



**ANT 3241**  
**Myth, Ritual, and Mysticism**  
Section: U02

Hybrid/Certified

Fall Term 2025

## Course Meeting Information

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Class meeting times	
Day:	Tuesdays
Time:	11:00am-12:15pm
Location:	Green Library 165

Course Time Zone | Eastern Time (ET). Course due dates are according to this time zone.

## Professor Information

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Juliet Erazo

**Roles:** Primary Instructor

**Email:** [jerazo@fiu.edu](mailto:jerazo@fiu.edu)

**Response Time:** Within 24 hours

**Phone:** (305) 348 - 2246 (email preferred)

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, 9:45-10:45am and 12:30-2:30pm in person. Mondays 12-1pm via Zoom.

**Office Location:** SIPA 332

**Website:** <https://sipa.fiu.edu/people/faculty/global-and-sociocultural-studies/erazo.juliet.html>

**Department or Academic Unit:** Global and Sociocultural Studies

## Course Prerequisites

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None.

## Course Description and Purpose

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This course is concerned with analyzing how different cultures understand the supernatural world, the world of spirits and gods, magical powers, religions, and mystical dangers. Examples are drawn from Europe and North America, Africa, Asia, Australia, South America and the Caribbean. A fundamental premise of the course is that human beings understand our world and shape our lives in large part by assigning meanings to objects, beings, events, and persons; by connecting things together in symbolic patterns; and by creating elaborate forms of symbolic action and narrative.

In this course, we will be concerned not so much with coming to absolute conclusions as with learning how to analyze belief and practice; appreciating the complexity and ambiguity of the historical and anthropological record; and with weighing alternative interpretations.

There is no cumulative final exam. Instead, there will be a quiz (with multiple choice questions) at the end of each module. You are also expected to class preparation exercises, in-class assignments, and 3 larger assignments. The first large assignment will ask you to analyze an ethnography which will be read over the first few weeks of the class (Mama Lola: A Vodou Priestess in Brooklyn). The second and third will ask you to use concepts from the class to analyze other ethnographic case studies. The essay questions, rubrics, and readings needed to complete these essays will be provided at least one week before the due date, and you are free to work ahead if you wish.

## Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

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Student learning outcomes allow faculty to assess the level of proficiency in content knowledge and skills that their students acquire in a course.

If the objective meets a special designation, you will see the code after the objective:

University Core Curriculum: UCC

Gordon Rule Writing: GRW

Global Learning: GL

Civic Literacy: CL

- Demonstrate their understanding of the culturally-informed and quite diverse human beliefs about supernatural beings and forces.
- Draw linkages between religious beliefs and other important aspects of people's lives, such as ideas about healthcare.
- Contextualize their own religious beliefs, spirituality, and/or lack thereof thanks to a better understanding of others' beliefs.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the historical and contemporary inter-relatedness of key local, regional and global religious and spiritual issues and events (GL: 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 (GL: Global Perspective)).
- Engage in a number of problem-solving activities associated with a variety of sociocultural contexts around the globe (GL: Global Engagement)).

## Expectations of this Course

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This is a hybrid online/in-person course. Hybrid 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), or copied their answer directly from an AI source, 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 or provocative, as it concerns religious beliefs. It is imperative that you express your opinions in a respectful manner.

## Late Assessments and Assignments

Deadlines can be adjusted if students request extensions, within reason. If a student gets so far behind that I feel that there is no way that the student will be able to submit quality work before the class ends, I retain the right to refuse to give a large number of extensions.

## Textbook and Course Materials

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### **The Anthropology of Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft**

**Authors:** Rebecca L. Stein, Phillip L. Stein, Benjamin R. Kracht, and Marjorie M. Snipes

**Publisher:** Pearson, 5th edition

**Copyright Date:** 2025

**ISBN 13:** paperback: 978-103257299-4

### **Mama Lola**

**Authors:** Karen M. Brown

**Publisher:** PERSEUS D or University of California Press

**Publication Date:** April 5, 2011

# Grading

Course Grading Table

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available
First week Participation & Syllabus quiz	1	14	14
Module Quizzes	11	36+4 extra credit	396 + 44 extra credit
Large Assignments	3	100-120	340
Class Prep & Participation	13	20	260 + 10 extra credit for first class
TOTAL	28		1000 + 54 extra credit

Grading Scheme

Letter	Range %
A	Above 93
A-	90-92.9
B+	87-89.9
B	83-86.9
B-	80-82.9
C+	77-79.9
C	70-76.9
D	62-69.9
F	Below 62

