE-4 SUMMARY BEFORE CLASS

MODULE-4 READINGS and VIDEOS

Chapter-3: Religious Symbols (T)

Article: Eric Wolf, "The Virgin of Guadalupe: A Mexican National Symbol" (C)

Watch and Review Lecture Slides (C)

Video: Symbolism in Balinese Cockfight: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=avW6g31hy-c>

-Check CANVAS for additional required work for this week!

Optional Readings

- E.E. Evans-Pritchard, The Problem of Symbols (C)
- Sherry Ortner, On Key Symbols (C)
- Medusa's Hair: An Essay on Personal Symbols & Religious Experience

MODULE 5 RITUAL AND MYTH

Sept 28, Wednesday Ritual and Myth, The Basics of Ritual Performances, Rites of Passage, Classification of Rituals, Religious Obligations, In-class Activities

SUBMIT MODULE-5 SUMMARY BEFORE CLASS

MODULE-5 READINGS and VIDEOS

- Chapter-4: Ritual (T)
- Article: V. W. Turner, Symbolism & Social Structure among the Ndembu (C)
- Watch and Review Lecture Slides (C)
- Video: Rites of Passage, Find the link in slides (C)

-Check CANVAS for additional required work for this week!

Optional Readings

- Edmund Leach, Ritual Symbolism (C)
- Turner, Victor (1964) Betwixt and Between: The Liminal Period in Rites de Passage (C)
- Paul Radin, The Winnebago Trickster Figure (C)

MODULE 6 ALTERED STATES OF CONSCIOUSNESS

Oct 5, Wednesday Altered States of Consciousness (ASC), Entering an ASC, Ritual setting in ASC, Ethnographic Examples of ASC, In-class Activities

SUBMIT MODULE-6 SUMMARY BEFORE CLASS

MODULE-6 READINGS and VIDEOS

- Chapter-5: Altered States of Consciousness (T)
- Article: Napoleon A. Chagnon, My Adventure with Ebene (C)
- Watch and Review Lecture Slides (C)
- Video: Peyote Road: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9K7oNclG04>

-Check CANVAS for additional required work for this week!

Optional Readings

- Douglass Price-Williams and Dureen Hughes, Shamanism and ASC (C)
- Michael Harner, "The Sound of Rushing Water" (C)
- I.M. Lewis, Trance, Possession, Shamanism, and Sex, pp. 188-195 (C)

MODULE 7 RELIGIOUS SPECIALISTS

Oct 12, Wednesday Religious Specialists, Shamans, Becoming a Shaman, Priests, Becoming a Priest, Other Specialists, Diviner, Prophets

SUBMIT MODULE-7 SUMMARY BEFORE CLASS

MODULE-7 READINGS and VIDEOS

Chapter-6: Religious Specialists (T)

Article: Margery Wolf, The Woman Who Didn't Become a Shaman (C)

Watch and Review Lecture Slides (C)

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dz0XLVUq3WI&t=181s> First 15 minutes only.

Video: Shamans of Siberia: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-JPKkV8cCf0>

-Check CANVAS for additional required work for this week!

Optional Readings

-Victor W. Turner, Religious Specialists (C)

MODULE 8

MAGIC AND DIVINATION

Oct 19, Wednesday

Magic and Divinations, Magic and Religion, The Function of Magic, Magic in Society, Divination, Forms of Divination, In-class Activities

SUBMIT MODULE-8 SUMMARY BEFORE CLASS

MODULE-8 READINGS and VIDEOS

Chapter-7: Magic and Divination (T)

Article: George Gmelch , Baseball Magic (C)

Article: Performing Magical Capitalism: <https://www.epicpeople.org/performing-magical-capitalism/>

Watch and Review Lecture Slides (C)

Video: Oracles from Zande Documentary, Find the link in module slides (C)

-Check CANVAS for additional required work for this week!

