

**Department of Anthropology and Archaeology
University of Calgary
Anthropology 363.01
Magic, Witchcraft & Gods: Anthropology of Religion**

Fall 2020

Location: Online

Instructor: Dr. Chris Holdsworth

Email: choldwor@ucalgary.ca

Office: ES 710B,

Phone: 403-220-3665

Hours: W 12-1 pm by Zoom
or by appointment

Time: Asynchronous

TA: Matt Longstaffe

Email: matthew.longstaffe@ucalgary.ca

Office: n/a

Phone: n/a

Hours: by appointment

PREREQUISITE: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course applies the basic principles of socio-cultural anthropology to the study of religion. It begins by examining the various theoretical approaches anthropologists have taken to the study of religion. Topics covered include myth, divination, ritual, witchcraft, magic, and religious symbolism. We also look at the relationship of religion to healing, gender, and power. The course concludes by examining new religious movements and contemporary topics such as the relation between religion, terrorism, and nationalism. What is not discussed or debated in this course are the truth statements of any religion, nor is this course a survey of world religions.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Participate effectively in group discussions
2. Discuss the basic concepts, theories, methods, and central issues in the anthropological study of religion.
3. Examine different religions from a culturally relative perspective while also recognizing and avoiding ethnocentrism.
4. Value the diversity of religious expression in the world, and the ways people's religious beliefs have helped them to organize and give meaning to their lives.
5. Discuss religion's role in contemporary debates about gender, health, and well-being, terrorism, nationalism, and other social relationships.
6. Apply anthropological principles and concepts to critically assess the role of religion within one's own society through comparison of religion in other cultures.

COURSE FORMAT:

This course will be delivered online asynchronously and will follow a modular format. Pre-recorded lectures and other course activities will be posted on D2L on a regular basis. Additional readings, course materials, and information, as well as unofficial grades, will be also be posted on D2L. A discussion board will be available for each module to ask questions about, and discuss, the material presented in the lectures and readings. Lectures and discussions will not

repeat or cover all the material in the readings but will elaborate on selected topics to provide a deeper understanding of the material. Lectures will also be supplemented with the occasional film or video clip. Examples of various anthropological perspectives will be drawn from non-Western as well as Western cultures. Students will also be assigned to groups of 6 to 8 to discuss issues raised from the lectures and readings.

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

- This is a book of readings on the Anthropology of religion. Not all the readings will be covered in the class. See the reading schedule below for details.
- Links to additional readings will be made available on D2L.
- The U of C textbook store sells the textbook for \$103.95. The bookstore will probably not open until the end of September although they do have curbside pickup and shipping is free on orders over \$75 anywhere in Canada. For more info and to order texts through the bookstore here is their website: <https://www.calgarybookstore.ca/>
- You do not have to order through the U of C bookstore, and you may find cheaper used copies online.
- Electronic versions are available.
- Earlier editions are available but be aware that they do not contain all the required readings.
- There is a copy of the text on reserve in the library.
- Note: this text is going out of print.

ADDITIONAL READINGS

Links to additional readings in the Taylor Family Digital Library or located online through the library search databases will be made available on D2L.

LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES REQUIREMENTS

In order to successfully engage in the learning experiences for this course students are required to have reliable access to the following technologies:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security and malware updates
- An up-to-date web browser
- A stable internet connection
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- A Webcam/Camera (built-in or external); and microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone are useful but not necessary
- A Top Hat Account (see below)

D2L

All activities for the course take place in D2L. If you are unfamiliar with D2L or with some of its features, tutorials are available here: <https://conted.ucalgary.ca/students/online-resources-2.jsp>. The Student Success Centre also offers workshops and other resources to support your online learning: <https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/online-learning>.

OFFICE HOURS

A weekly office hour with the instructor will be held every Wednesday (except reading week) from 12-1 pm Calgary time. Zoom links and passwords will be provided on D2L. Individual appointments with the instructor or TA can also be made via email.

TOPHAT

Students are required to set up a Top Hat (TH) account. TH will be used to survey class opinion, assess comprehension, and for other purposes. The university has a site license for the application and accounts can be set up at:

<https://app.tophat.com/register/student/>

- Join Code is 691484; password is: Religion 2020 (Case sensitive)
- Please use your UofC email to enroll.

ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Due Date	Marks
Introductions posted in group D2L site	Friday Sept. 25	3
Midterm Exam 1	Monday Sept 28	20
Midterm Exam 2	Monday October 19	20
Midterm Exam 3	Monday Nov 16	20
Final Exam Registrar Scheduled	Dec 12-23	25
Group discussion Participation and	Ongoing	10
Completion of peer assessment	Monday Dec 7	2
	Total	100

Note: All midterm exams are due on the date specified at midnight Calgary time.