## Schedule of Topics

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Unit 1	<b>Anthropological Research and Introduction to the Anthropology Of Religion</b>
Unit 2	<b>Symbols, Myths, and Rituals -- core aspects of the Anthropology of Religion. Case study: Haitian vodou</b>
Unit 3	<b>Altered States of Consciousness, Religious Specialists, and Magic. Case study: the Amazonian Kichwa of Ecuador</b>
Unit 4	<b>Revitalization Movements and associated topics: Case Studies: Wicca, Mary worship, the Purity Movement in the US, and the Piety Movement in Syria</b>
Unit 5	<b>Ideas about health, illness, death, and the soul</b>

## Canvas Schedule

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Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	<a href="#">Academic Honesty Policy</a>	Quiz	0
	<a href="#">Mid-Semester Grade (UCC Requirement)</a>	Assignment	0
8/26/25	<a href="#">Class Participation August 26</a>	Assignment	10
9/1/25	<a href="#">Quiz 1</a>	Quiz	36
9/1/25	<a href="#">Welcome Video Quiz</a>	Quiz	4

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
9/2/25	<a href="#">Class Prep &amp; Partic 2</a>	Assignment	20
9/8/25	<a href="#">Quiz 2</a>	Quiz	36
9/9/25	<a href="#">Class Prep &amp; Partic 3</a>	Assignment	20
9/15/25	<a href="#">Quiz 3</a>	Quiz	36
9/16/25	<a href="#">Class Prep &amp; Partic 4</a>	Assignment	20
9/22/25	<a href="#">Quiz 4</a>	Quiz	36
9/23/25	<a href="#">Class Prep &amp; Partic 5</a>	Assignment	20
9/30/25	<a href="#">Class Prep &amp; Partic 6</a>	Assignment	20
10/6/25	<a href="#">Quiz 5</a>	Quiz	36
10/7/25	<a href="#">Class Prep &amp; Partic 7</a>	Assignment	20
10/13/25	<a href="#">Quiz 6</a>	Quiz	36
10/14/25	<a href="#">Class Prep &amp; Partic 8</a>	Assignment	20
10/20/25	<a href="#">Quiz 7</a>	Quiz	36
10/21/25	<a href="#">Class Prep &amp; Partic 9</a>	Assignment	20
10/27/25	<a href="#">Assignment 2 (Essay)</a>	Assignment	100
10/28/25	<a href="#">Class Prep &amp; Partic 10</a>	Assignment	20
11/3/25	<a href="#">Quiz 10/11</a>	Quiz	36
11/4/25	<a href="#">Class Prep &amp; Partic 11</a>	Assignment	20
11/10/25	<a href="#">Quiz 12</a>	Quiz	36
11/18/25	<a href="#">Class Prep &amp; Partic 12</a>	Assignment	20

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
11/24/25	<a href="#">Assignment 3 (Only if you missed the Kritik assignment)</a>	Assignment	120
11/24/25	<a href="#">Quiz 8</a>	Quiz	36
11/25/25	<a href="#">Class Prep &amp; Partic 13</a>	Assignment	20
12/1/25	<a href="#">Quiz 9</a>	Quiz	36
12/2/25	<a href="#">Class Prep &amp; Partic 14</a>	Assignment	20

## Policies & Resources

Please review the [FIU's Policies webpage](#). The policies webpage contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU, as well as additional information about acceptable netiquette for online courses. For additional information, please visit [FIU's Policy and Procedure Library](#).

As a member of the FIU community, you are expected to be knowledgeable about the behavioral expectations set forth in the [FIU Student Conduct and Honor Code](#).

## Assignments & Assessments



### Class Prep and Participation

As this class is being taught in "hybrid" format, students are expected to complete online assignments between classes. In addition to a module quiz, each week that the class meets (except the first meeting), there will be a class preparation activity. Students will also earn points each week for attending class and participating in in-class discussions or activities.



### Module Quizzes

There are eleven quizzes based on assigned readings, lectures, and films. These quizzes have multiple choice questions and include one extra credit question per quiz. For

modules that have films that last more than 15 minutes, study guides will be provided.



## **Large Assignments**

At the end of each unit, every enrolled student will have to complete a comprehensive assignment such as an essay or power point presentation. These assignments 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.



## **Extra Credit**

There are 54 extra credit points built into the class (4 extra credit points per quiz, plus 10 for class participation), so the final score will be calculated as if there were only 1000 points in the class (even though there are actually 1054).

## **Nondiscrimination Statement**

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The **Office of Civil Rights Compliance and Accessibility (CRCA)** is responsible for ensuring that FIU maintains a workplace and learning environment free from discrimination, where current and prospective faculty, staff, and students are treated equitably. If any student, employee, or applicant has a sincere and reasonable belief that they have been discriminated against or harassed based on age, color, disability, marital status, ethnic or national origin, race, religion, retaliation, sex, or any other protected category, they can report their concerns to the CRCA team through [report.fiu.edu](https://report.fiu.edu).