

ANTH 3718 WAO: The Anthropology of Magic and Religion

M/W 8:30-10am (OA 2015)

Instructor: Melinda Vandenberg Giles

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Course Description:

Humans have a need to find meaning for our own existence. What we call religion provides answers to these many inexplicable questions about life, death, and a larger conceptualization of who we are as humans and what we are capable of. This course will provide an overview of many different belief systems and forms of spirituality where there will be no distinctive divide between organized religion, belief systems, spirituality, magic, and witchcraft. All of these different ways of perceiving the world are united in an attempt to explain, justify, and in some cases try to control, the multifaceted forces of the universe.

Course Requirements:

Group Presentations:	40%
Two Reading/Film Journals	60% (30% each)

Required Text:

Stein, Rebecca and Philip. *The Anthropology of Religion, Magic and Witchcraft* (any version). Routledge, 2017.

Schedule of Readings

WEEK 1: Jan 8

Chapter 1: The Anthropological Study of Religion

WEEK 2: Jan 15

Chapter 2: Mythology

WEEK 3: Jan 22

Chapter 3: Religious Symbols

WEEK 4: Jan 29

Chapter 4: Ritual

WEEK 5: Feb 5

Chapter 5: Altered States of Consciousness

WEEK 6: Feb 12

Reading/Film Journal 1 Due (Weeks 1-5)

Chapter 6: Religious Specialists

WEEK 7: Feb 26

Chapter 7: Magic and Divination

WEEK 8: March 4

Chapter 8: Souls, Ghosts and Death

WEEK 9: March 11

Chapter 9: Gods and Spirits

WEEK 10: March 18

Chapter 10: Witchcraft

WEEK 11: March 25

Reading/Film Journal 2 Due (Weeks 6-10)

Presentations

WEEK 12: April 8

Presentations

Class Policies

D2L

I will be using D2L to post the course syllabus and announcements. All material is to be submitted for grading on D2L by the due date.

Policy on Extensions

Extensions will only be granted in emergency situations with appropriate documentation. Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day and you will receive 0% after 7 days unless prior arrangements have been made.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty (for instance, plagiarism) is a serious offence. Please keep in mind that I have zero tolerance for any forms of plagiarism.