

ANTHROPOLOGY 2RP3: RELIGION AND POWER IN THE PAST

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Chester New Hall 509, (905) 525-9140 x 23913 (Office Hours Tues/Wed 11-noon)

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The Aztec deity Quetzalcoatl (Keh-tzal-coh-atl).

This course is an introduction to the anthropology and archaeology of ritual and religion. We will explore the traces of specific ancient religions and rituals, and track the analytical and interpretive work that archaeologists do to recognize religious or ritualized practices in the past. We will touch on big issues of the anthropology of religion, and standard and emerging archaeological methodologies through several global case studies.

The course is structured in 4 parts. First, we will begin with a brief overview of anthropological approaches to religion, some key concepts, and how archaeological anthropologists have examined the material traces of religious practice. In our second part, we will move to consider very distinct ways of being in the world, specifically exploring animism, shamanism and witches. Here we will consider how the methods of archaeology can reveal such themes in both the recent and deep past. Our third part focuses on bodies, senses and ritual. Here we will spend some time on death, one of the richest areas of the archaeology of ritual and religion, explore the emerging study of the archaeology of the senses, and touch on the ongoing debate over what, exactly, ritual is. The fourth and final component will examine power, landscapes and history. Although this class does not engage explicitly with the major world religions, we will consider the relationship between power and religion in complex societies, and the role of monumental religious sites in the present.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

All readings for this class come from the required Anthropology 2RP3 course pack available in the McMaster bookstore.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:

Your primary responsibility as a student is to master the material presented in class and in the readings. This is an easily achieved objective. Come to class and do the reading! I will post summaries of the class on-line, but this will not suffice if you want to do well. You need to come to lecture having completed the reading for that lecture ahead of time. I understand all of you come from a variety of backgrounds and have various strengths and weaknesses. If you have any questions or feel unsure about any class material, see me during office hours as soon as you recognize a problem. We will work together to find a solution. DON'T wait until the end of the semester. My goals as an instructor is not just to grade, evaluate, and test, but to help you gain a valuable anthropological perspective to carry outside the class, into whatever discipline you choose.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

5% In Class Discussions

15% Short Film Essay

30% Final Paper (5% annotations, 25% actual paper)

25% In-Class Midterm

25% Final Exam

In Class Discussions /5

Although this is a large class, we are lucky enough to be in the new Wilson building for two of our meetings each week. This space will permit us to engage with smaller discussions and to utilize some of the new media technologies. We will have 5 short sessions that are specifically geared towards the discussion of several of our readings (see the course schedule for dates for discussion). **PLEASE DO YOUR READINGS BEFORE THESE MEETINGS!** At the end of these discussions you will hand in a filled-out form representing the result of both the small group and class-wide discussion. These will be graded as complete/incomplete handout, and each will be worth 1% of your final grade. If you are sick, you must use your MSAF to receive a small make-up assignment.

Short Film Essay /15

We will show several films in this class. These movies are not optional, and you are encouraged to take careful notes on them: questions concerning their content will appear on both your midterm quiz and final exam. But you will also be asked to write a short essay of 3-4 pages on one of these movies. This essay, due February 17th, will 1) briefly summarize the film, 2) discuss the relationship to readings and lecture materials and 3) present three substantive questions that emerged from the film.

Research Paper: /30

By mid-February you should start looking out for newspaper and magazine articles (or reputable on-line articles) which deal with the archaeology of ritual and/or religion. This can either relate to a specific archaeological site, or a larger issue that relates to topics covered in the course. You may want to start a file folder (physical or on your computer) of various possibilities that has recently made the news.

Your final paper (5-6 typed, double-spaced pages) will:

- Describe the site and issue pertaining to ritual/religion being discussed. Be sure to include answers to the where/when/why of this research.
- Explain how the evidence has been collected (if this is given) and what evidence is being emphasized
- Find two peer-reviewed articles (I will explain what this means) either on the site, or other work on this issue.
- Address what methodology is being used in the peer-reviewed articles. Can you tell how the archaeologist is exploring issues of ritual and religion?
- Explore the differences between the popular article and the professional publications.

The timeline for this paper: On February 17th, I will walk your through how you might do this kind of research, and how to write proper annotations. On March 7th you will upload a list of your references (and link, if it's on line) to Avenue to Learn. This step will be worth 5% of your final grade. On March 17th and 24th we will work on your papers in class. The final paper, worth 25% of your final grade, is due on March 31st.

Midterm (/25) and Final Exam (/25)

Exams will cover material from lectures AND material from the text AND in-class films. Exams will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer and similar questions. Several questions will come from in-class discussions not included in uploaded class notes - you need to come to class to do well on these exams. Your midterm exam is on March 1st. The final exam will focus primarily on the material covered after the midterm. The final exam will include an essay for which you will be given the question in advance. No extensions, deferrals, make-ups, etc. of any kind can be granted without official documentation through university channels.

Grade Scale:

Following convention (<http://registrar.mcmaster/calendar/current/pg145.html>) this grading system will be used in this course.

