

Lecture: Thursdays 19:00–21:00

Instructor: Chris Emms

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Course Description

In this course, we will examine the interactions between religious beliefs, religious practices, religious practitioners, and healing practices. We will consider topics such as gender and religious vocation, pilgrimage, sexual health, shamanism, and altered states of consciousness, from a social-scientific perspective. In the course of this investigation, we will cover a broad range of religious traditions and time periods.

Course Objectives

- Students will have an understanding of theories of disease and healing within a religious framework.
- Students will develop a more sophisticated understanding of the relationship between cultural context, marginalization, and health.
- Students will become familiar with various methods for the study of religion.

Required Texts

- The majority of course readings are from ebooks and ejournals, available through McMaster Library
- A few short readings will be uploaded to Avenue

Evaluation

- 5 student-generated quizzes (2% each/10% total) – Students will compose five quizzes and submit their quizzes in a dropbox on Avenue to Learn. Each quiz will cover the assigned reading(s).
- Midterm Exam (20%)
- Final Exam (30%)
- Tutorial Participation (10%) – The tutorial mark is divided into attendance (5%) and a tutorial assignment (5%).
- Paper Proposal (10%) – Students will submit a paper proposal that a) outlines the research paper that they will submit, including the argument, and b) includes an annotated bibliography.
- Research Paper (20%) – Each student will submit one 2000 word research paper on a topic of the student's choice.

Assignment Due Dates

Thursday, March 16 – Paper Proposal
 Thursday, March 30 – Paper

Course Schedule

| Week | Topic and Reading |
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| 1 | Course Overview |
| Jan. 5 | <i>Introduction to Health, Healing & Religion</i> (no reading) |
| 2 | Theories of Disease and Illness |
| Jan. 12 | <p>Reading:</p> <p>Kinsley, David. 1996. "Introduction" and "Theories of Disease and Types of Healers," in <i>Health, Healing, and Religion: A Cross-cultural Perspective</i>. New Jersey: Prentice Hall. 3–11.</p> <p>Kleinman, Arthur. 1988. "The Meaning of Symptoms and Disorders," in <i>The Illness Narratives: Suffering, Healing, and the Human Condition</i>. New York: Basic Books. 3–30</p> <p>Film: Selections from <i>Ayurveda: The Art of Being</i></p> |
| 3 | Theories of Healing and Healers |
| Jan. 19 | <p>Readings:</p> <p>a. Geoffrey Samuel. 2010. "Healing Efficacy and the Spirits." <i>Journal of Ritual Studies</i> 24.2: 7–20.</p> <p>b. Barnes, Linda L., and Susan Starr Sered. 2004. "Introduction," in <i>Religion and Healing in America</i>, edited by Linda Barnes and Susan Sered. New York: Oxford University Press. 1–26.</p> <p>Film: <i>The Blue Buddha: Lost Secrets of Tibetan Medicine</i></p> |
| 4 | Ritual Healing |
| Jan. 26 | Readings: |

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| | <p>a. Welch, John S. 2003. "Ritual in Western Medicine and its Role in Placebo Healing." <i>Journal of Religion and Health</i> 42.1: 21-33.</p> <p>b. Csordas, Thomas J. 1983. "The Rhetoric of Transformation in Ritual Healing." <i>Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry</i> 7: 333-375.</p> |
| <p>5 Feb. 2</p> | <p>Shamanism</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>a. Bowie, Fiona. 2006. "Shamanism," in <i>The Anthropology of Religion</i>. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. 174-199.</p> <p>b. Xiong, Phua, et al. 2005. "Hmong Shamanism: Animist Spiritual Healing in America's Heartland" in <i>Religion and Healing in America</i>, edited by Linda Barnes and Susan Sered. New York: Oxford University Press. 439-454.</p> <p>Film: <i>Split Horn: The Life of a Hmong Shaman in America</i></p> |
| <p>6 Feb. 9</p> | <p>Food, Health, and Religion</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>a. Farquhar, Judith. 1994. "Eating Chinese Medicine." <i>Cultural Anthropology</i> 9.4: 471-497.</p> <p>b. Rowe, E. Amy. 2005. "Honey, Hadiths, and Health Day: A Spectrum of Healing in the Daily Life of Boston Muslims" in <i>Religion and Healing in America</i>, edited by Linda Barnes and Susan Sered. New York: Oxford University Press. 35-41.</p> <p>c. Garrett, Frances, et al. "Narratives of Hospitality and Feeding in Tibetan Ritual." <i>Journal of the American Academy of Religion</i> 81.2: 491-515.</p> |
| <p>7 Feb. 16</p> | <p>**Midterm Exam** (no readings)</p> |
| <p>8 Feb. 23</p> | <p>**Midterm Recess!** (no readings)</p> |
| <p>9 Mar. 2</p> | <p>Pilgrimage and Healing</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>a. Scott, Robert A. 2010. "Pilgrimage and Shrines" in <i>Miracle Cures: Saints, Pilgrimage, and the Healing Powers of Belief</i>. Berkeley: University of California Press. 67-102.</p> |

