

Department of Anthropology and Archaeology
Anthropology 363.01
Magic, Witchcraft & Gods: Anthropology of Religion
Fall 2017

Time: TuTh 3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Chris Holdsworth

Email: choldwor@ucalgary.ca

Office ES710B

Hours: Wed 10-11 a.m.

or by appointment

Location: EDC 179

TA: Sutapa Lahiri

Email:

Office:

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.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this class, students will be expected to:

1. Identify and distinguish between the basic concepts, theories, methods and central issues in the anthropological study of religion.
2. Apply anthropological principles and concepts to critically assess religion within one's own society through comparison of religion in other societies and cultures.
3. Value the diversity of religious expression in the world, the ways people have organized their lives and given meaning to their experiences.
4. Debate the role of religion in such global processes as terrorism and nationalism

REQUIRED TEXT:

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

Additional Readings

Links to additional readings will be made available on D2L.

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 D2L.

COURSE POLICIES

Desire to Learn (D2L): All course materials and information, as well as unofficial grades, will be posted on D2L.

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 survey class opinion and assess comprehension and for other participation purposes. There is no grade component attached to Top Hat for the course. The university has a site license for the application and accounts can be set up at: The university has a site license for the application and accounts can be set up at <https://app.tophat.com/register/student/>
- The password for the course is: Religion (Case sensitive)

ASSESSMENT

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

1. Midterm Exam 1

Date: October 10

Percent of grade: 30%

2. Midterm Exam 2

Date: November 7

Percent of grade: 30%

3. Final Exam

Date: Dec 11-21, (Registrar Scheduled) Exact date, time, and place TBA

Percent of Grade: 40%

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

DEFERRED EXAMS:

A student who is absent from a test for legitimate reasons must discuss an alternative course of action with the instructor. The instructor at their discretion may transfer the percentage weight for the test to the final examination, if there is a final examination in the course, set another test, etc. An instructor will normally make this decision on the basis of verbal information provided by the student. In the event that an instructor feels that they cannot judge the veracity of the information provided, Students must be aware that they are responsible for payment of any charge associated with the medical assessment and documentation as this service falls outside the realm of services provided by the Provincial Health Care Plan. Deferral of the final exam requires Registrar approval.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the instructor of this course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Calgary is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievements. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. Non-academic integrity also constitutes an important component of this program.

For detailed information on what constitutes academic and non-academic misconduct, please refer to the following link: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

All suspected cases of academic and non-academic misconduct will be investigated following procedures outlined in the University Calendar. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behavior or appropriate

research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources.

Where there is a criminal act involved in plagiarism, cheating or other academic misconduct, e.g., theft (taking another student's paper from their possession, or from the possession of a faculty member without permission), breaking and entering (forcibly entering an office to gain access to papers, grades or records), forgery, personation and conspiracy (impersonating another student by agreement and writing their paper) and other such offences under the Criminal Code of Canada, the University may take legal advice on the appropriate response and, where appropriate, refer the matter to the police, in addition to or in substitution for any action taken under these regulations by the University

TEACHING EVALUATIONS / USRI (Universal Student Ratings of Instruction)

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses. **Your responses make a difference, please participate!** Website:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri/>

Writing Across the Curriculum

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, members of faculty can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Support, part of the Student Success Centre, can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance

Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points: In the event of an emergency that requires evacuation, please refer to the following link to become familiar with the assembly points for the class: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

The University of Calgary is committed to protecting the privacy of individuals who work and study at the University or who otherwise interact with the University in accordance with the standards set out in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Please refer to the following link for detailed information:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology's FOIP (Freedom of Information and Privacy) policy requires all reports/examinations to be returned to students during class

time or the instructor's office hours. Any term work not picked up will be placed in the Anthropology and Archaeology Office (ES620) for distribution. Any student not wishing to have their work placed in the office must make alternative arrangements with the course instructor early in the term.

Safewalk Information: Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at (403) 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security Officer will accompany you to your campus destination.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources: Have a question, but not sure where to start? Arts Students' Centre

The Faculty of Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance that they require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs and the Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning, the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- program advising
- the Faculty's Co-operative Education Program
- the Arts and Science Honours Academy
- the Faculty's Interdisciplinary Programs
- a Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403.220.3580

Email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca

Website: arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contacts for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca

arts2@su.ucalgary.ca

arts3@su.ucalgary.ca

arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Ombudsman's office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/>

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 D2L. More information on the readings for each class will be provided during the first class

Tues Sept 12	Introduction
Thurs Sept 14	The Anthropological study of Religion
Tues Sept 19	The Anthropological study of Religion
Thurs Sept 21	History of the Anthropology of Religion
Tues Sept 26	Myth Symbolism and Worldview
Thurs Sept 28	Myth Symbolism and Worldview
Tues Oct 3	Magic and Witchcraft
Thurs Oct 5	Magic and Witchcraft
Tues Oct 10	Midterm Exam 1
Thurs Oct 12	Gender and Religion
Tues Oct 17	Gender and Religion
Thurs Oct 19	Gender and Religion
Tues Oct 24	Ritual
Thurs Oct 26	Ritual
Tues Oct 31	Ritual
Thurs Nov 2	Religious Specialists
Tues Nov 7	Midterm Exam 2
Thurs Nov 9	Religion and Healing
Tues Nov 14	Religion and Healing
Thurs Nov 16	Religion and Healing
Tues Nov 21	New Religious Movements
Thurs Nov 23	New Religious Movements
Tues Nov 28	New Religious Movements
Thurs Nov 30	Contemporary Issues Religion and Global Culture
Tues Dec 5	Contemporary Issues Religion and Global Culture
Tues Dec 7	Summary and Conclusion
Dec 11-21	Final Exam. Exact Date, Time, and Location TBA