

**Anthropology 363.01**  
**Magic, Witchcraft & Gods: Anthropology of Religion**  
**Fall 2013**

**Time:**TuTh 3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

**Instructor:** Dr. Chris Holdsworth

**Email:** [choldwor@ucalgary.ca](mailto:choldwor@ucalgary.ca)

**Office Hours:** ES710B Thurs 16:45- 17:45 p.m.

Or by appointment

**Location:** ES 162

**TA:** TBA

**email:**

**Office Hours**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The course begins by examining the various theoretical approaches anthropologists have used to understand the topics of perennial interest in the anthropology of religion: spirit possession, divination, ritual, witchcraft, magic and symbolism. The relationship of religion to healing, gender, and power, is also examined. The course concludes by looking at new religious movements and contemporary topics such as the relation between religion, terrorism and nationalism.

**COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this class, students will:

- 1 Be able to Identify and distinguish between the basic concepts, theories methods and central issues in the anthropological study of religion;
- 2 Be able to apply anthropological principles and concepts to critically assess religion within one's own society through study of religion in other societies and cultures.
- 3 Gain a better understanding and appreciation of the diversity of religious expression in the world and the ways people have organized their lives and given meaning to their experiences.
- 4 Be able to demonstrate the links between the individual, their social world, and global religious processes.
- 5 Have improved their verbal and written communication skills through in-class discussion as well as a response paper and essay-style exams.

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

Moro P.A (ed), 2013. Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion: A Reader in the Anthropology of Religion (9<sup>th</sup> edn.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill. ISBN-13: 978-0078034947

**Additional Readings**

Links to additional readings will be made available on Blackboard.

**FORMAT**

This class will follow an interactive lecture-discussion-seminar format based on the readings, which contain both classic and contemporary articles, and the occasional film. The classes are intended to contextualize and expand on the readings, and will not repeat or cover all the material in the text but will elaborate on selected topics to

provide a deeper understanding of the material. Examples of various anthropological perspectives will be drawn from non-Western as well as Western cultures. Assigned textbook readings may be augmented with additional readings links to which will be provided on Blackboard.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

**Blackboard:** All course materials and information, as well as unofficial grades, will be posted on the U of C Blackboard.

### **Email Policy**

In any email correspondence please begin with the course code (anth363) in the subject line along with the subject of your message. Most of the time, you can expect a reply to an email within 24 hours. Please do NOT expect an immediate reply. You should also know that I will only rarely reply to emails on the weekends. Also I will not reply to emails that are not signed at least with your first name.

### **Cell Phone and Laptop Policy**

Cell phones must be turned off during the class except when in use for Top Hat Monocle (see below). Laptops and tablets should be used only for taking notes. Since the screens can be distracting to students sitting behind, if you wish to use your laptop or tablet please sit toward the back of the class.

### **TopHat**

- Students are required to set up a Top Hat (TH) account. TH will be used to assess participation and comprehension which are grade components (see below) for the course. The university has a site license for the application and accounts can be set up at <https://app.tophat.com/register/student/>
- The TH URL for the course is: <https://app-ca.tophat.com/e/623855>
- The password for the course is: Religion

## **ASSESSMENT**

### **1. Midterm Exam 1**

**Date:** October 8

**Percent of grade:** 25%

### **2. Midterm Exam 2**

**Date:** November 5

**Percent of grade:** 25%

### **3. Final Exam**

**Date:** Dec 9-19, Exact date, time, and place TBA

**Percent of Grade:** 40%

Exams will be 50% multiple choice and 50% short answer. **Exams Are Not Cumulative.**

#### **4. Participation**

Top Hat

**Date:** Various

**Percent of Grade** 10%

#### **GRADING SCHEME:**

Each item of course work will be weighted as above and a final mark out of 100 calculated. This will then be converted to a letter grade as follows:

A+	94.9–100	A	89.9–94.8%	A-	84.9–89.8 %
B+	79.9–84.8 %	B	74.9–79.8 %	B-	70.9–74.8 %
C+	66.9–70.8 %	C	62.9–66.8 %	C-	58.9–62.8 %
D+	54.9 %– 58.8%	D	49.9–54.8 %	F	49.8 and below

#### **PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING**

Plagiarism: “to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one’s own” (Webster’s). Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will automatically result in a failing grade for the submission. Any student caught plagiarizing may also be subject to additional University sanctions. Students are expected to be familiar with the Anthropology Departments policy on intellectual honesty available at:

<https://www.anth.ucalgary.ca/home/links/intellectual-honesty-guidelines>

#### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

It is the student’s responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability and require academic accommodation you need to register with the Disability Resource Centre. Please contact their office at 220-8237. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/> Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

#### **DEFERRED EXAMS:**

Deferral of a mid-term exam must be cleared with the instructor. Deferral will be granted only in cases of personal injury, illness, or immediate family emergency. An official note or other documentation explaining the reason for the absence is required. Deferral of the final exam requires Registrar approval.

#### **EMERGENCY EVACUATION:**

In the event that the classroom should need to be evacuated due to an emergency situation please note that the primary assembly point shall be at the Social Sciences Food Court

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF LECTURES

Please note that this is a tentative schedule and may vary slightly since some topics may require more or less time to cover. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Blackmore. More information on the readings for each class will be provided during the first class

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Tues Sept 10  | Introduction: The Anthropology of Religion            |
| Thurs Sept 12 | History of the Anthropology of Religion               |
| Tues Sept 17  | Religious Symbolism                                   |
| Thurs Sept 19 | Religious Symbolism                                   |
| Tues Sept 24  | Myth  |
| Thurs Sept 26 | Myth  |
| Tues Oct 1    | Magic and Witchcraft                                  |
| Thurs Oct 3   | Magic and Witchcraft                                  |
| Tues Oct 8    | <b>Midterm Exam 1</b>                                 |
| Thurs Oct 10  | Gender and Religion                                   |
| Tues Oct 15   | Gender and Religion                                   |
| Thurs Oct 17  | Ritual  |
| Tues Oct 22   | Ritual  |
| Thurs Oct 24  | Religion and Healing                                  |
| Tues Oct 29   | Religion and Healing                                  |
| Thurs Oct 31  | Religion and Healing                                  |
| Tues Nov 5    | <b>Midterm Exam 2</b>                                 |
| Thurs Nov 7   | Religious Specialists                                 |
| Tues Nov 12   | <b>No Class – Reading Day</b>                         |
| Thurs Nov 14  | New Religious Movements                               |
| Tues Nov 19   | New Religious Movements                               |
| Thurs Nov 21  | New Religious Movements                               |
| Tues Nov 26   | Contemporary Issues Religion and Global Culture       |
| Thurs Nov 28  | Contemporary Issues Religion and Global Culture       |
| Tues Dec 3    | Contemporary Issues Religion and Global Culture       |
| Thurs Dec 5   | Last Class Summary and Conclusion                     |
| Dec 9-19      | <b>Final Exam. Exact Date, Time, and Location TBA</b> |