90-100% A+	77-79% B+	67-69% C+	57-59% D+	0-49 F
85-89% A	73-76% B	63-66% C	53-56% D	
80-84% A-	70-72% B-	60-62% C-	50-52% D-	

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the

opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g., the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, Appendix 3, www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty

- Plagiarism, e.g., the submission of work that is not one's own for which other credit has been obtained. (Insert specific course information, e.g., style guide)
- Improper collaboration in group work. (Insert specific course information)
- Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES: E-MAIL COMMUNICATION POLICY|

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Email Forwarding in MUGSI:

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/uts/support/email/emailforward.html>

*Forwarding will take effect 24-hours after students complete the process at the above link

(Approved at the Faculty of Social Sciences meeting on Tues. May 25, 2010)

MSAF

- The MSAF should be used for medical and non-medical (personal) situations.
- Approval of the MSAF is automatic (i.e. no documentation required)

- Rules governing the MSAF are as follows:
 - The timeframe within which the MSAF is valid has been reduced from 5 days to 3 days.
 - The upper limit for when an MSAF can be submitted has been reduced from 'less than 30%' to 'less than 25%' of the course weight.
 - The 'one MSAF per term' limit is retained.
 - As per the policy, an automated email will be sent to the course instructor, who will determine the appropriate relief. Students must immediately follow up with their instructors. Failure to do so may negate their relief.
- Policy: The MSAF policy can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar under General Academic Regulations > Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work or here:

[http://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=1698#Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work](http://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=1698#Requests_for_Relief_for_Missed_Academic_Term_Work)

AODA

If you require this information in an alternate/accessible format, please contact Delia Hutchinson at 905-525-9140 extension 24523 or email hutchin@mcmaster.ca

COURSE SCHEDULE

Subject to change, but any modification will be done well in advance, and you will be informed ahead of time. *Italics* refers to course readings (available in reading pack).

(TSH): Meet in Togo Salmon Hall B10. (LRW): Meet in L.R. Wilson Hall 1057. *Refers to longer readings – give yourself several days to read these! **Refers to the assignments due on a given date.

PART 1: INTRODUCTION: RELIGION AND THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD

(TSH) January 4th: Introductions

(LRW) January 6th: On Reading in the Social Sciences & Historical Perspectives

Practical Tips for Reading Sociology,

(LRW) January 10th: Historical Perspectives Pt. 2

Anthropology and the Study of Religion

(TSH) January 11th: Materiality and Archaeological Approaches

The Archaeology of the Intangible

(LRW) January 13th: Key Concepts

No readings – review key concepts handout and come ready to take part in, and fill out discussion #1

PART 2: WAYS OF PERCEIVING: ANINISM, SHAMINISM AND WITCHES

(LRW) January 17th: What is animism?

Animism: A Contemporary Perspective

(TSH) January 18th: Animism and artifacts in the modern Andes

No readings

(LRW) January 20th: Animism in the ancient Andes?

Inca

(LRW) January 24th: What is Shamanism?

Shamanisms: Past and Present

(TSH) January 25th: Caves of Forgotten Dreams

Come prepared to take good notes on the film!

(LRW) January 27th: Were They Shamans?

A 12,000-year-old Shaman Burial From the Southern Levant (Israel).

And come ready to take part in, and fill out discussion #2 (which draws on these readings!)

(LRW) January 31st: Witches in England

*Witches of Cornwall: Macabre Evidence of Age-old Spells
(and start reading Feb. 1st readings!)*

(TSH) February 1st: Witches in the Americas

*Where Are the Witches of Prehistory?**

(LRW) February 3rd: Were They Witches?

No readings, but come ready to take part in, and fill out discussions #3 (which draws on both readings from this week).

PART 3: BODIES, SENSES AND RITUAL

(LRW) February 7th: Bodies and Belief

The Quick and the Dead

(TSH) February 8th: Burials on Ice

No readings (Come prepared to take good notes on the film!)

(LRW) February 10th: Burials and Belief at Çatalhöyük

Women and Men, the Old and the Young

(LRW) February 14th: A Sense of Religion

Seeing is Deceiving: Rock Art and the Non-Visual

(TSH) February 15th Hearing the Past?

Was Sound the Secret Weapon of the Andean Elites?

(LRW) February 17th Research Paper Writing in Anthropology (and Mid-Term Review)

*No Readings **Film Essay Due***

(No Classes February 21, 22, 24: Mid-Semester Break)

(LRW) February 28th: The Many Dimensions of Ritual

The Many Dimensions of Ritual

(TSH) March 1st: MIDTERM EXAM

No readings

(LRW) March 3rd Ritual and African Iron-Working

No readings (Come prepared to take good notes on the film)

(LRW) March 7th: In Class Discussion of Ritual and Ritualization

*No readings, but come ready to take part in, and fill out discussion #4
Final paper proposal and annotations due!*

(TSH) March 8th: Ritualization” in the Hawaiian Past

Life Outside the Temple.

PART 4: POWER, LANDSCAPES & HISTORY

(LRW) March 10th: Religious Landscapes

No readings: Work on final papers

(LRW) March 14th: Landscape Archaeology

Reading to be Announced

(TSH) March 15th: The Moundbuilders

The Moundbuilders of Eastern North America

(LRW) March 17th: In-class work on rough drafts of final papers

No readings: Work on final papers

****Bring outline of final paper brought to class**

(LRW) March 21st: State Religions

No readings: Work on final papers

(TSH) March 22nd: State Religion...state violence

The Myth of Religious Violence.

(LRW) March 24th: In-class work on rough drafts of final papers

No readings: Work on final papers

****Bring draft of final paper to class, and fill out discussion #5 which builds on reading of essay drafts!**

(LRW) March 28th: Aztec Hearts and Minds

*Aztec Hearts and Minds**

(TSH) March 29th: Heritage and Religious Landscapes

No readings: Work on final papers

(LRW) March 31st: The curious case of Stonehenge Pt. 1

No readings: Study for Final Exam

****Final paper due**

(LRW) April 4th: The curious case of Stonehenge Pt. 2

*Stonehenge-Contested Landscapes (Medieval to Present-Day)**

(TSH) April 5th: Catch up-class & Exam Prep

No readings: Study for Final Exam!