EXAMS

- **Exams are Cumulative**
- Midterm Exams will consist of 30 multiple choice, T/F, questions.
- Students will have 30 minutes to complete the midterms, plus an additional 15 minutes to allow for any technology issues that may arise as per examination regulations.
(<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-1.html>).
- All exams will be available for a 24 hour period on the day of the exam beginning at 12.01 am Calgary time and ending at 12.01. the following day.
- To ensure you can complete the exams in time you must begin it no later than 11:15 pm Calgary time.
- The final exam will be a registered final exam scheduled sometime between December 12 and 23rd. Date to be determined
- The Final exam will consist of 60 multiple choice, T/F, questions.
- Students will have 60 minutes to complete the final exam, plus an additional 30 minutes.
- If you are unable to write an exam on the day scheduled please email me as soon as possible. See deferred exam policy below.
- Space will be provided on all exams to provide explanations (if so desired) as to how particular questions were interpreted or any other issue related to the exam.
- If you experience technical difficulty during an exam, please email me as soon as possible and explain the issue.
- I will be available to answer questions about an exam during the exam only from 12-1 pm Calgary time by phone (403-220-3665) or email.

- More information on the exams will be provided a few days before each exam.
- It is expected that students will maintain academic integrity (see below) while writing exams.

GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Purpose

Students will be assigned to groups of 6 or 8. The purpose of the groups is to gain a better, more in depth understanding of course material, by discussing the readings and lecture material and to explore issues raised in class.

Personal Introductions

Students will be required to provide a personal introduction to the group. The purpose is for group members to get to know one another. You may provide your introduction in any format you feel comfortable with. The personal introduction is worth 3 marks. Failure to post an introduction by the due date will result in a mark of zero.

Discussions

To do well in the course students should contribute at least one meaningful post to the group discussion board per week. The instructor and TA will drop in and observe the discussions periodically. It is advised to post no later than Thursday so other members of the group can obtain the greatest benefit from your post. The quality of your contributions will be assessed by your peers and is worth 10 marks. It is expected that group members will adhere to the discussion board policy below.

Self and peer assessment

At the end of the term students will have the opportunity to assess their own contributions to the group discussions as well as the contributions of their peers. A rubric will be provided in D2L. These assessments will remain confidential and must be submitted via the D2L drop box by Monday December 7 Midnight Calgary time. The assessment is worth 2 marks for completing it.

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

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

All topics and dates of lectures are tentative and will be presented in modular format and will be available on D2L the beginning of the week listed. Any changes or additional readings will be announced via email and the table updated on D2L. Notes: weeks run from Monday to Sunday. Readings from Moro are labeled M followed by the number in the text. Note that the readings are not covered consecutively. Electronic readings are available via links in a Word document on D2L and are labeled D2L. With two or three exceptions, all the readings are easy to read and

most of them are short (many under 5 pages). Some readings will be covered in class and others not.

Wk	Dates	Topic	Readings	Activity
1	Sept 8-13	Introduction	None	See module 1 on D2L
2	Sept 14-21 Sept. 17 (last date to withdraw without financial penalty)	The Anthropological study of Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Anthropological Study of religion M pp. 1- •Studying Religion Anthropologically Eller (M 1) •Religious Perspectives in Anthropology Lee (M 4) •Death Be Not Strange Metcalf (M 37) 	See module 2
3	Sept 21-27	History of the Anthropology of Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Why we Became Religious Harris (M 3) •Religion Geertz (D2L) 	See module 3 Sept 21 groups assigned Introduce yourself to group by Sept 25
4	Sept 28-Oct 4	Myth Symbolism and Worldview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Myth Symbolism and Worldview M pp. 46-49 •Ethos, World-view and the Analysis of Sacred symbols Geertz (M 9) •Taboo Douglas (D2L) •Nyoro Myth Beatie (M 6) •The Virgin of Guadalupe: A Mexican National Symbol Wolf (M 8) 	Midterm 1 Sept 28 See module 4
5	Oct 5-11	Magic and Witchcraft part 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Witchcraft, Sorcery, Divination and Magic (M 284-287) •Baseball Magic Gmelch (M 35) •Rational Mastery by Man of His Surroundings (pp 8-18) Malinowski (D2L) •Our Families are Killing Us: HIV/AIDS. Witchcraft, and Social Tensions in Namibia Thomas (M 31) 	See module 5
6	Oct 12-18 Oct 12 Thanksgiving Day	Magic and Witchcraft part 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Consulting the Poison Oracle Among the Azande Evans-Pritchard (D2L) 	See module 6
7	Oct 19-25	Gender and Religion part 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Veil in Their Minds and on Our Heads: Veiling Practices And Muslim Women Hoodfar (M 43) 	Midterm 2 Monday Oct 19 See module 7
8	Oct 26-Nov 1	Gender and Religion part 2		See module 8

