

ANTHROPOLOGY 2R03: RELIGION, MAGIC & WITCHCRAFT

Summer 2014

Day and Time of Classes: 1-4, Tuesdays & Thursdays

Class Location: MDCL/1309

Office Hours: 11:30-12:30 on Thursdays

Instructor: Dr. Sarah Clancy

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OUTLINE

Through various multi-disciplinary perspectives, this course will examine religion, magic, sorcery, divination, witchcraft, paganism, Satanism, revival movements, new religious movements and cults by exploring the development of cultural and social practices within each group as well as examining the creation and importance of rituals, symbols, souls, Gods, death and the afterlife, beliefs and values which each of these groups hold. We will also examine key figures within each, such as leaders, healers, and specialists. Importantly, this course embraces a "cultural relativist" approach; meaning, we will "...study what people believe not whether or not what they believe is true" (Stein et al., 2011:10). The first part of the course will examine the principles and theories of the study of religion, including mythology, rituals and symbols. The second part of the course will examine altered states of consciousness, religious specialists and healers, as well as gods, spirits, souls, death and the afterlife. The final part of the course will discuss divination, magic, sorcery, witchcraft, paganism, Satanism, new religious movements, religious revivals, fundamentalism, and religious cults.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Gain a critical understanding of the principles and theories of the study of religion, as well as the role of rituals and symbols
- Understand the religious, cultural, social, and political significance of myths and symbolism, rituals, magic, sorcery, witchcraft, and other collective practices
- Develop an understanding of the roles of leaders, specialists and healers
- Gain a critical understanding of the history of magic, as well as divination and sorcery
- Obtain a thorough understanding of death & funerals, the afterlife, including gods, spirits, angels & demons, ghosts, mortal souls, vampires and zombies
- Develop a critical understanding of the history of witchcraft, paganism, Satanism, as well as new religious movements/revivals, fundamentalism and cults
- Improve research and writing skills through the completion of course requirements
- Engage in scholarly debate with classroom colleagues through in-class discussions

COURSE FORMAT

Lectures will be held from 1-4pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Lectures may include the use of video clips or movies, when applicable, to illustrate course material. We will also have in-class group-based discussions on course material presented in lecture throughout the term.

COURSE WEBSITE

This course will use Avenue to Learn (<http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/>). Please check the website frequently for class announcements, grades and other important information. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, usernames for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation

may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with me.

COURSE TEXTS

REQUIRED:

- Stein, R. and Stein, P. (2011). *The Anthropology of Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft* (3rd ed.). Toronto, Ontario: Pearson Canada.
- Other as assigned in course outline below (journal article readings or online resources)
 - All other assigned readings are available freely online or through the McMaster Library Electronic Database

ALSO REQUIRED - SELECT 1 FROM BELOW TO WRITE CRITICAL BOOK REVIEW PAPER

- Bacigalupo, A.M. (2007). *Shamans of the Foye Tree: Gender, Power, and Healing among Chilean Mapuche*. Texas, USA: University of Texas Press.
- Stoller, P. and Olkes, C. (1989). *In Sorcery's Shadow: A Memoir of Apprenticeship among the Songhay of Niger*. Chicago, USA: University of Chicago Press.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

Midterm exam - 25%	July 10, 2014
Critical book review paper - 35%	July 17, 2014
Final exam - 40%	August 7, 2014

1. MIDTERM EXAM - 25% - JULY 10, 2014

This test will consist of multiple choice/true and false questions and will test your knowledge of both lecture material (including any films and/or video clips, etc., viewed in lecture) and assigned readings.

2. CRITICAL BOOK REVIEW PAPER - 35% - DUE ON JULY 17, 2014 AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS

Select **1** book from the list provided on the first page of the course outline; either: *Shamans of the Foye Tree: Gender, Power, and Healing among Chilean Mapuche* (2007) or *In Sorcery's Shadow: A Memoir of Apprenticeship among the Songhay of Niger* (1989) to critically analyze for this paper. In this paper, you are required to critically review the selected book by providing a concise summary; connecting the material to elements/concepts from the course; and, critically reflecting and analyzing the material. **Please refer to the important notes on late penalties on page 3 of this course outline.** A assignment handout with detailed instructions will be posted on Avenue during the first week of classes.

