Myth, Ritual, & Mysticism
ANT-3241
Instructor: Dr. Phyllis Baker
pbaker@fiu.edu
Department of Cultural & Global Studies

Required Books:

A Dreamer’s Journey by Phyllis Baker
Many Lives Many Masters by Brian Weiss
African-American Spirituality, Thought, & Culture by Phyllis Baker
The Tao of Pooh by Ben Hoff

Suggested Reading:

The Power of Myth by Joseph Campbell
God is a Verb by Rabbi David Cooper
The Tao of Physics by Fritjof Capra

Course Objective

This course will provide a survey of various approaches, ideas and beliefs as it to mysticism. It will explore the rituals, myths and frameworks that are held and observed divergent ethnic and cultural groups over time, and how various cosmologies and world views are established. This study seeks to provide the learners with an understanding and appreciation of how people understand their world and divine revelation. Additionally, this course will provide insight into the multidimensional possibilities in which human beings construct their “Life World”. Ultimately, this course is designed to assist the student in gaining a better understanding of self and other human beings, their belief systems and the many ways of worship and making contact with “ultimate reality”. This course seeks to teach mutual respect for other groups as we collectively try to make sense of the world.

Specifically, the following topics will be covered in the course:

I. Culture, Cultural Relativism, and Ethnocentrism.
II. Metaphysics
III. Shamanism
IV. The Mystery Schools
V. Dreams & the Unconscious
VI. African Thought
VII. The Mystical Traditions of Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, etc.
VIII. Greek & Roman Mythology
IX. Chinese Thought
X. Caribbean Religions
XI. The Goddess Perspectives
XII. The Power of Meditation & Prayer
XIII. Healing Approaches

Class Requirements:

Attendance: Class attendance is very important to assure that maximum benefits are obtained from the course/experience.

YOUR PRESENCE MATTERS!

EXAMS: There will be a mid-term and final exam given in this course

BOOK REVIEWS: There will be a quiz given on the following books: Many Lives Many Masters, African-American Spirituality, Thought, & Culture, A Dreamer’s Journey, and The Tao of Pooh. (The lowest score will be dropped or one quiz will be dropped.)

Homework: All homework should be submitted on or before the due dates.

Evaluation

Mid-Term Exam 15%
Final Exam 15%
Group Project 30%
Book Reviews 30%
Homework Assignments 10%

HAVE A GREAT SEMESTER!
1. The Gnostics
2. The Essences
3. Sufism
4. The Kabala
5. Wicca
6. Native Americans Religions
7. The Mayas
8. The Aztecs
9. Haitian Indigenous Religions
10. Santeria
11. The I Chin
12. Greek Mythology
13. European Mystics
14. Para Psychology
15. The Celtics
16. The Power of Dreams
17. Reckii
18. Reincarnation
19. Telepathy
20. The life of Edgar Casey
21. Healing Methodologies
22. African Mythology
23. Japanese Mythology
24. The Goddess Perspective
25. Austrian’s Religions
26. Christian Mysticism
27. Rastafarianism
28. African/Brazilian Religions
29. The Hare Krishna Movement
30. Yoga
31. Meditation
32. The Power of Prayer
33. Religions from India
34. The Yin & Yang
35. Eco-Cosmology
36. Rituals Around the World
37. The Celtics
38. The Geisha Culture
39. Branches of Islam
40. Jewish Holidays & Rituals
41. The Life & Work of Joseph Campbell
42. The Life & Work of Carl Jung
43. The Life & Work of Sigmund Freud
44. The Life & Work of Jesus
45. Hermetic Philosophy
46. Psychedelic Mysticism
47. Music & Mysticism
48. Art & Mysticism
49. Science & Mysticism
50. Mysterious Happenings/Events/Places