9	Nov 2-8	Ritual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ritual M 86-89 •Body Ritual Among the Nacirema Miner (D2L) •Betwixt and Between: The Liminal Period in Rites of Passage Turner (M 11) •“I bow my head to the ground”: Creating Bodily Experience Through Initiation. Mason (M 12) •Women`s Responses to Child Loss in Japan: The Case of Mizuko Kuyo Harrison (D2L) •A Handmaid`s Tale: The Rhetoric of Personhood in American and Japanese Healing of Abortions Csordas (M 14) •Japanese Death Rituals in Transit: From Household Ancestors to Beloved Antecedents Suzuki (D2L) 	See module 9
10	Nov 9- 15 Nov 11 Remembrance Day	Reading Week	None	Prepare for midterm 3
11	Nov 16-22	Religion and Healing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Illness, Healing and Religion M 231-233 •`Born Again Is a Sexual Term`: Demon`s STDs, and God`s Healing Sperm. DeRogatis (D2L) •Disease Etiologies in Non-Western Medical Systems Foster (M 26) •Curanderismo and Latino Views of Disease and Curing Maduro (D2L) •The Spirit Catches you and You Fall Down Fadiman (M 28) •Trance and Possession Lewis (M 21) •The Sound of Rushing Water Harner (M24) •Should Academic Medical Centres Conduct Clinical Trials of the Efficacy of Intercessory Prayer Halperin (D2L) 	Midterm 3 Monday Nov 16 See module 10
12	Nov 23-29	New Religious Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Lakota Ghost Dance DeMallie (D2L) •Cargo Cults Worsley (D2L) 	See module 11

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revitalization Movements Wallace (D2L) • Serpent Handling As Sacrament Daugherty (M 10) • The Phenomenology of Religious Serpent Handling: A Rationale and Thematic Study of Extemporaneous Sermons Williamson and Pollio (D2L) • Aum Shinrikyo as an Apocalyptic Movement Mullins (M 20) • Reflections After Waco: Millennialists and the State Barkun (D2L) • Scaling Heaven’s Gate Zeller (D2L) • Apocalyptic AI: Religion and the Promise of Artificial Intelligence Geraci (D2L) • The Goat and the Gazelle: Witchcraft Luhrmann (M 33) • The Goddess and Power: Witchcraft and Religion in America Scarboro and Luck (D2L) • Creating Sacred Space: Outer Expressions of Inner Worlds in Modern Wicca Hume (D2L) 	
13	Nov 30-Dec 6	Contemporary Issues Religion and Global Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religion in a Changing World M 373-377 • Islamic Law: The Foundation of Muslim Practice and a Measure of Social and Political Change Fluehr-LoD2Lan (M 44) • Religious Terror and Global War Juergensmeyer (M 45) • Good Muslim, Bad Muslim: A Political Perspective on Culture and Terrorism Mamdani (D2L) 	See module 12
14	Dec 7-9	Conclusion Dec 12-23 Final Exam	<p>None</p> <p>Articles not covered in Moro</p> <p>2,5,7,13,15,17,19,22,23,25,27,29,30,32,34,36,38,39,40,41,42,46,47,</p>	See module 13 Dec 12-23 Final Exam

COURSE POLICIES
Expectations

- It is expected that students will have completed the activities for each module before the next module is posted.
- To do well in the course it is recommended that you log on frequently, at least 3-4 times a week to D2L and keep up with all assigned readings etc.
- Students can expect the instructor and/or the TA to monitor discussions periodically and to check on people's progress.
- Students can expect a reply to an email within 24 hours except for weekends
- That students will let the instructor know of an issue they have that impacts their success in the course as soon as possible
- The news area of the classroom you see each time you log on will be used to post updates and comments on class matters.
- I will also email the class to remind you of upcoming important dates.
- Unless otherwise noted grades will be posted no later than the end of the week following the due date of the assignment.
- Presentations are not downloadable.
- The discussion forums are an essential part of the course and exam questions may be drawn from them.