3. FINAL EXAM - 40% - AUGUST 7, 2014

This test will consist of multiple choice/true and false questions, as well as short answer question(s) and will test your knowledge of both lecture material (including any films and/or

video clips, etc., viewed in lecture) and assigned readings. **The exam is cumulative as concepts and theories from the first part of the term will be continually discussed throughout the course.**

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY:

ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS

All assignments/course requirements must be completed in order to pass the course.

Do NOT fax assignments. Please see your instructor for the most appropriate way to submit assignments.

Please submit your assignments (hard copies only) in class on the day and time that they are due. Faxed or emailed assignments will NOT be accepted.

Your assignments should be typed and double-spaced in either 10 or 12 point Times New Roman or Arial font. **The due dates are fixed and non-negotiable.** There will be a **deduction of 10% per day** for all late assignments, as well as on weekends (10% for each day of the weekend). **Late penalties are applied per day, not per 24 hour period.** It is very important that you hand in your assignments **on time. If you are handing in your assignment late, it is your responsibility to discuss arrangements with me. LATE critical book review papers WILL NOT be accepted after JULY 22, 2014.**

The McMaster Student Absence Form (<http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>) is a self reporting tool for Undergraduate Students to report absences that last up to 5 days and provides the ability to request accommodation for any missed academic work. Please note, this tool cannot be used during any final examination period.

You may submit a maximum of 1 Academic Work Missed request per term. It is YOUR responsibility to follow up with your instructor immediately regarding the nature of the accommodation.

If you are absent more than 5 days, exceed 1 request per term, or are absent for a reason other than medical, you MUST visit your Associate Dean's Office (Faculty Office). You may be required to provide supporting documentation.

This form should be filled out when you are about to return to class after your absence.

REVIEW OF MARKS

Assignments and tests are marked fairly and carefully. However, in the event that a student disagrees with his/her mark, the following procedure will be followed:

1. The student must write a detailed one-page note (hard copy only; emails will not be accepted) outlining the reason for the review of the mark. This note must be attached to the original assignment and handed in to Dr. Clancy

2. I will review the request and review the original assignment and provide you with written feedback
3. Students must not submit a request for review any earlier than 2 days after the paper/exams are returned and no later than 1 week after
- 4. Please note that upon re-review, there is a chance that the new grade may be lower than the original grade received**

OTHER IMPORTANT NOTES

FINAL GRADES

Your final mark will be converted to a letter grade according to the scale used by the Registrar and available in the Undergraduate Calendar.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Please feel free to discuss your personal needs with me. Arrangements for Individualized accommodations can be made through Students Accessibility Services (<http://sas.mcmaster.ca/>). Students Accessibility Services (<http://sas.mcmaster.ca/>) also provides helpful information on time management, note-taking, keeping up with readings, and taking multiple choice tests. If you require this information in an alternate/accessible format, please contact me directly.

OFFICE HOURS AND EMAIL COMMUNICATION

I maintain regular office hours - no appointment is necessary. I am also available by email (clancysj@mcmaster.ca). Please use proper email etiquette when sending an email: include the course name in your subject line; provide a salutation (Dear Dr. Clancy); and include your name and student number. You can expect a response to your email within 48 hours, **excluding weekends and holidays**.

Emails that do not follow the rules/policies outlined above and below may not, at my discretion, be replied to. Please use your McMaster email account (@mcmaster.ca). Please do not send email from your Avenue account or through the Avenue to Learn email system. These emails will not be responded to as email replies to Avenue email addresses are often undeliverable; additionally, I do not frequently monitor email in Avenue.

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

COMPUTER USE IN THE CLASSROOM

Computer use in the classroom is intended to facilitate learning in that particular lecture or tutorial. At the discretion of the instructor, students using a computer for any other purpose may be required to turn the computer off for the remainder of the lecture or tutorial. **Voice recorders (digital or tape) are not allowed without my express permission. Posting of lecture materials (with the exception of the note taking program for SAS) is strictly prohibited.**

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, specifically Appendix 3, located at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained
2. Improper collaboration in group work
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations

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.