Optional Readings

-Evans-Pritchard, Witchcraft, Oracles & Magic Among the Azande (C)

-Shanafelt, Robert (2004) Magic, Miracle, and Marvels in Anthropology Ethnos, 69 (3):317-340. (C)

-Stanley J. Tambiah, Form and Meaning of Magical Acts (C)

****LAST DAY TO DROP A CLASS WITH A DR GRADE, OCT 31, 2022****

MODULE 9

SOULS, DEATH, AND THE AFTERLIFE

Oct 26, Wednesday

Souls and Ancestors, Variation in the Concept of the Soul; Souls, Death, and the Afterlife, Bodies and Souls, Death Rituals, Funeral Rituals, In-class Activities: Halloween

SUBMIT MODULE-9 SUMMARY BEFORE CLASS

MODULE-9 READINGS and VIDEOS

Chapter-8: Souls, Ghosts and Death (T)

Article: Lyle B. Steadman et. al., The Universality of Ancestor Worship (C)

Article: The History of Halloween (C)

Watch and Review Lecture Slides (C)

Video: Halloween documentary, Find the link in Canvas module (C)

-Check CANVAS for additional required work for this week!

Optional Readings

- Walter Whiteaker III, The Contemporary American Funeral Ritual (C)
- J.H.M. Beattie, The Ghost Cult in Bunyoro (C)

MODULE 10 WITCHCRAFT AND SORCERY

Nov 2, Wednesday Witchcraft and Sorcery; Witchcraft in Small-Scale Societies, Witchcraft, Oracles, and Magic among the Azande, Witchcraft and Sorcery, Euro-American Witchcraft Beliefs

SUBMIT MODULE-10 SUMMARY BEFORE CLASS

MODULE-10 READINGS and VIDEOS

- Chapter-10: Witchcraft (T).
- Article: E.E. Evans-Pritchard, Witchcraft, Oracles, & Magic Among the Azande (C)
- Watch and Review Lecture Slides (C)
- Video: Watch Azande TED Talk

-Check CANVAS for additional required work for this week!

Optional Reading

- Paul Boyer et al., Witchcraft and Social Identity (C)

*****GLOBAL LEARNING PROJECT*****

*****Due by Sunday, Nov 13 @Midnight via CANVAS*****

MODULE 11 WITCHCRAFT CONT. & GODS AND SPIRITS

Nov 9, Wednesday Witchcraft Cont., Gods and Spirits; Supernatural, Gods, Spirits and Society; Monotheism; Polytheism, In-class Activities

SUBMIT MODULE-11 SUMMARY BEFORE CLASS

MODULE-11 READINGS and VIDEOS

- Chapter-9: Gods and Spirits (T)
- Article: Classical Mythology, p. 128-136 only (C)
- Watch and Review Lecture Slides (C)
- Watch Video: Greek Gods, Find the link in Module Slides (C)
- Watch Documentary: Salem Witch Trials, Find the link in Canvas module (C)

-Check CANVAS for additional required work for this week!

Optional Readings

- M. Eliade, The Sacred and the Profane, 20-65. (C)

MODULE 12 ADAPTATION AND CHANGE

Nov 16, Wednesday Adaptation and Change; Syncretism and Revitalization; Domains and Boundaries of Religion, Fundamentalism, Secularism, and New Religious Movements, In-class Activities

SUBMIT MODULE-12 SUMMARY BEFORE CLASS

MODULE-12 READINGS and VIDEOS

Chapter-11: The Search for New Meaning (T)
Article: Alice Beck Kehoe, "The Ghost Dance Religion" (C)
Watch and Review Lecture Slides (C)
Video: Documentary "Cults", Find the link in Canvas module (C)

-Check CANVAS for additional required work for this week!

Optional Readings

Peter M. Worsley, "Cargo Cults" (C)

Nov 23-No Class- THANKSGIVING BREAK

MODULE 13 CONCLUSIONS: LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

Nov 30, Wednesday Looking Back, Moving Forward
Workshop-I and Workshop-II

SUBMIT MODULE-13 SUMMARY before CLASS, Check guidelines (C)

Check CANVAS for additional required work for this week!

FINAL MODULE *** FINALS WEEK *******

Dec 5-9 **No Final Exam. Just make sure you have submitted your GL PROJECT.**

This course syllabus is subject to change if the instructor deems it necessary in order to accomplish the course objectives. Students will be advised about any change made to the syllabus.

READ "SYLLABUS" CAREFULLY BEFORE WEEK 1 CLASS. SUBMIT "SYLLABUS" CONTRACT BEFORE WEEK-1 CLASS. IF YOU COULD NOT BEFORE WEEK-1 CLASS, THEN MAKE SURE TO SUBMIT IT BEFORE OUR WEEK-2 CLASS.