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| | <p>b. Notermans, Catrien. 2007. "Loss and Healing: A Marian Pilgrimage in Secular Dutch Society." <i>Ethnology</i> 46.3: 217–234.</p> <p>Film: <i>Healing at Lac Sainte Anne</i></p> |
| <p>10</p> <p>Mar. 9</p> | <p><i>Mental Health, Drugs, and Meditation</i></p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>a. Walsh, Charlotte. 2014. "Beyond Religious Freedom: Psychedelics and Cognitive Liberty," in <i>Prohibition, Religious Freedom, and Human Rights: Regulating Traditional Drug Use</i>. New York: Springer. 211–234.</p> <p>b. Brown, Richard P. and Patricia L. Gerbarg. 2009. "Yoga Breathing, Meditation, and Longevity." <i>Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences</i> 1172: 54–62.</p> <p>c. Dyck, Erika and Tolly Bradford. 2012. "Peyote on the Prairies: Religion, Scientists, and Native-Newcomer Relations in Western Canada." <i>Journal of Canadian Studies</i> 46.1: 28–52.</p> <p>d. Selections from the Rig Veda http://www.sacred-texts.com/hin/rigveda/rv10025.htm http://www.sacred-texts.com/hin/rigveda/rv01093.htm</p> |
| <p>11</p> <p>Mar. 16</p> | <p><i>Marginalized Groups: Gender and Religious Healing Vocations</i></p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>a. Salgado, Nirmala S. 1997. "Sickness, Healing, and Religious Vocation: Alternative Choices at a Theravāda Buddhist Nunnery." <i>Ethnology</i> 36.3: 213–226.</p> <p>b. Cameron, Mary. 2010. "Feminization and Marginalization: Women Ayurvedic Doctors and Modernizing Health Care in Nepal." <i>Medical Anthropology Quarterly</i> 24: 42–63.</p> <p>c. Sered, Susan S. 2005. "Healing as Resistance: Reflections upon New Forms of American Jewish Healing" in <i>Religion and Healing in America</i>, edited by Linda Barnes and Susan Sered. New York: Oxford University Press. 248–267.</p> <p>*Paper Proposal Due*</p> |
| <p>12</p> | <p><i>Marginalized Groups: Culture, Cultural Appropriation, and Cultural</i></p> |

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| <p>Mar. 23</p> | <p>Oppression</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>a. Medina, Lara. 2005. "Communing with the Dead: Spiritual and Cultural Healing in Chicano/a Communities" in <i>Religion and Healing in America</i>, edited by Linda Barnes and Susan Sered. New York: Oxford University Press. 222-232.</p> <p>b. Brief articles on health issues among Indigenous peoples in Canada http://www.med.uottawa.ca/sim/data/Aboriginal_e.htm http://www.med.uottawa.ca/sim/data/Aboriginal_Health_Determinants_e.htm http://www.med.uottawa.ca/sim/data/Aboriginal_Medicine_e.htm http://www.med.uottawa.ca/sim/data/Aboriginal_Clinical_Skills_e.htm "Cancer Cured by Medicine Man" http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/cancer-cured-by-medicine-man-first-nations-man-says-1.2852376</p> <p>Film: <i>White Shamans and Plastic Medicine Men</i></p> |
| <p>13</p> <p>Mar. 31</p> | <p>Sexual Healing</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>a. Yip, Andrew Kam-Tuck. 2015. "When Religion Meets Sexuality: Two Tales of Intersection," in <i>Religion and Sexuality: Diversity and the Limits of Tolerance</i>. 119-140.</p> <p>b. Burton, Richard et al. <i>The Kama Sutra of Vastyayana</i>. Introductory Preface, Introduction, Part One ch. 2, Part One ch. 5, Part Two ch. 1. http://www.gutenberg.org/files/27827/27827-h/27827-h.htm#CHAPTER_PI_V</p> <p>c. Harper, Donald. "Ancient and Medieval Chinese Recipes for Aphrodisiacs and Philters." <i>Asian Medicine</i> 1.1: 191-200.</p> <p>*Paper Due*</p> |
| <p>14</p> <p>Apr. 6</p> | <p>Final Class</p> <p>Course Review and Exam Preparation</p> |

Quiz Dates (all available for 6 days, 20 hours starting 1 hour after class ends.)

- Quiz 1 - 18:00 January 26
- Quiz 2 - 18:00 February 2
- Quiz 3 - 18:00 February 9
- Quiz 4 - 18:00 March 2
- Quiz 5 - 18:00 March 9

Late Submission/Missed Tests

- A test missed as the result of a documented absence may be written at a later date.
- Assignments submitted late will be penalized 3% for the first day late, an additional 2% for the second day late, and 1% for each additional day.
- Please note that undocumented extensions will not be granted for any of the assignments.

Student Accessibility Services

- Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone (905)525-9140 x28652 or email sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.

University/Faculty/Department Mandated Statements:

1. Course Modification Warning

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.

2. Statement on Academic Integrity

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour 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 types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>

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.

3. The McMaster Student Absence Form

The McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF) (<http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>) is a self-reporting tool for Undergraduate Students to report MEDICAL absences that last up to 3 days and provides the ability to request accommodation for any missed academic work (that is less than 25% of the course grade). Please note, this tool cannot be used during any final examination period. You may submit a maximum of ONE 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 for more than 3 days, exceed one request per term, are absent for a reason other than medical, or have missed work worth 25% or more of the final grade, you MUST visit your 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.

4. 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.

5. Department of Religious Studies Assignment Submission Policy

Staff in the office of the Department of Religious Studies will neither date-stamp nor receive papers and other assignments.