WEEKLY TOPICS AND READING SCHEDULE

TOPIC	ASSIGNED READINGS	IMPORTANT NOTES
WEEK ONE: JUNE 24, 26, 2014		
Introduction to the course; Introduction to the study of religion and mythology (June 24)	1. Text: Chapters 1, 2	
Mythology, symbols, and rituals (June 26)	1. Text: Chapters 3, 4	
WEEK TWO: JULY 3, 2014		
Altered states of consciousness, religious specialists and healers (July 3)	1. Text: Chapter 5 and 6	NO CLASS ON JULY 1 DUE TO CANADA DAY HOLIDAY DISCUSSION OF CRITICAL BOOK REVIEW - JULY 3
WEEK THREE: JULY 8, 10, 2014		
Gods and spirits (July 8)	1. Text: Chapter 9	MIDTERM REVIEW - JULY 8
Midterm exam (July 10)	No assigned readings today	MIDTERM - JULY 10
WEEK FOUR: JULY 15, 17, 2014		
Souls, ghosts and death, including zombies and vampires (July 15)	1. Text: Chapter 8 2. Platts, T.K. (2013). "Locating Zombies in the Sociology of Popular Culture." <i>Sociology Compass</i> . 7(7): 547-560. 3. Khan, A.S . (2011). "Preparedness 101: Zombie Apocalypse." Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. Available online at: http://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2011/05/preparedness-101-zombie-apocalypse/	
Magic, divination and sorcery (July 17)	1. Text: Chapter 7 2. Iles Johnson, S. (2001). "Charming Children: The Use of the Child in Ancient Divination." <i>Arethusa</i> . 34(1): 97-117.	CRITICAL BOOK REVIEW DUE TODAY - JULY 17
WEEK FIVE: JULY 22, 24		
The media on religion, magic, witchcraft and supernatural - Part 1 (July 22)	1. Payne, D. (1989). "The Wizard Of Oz: Therapeutic Rhetoric In A Contemporary Media Ritual." <i>Quarterly Journal of Speech</i> . 75(1):	JULY 22 - IN-CLASS FILM VIEWING: RETURN TO OZ (1985)

<p>The media on religion, magic, witchcraft and supernatural - Part 2 (July 24)</p>	<p>25-39.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Franiuk, R. et al., (2013). "The Lion Fell in Love with the Lamb': Gender, Violence and Vampires." <i>Feminist Media Studies</i>. 13(1):14-28. 2. Black, S. (2003). "The Magic of Harry Potter: Symbols and Heroes of Fantasy." <i>Children's Literature in Education</i>. 34(3):237-247. 	<p>SEE AVENUE FOR VIDEO VIEWING GUIDE</p>
<p align="center">WEEK SIX: JULY 29, 31, 2014</p>		
<p>Witchcraft and paganism/neo-paganism and Satanism (July 29)</p> <p>Cultural change, revitalization movements and new religious movements (July 31)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Text: Chapters 10 and Chapter 11: 241-244 2. Cotton, M. (1689). <i>Memorable Providences, Relating to Witchcrafts and Possessions</i>. Available online at: http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/salem/asa_math.htm <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Text: Chapter 11: Pages 230-237; 239-241 2. Feltmate, D. (2011). "New Religious Movements in Animated Adult Sitcoms - A Spectrum of Portrayals." <i>Religion Compass</i>. 5(7):343-354. 	<p>CRITICAL BOOK REVIEW PAPERS RETURNED THIS WEEK</p>
<p align="center">WEEK SEVEN: AUGUST 5, 7</p>		
<p>Cults and fundamentalism; course wrap-up and final exam review (August 5)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Text: Chapter 11: Pages 237-239; 244; 251-258 1. Coates, D.D. (2012). "“Cult commitment” from the perspective of former members: Direct rewards of membership versus dependency inducing practices." <i>Deviant Behaviour</i>, 33, 3: 168-184. 	<p>FINAL EXAM REVIEW- AUGUST 5</p>
<p>Final exam (August 7)</p>	<p align="center">FINAL EXAM TODAY</p>	<p align="center">FINAL EXAM - AUGUST 7</p>