Email Policy

In all emails to me and the TA you must use your U of C email address. In any email correspondence please begin with the course code (anth363) in the subject line along with the subject of your message. Students should send an email only where the questions or concerns are of a private nature. All other questions about content, assignments, or processes should be posted to the appropriate course discussion board so that all students have the benefit of the answer. Most of the time, you can expect a reply to an email within 24 hours. Please do NOT expect and immediate reply. I also rarely reply to emails evenings or weekends. Also, I will not reply to emails that are not signed at least with your first name.

Discussion Board Policy

The university seeks to create and maintain a positive and productive learning, working, and living environment; an environment in which there is:

- respect for the dignity of all
- fair treatment of individuals
- respect for academic freedom

This means that students, as well as faculty, must act ethically, honestly and with integrity, and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect. In other words, instances of racism, sexism, or other derogatory remarks, or remarks that may cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety or suffer emotional or mental distress will not be tolerated. Any such remarks made in the discussion boards will be immediately deleted and the person responsible may be subject to University sanctions for non-academic misconduct. If you note a post that does not adhere to these principles please contact the instructor immediately. For more information see: <https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>

Disagreements between individuals are inevitable, and it is important in the interests of academic freedom that individuals can express their views without fear of repercussion. It is also through understanding other points of view that we learn. When disagreements do occur, it is thus important to maintain respect for the dignity of all. It is also possible that remarks may be

made that, while not intended to be offensive, may be hurtful to others. Again, if you find a post by anyone, including the instructor or TA, that is offensive, please let me know right away.

Deferred Exams:

A student who is absent from an in-person assessment in a course will receive a grade of zero on the assessment. If a student communicates with the instructor and explains the circumstances around the absence, the instructor **may** transfer the percentage weight for the assessment to another component of the course (such as the final examination), set another assessment, or make other alternative arrangements. An instructor will normally make this decision based on the information provided by the student. Deferral of a Registrar-Scheduled final exam requires Registrar approval. The instructor may ask for supporting documentation to confirm an absence. For additional information on supporting documentation, see section [M.1. Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration](#). Students are responsible for costs that may be associated with obtaining supporting documentation. Statutory declarations may be found here: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/live-uc-ucalgary-site/sites/default/files/teams/1/university-of-calgary-statutory-declaration-coursework-and-examinations.pdf>. Due to Covid a signatory from the University will not be required for this declaration.

Academic Integrity:

“Academic integrity is a core value of the University of Calgary.... As a UCalgary student, you are expected to uphold these principles in all of your academic work.” (Academic Integrity Student Handbook). For more information on what Academic integrity is, why it is important, and how to avoid Academic Misconduct see the Academic Integrity Student Handbook. <https://ucalgary.ca/live-uc-ucalgary-site/sites/default/files/teams/9/AI-Student-handbook-1.pdf>.

To attend an interactive workshop on Academic integrity and learning online and learn how to appropriately collaborate with your peers go to: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

Note: Academic misconduct is a serious offence which can result in failure in the course and possibly expulsion from the University.

Instructor intellectual property

Lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor includes copyright protected works under the Copyright Act and all forms of electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, laboratories, tutorials, presentations, performances, electronic (computer) information, the duplication of course material, and to the translation of recordings or transcriptions of any of these materials to another form by electronic or mechanical means by students is not permitted, except.

- As a formal accommodation as assessed by the Student Accessibility Services and only for individual private study and only at the discretion of the instructor.
- With the permission of the instructor, students without a formal accommodation may audio record lectures, provided that the student and instructor sign a release form available from departmental and faculty offices. A copy of the Release form shall be retained by the instructor and by the department in which the course is offered. Any audio recording by students is permitted only for the purposes of private study by the

individual student. Students may not distribute, email or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person.

- For any other use, whether by duplication, transcription, publication, sale or transfer of recordings, written approval must be obtained from the instructor for the specific use proposed.
- Any use other than that described above (e.g. distributing, emailing or otherwise communicating these materials to any other person, constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion.
- Students are encouraged to make notes of classroom discussions, lectures, demonstrations etc.

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. The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology keeps exams and any term work not picked up for a minimum of one year after which it is destroyed. Please refer to the following link for detailed information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

Academic Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>). Students requesting an Accommodation are required to register with Student Accommodation Services (SAS) (<https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access>) and submit a Request for Accommodation. Instructors will be informed of the Accommodation within 10 days of the application being approved. Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

Copyright

All **students** are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Support and Resources:

Non-course-specific related information can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>

Note: information here includes

- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre

- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Safewalk