

## Homework Questions: Chapters 7, 8, 9 and 10

### Chapter 7 part 1

**\*Bonus marks to students wearing costumes to class that relate to the readings for Hallowe'en.**

#### Introduction to Chapter 7

##### Study Questions

1. Give the anthropological definitions for the various terms used in this chapter (witchcraft, sorcery, exorcism, divination etc.).
2. What are the different interpretations of possession?
3. How does exorcism work? (physically and mentally)
4. Define imitative magic, contagious magic and sympathetic magic.

#### Reading 33 Brain

##### Study Questions

1. How did the idea of a witch change through time in Europe?
2. How did the Christian Church leaders 'construct' the witch so as to strengthen their own authority?
3. Give examples of other societies where sex and gender differences resulted in women having an elevated status.
4. What conclusions do comparative researchers reach about the existence and concerns about witchcraft in different types of societies?

##### Discussion Questions

1. Look up the *Malleus Maleficarum* and those who have written about it, and be prepared to discuss some of its contents in class.

#### Reading 35 Luhrmann

##### Study Questions

1. How is modern witchcraft set up as an institution?
2. What does the title of this paper refer to?

##### Discussion Questions

1. Many of the modern witches model their covens and activities on well-known fake history books of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Why do history and tradition grant authority to things, why do the 'witches' not just make something up themselves?

2. Modern witchcraft seems kind of hokey, yet the author concludes with an interesting idea: that the practitioners know this and participate in it anyway in both a reverent attitude and a joking one. What do you think is the allure of this recently created religion?

## Chapter 7 part 2

### Reading 36 Evans-Pritchard

#### Study Questions

1. What is an oracle consultation?
2. Why shouldn't fully-grown birds be used in oracle consultations?
3. How is prestige linked to the poison oracle?
4. Why are poison oracles used strictly by men? Why are women barred?

### Reading 37 Malinowski

#### Study Questions

1. How is magic fundamentally linked to gardening and fishing?
2. What does Malinowski describe the "clear cut division" of knowledge to be?
3. What is the primitive man's rational knowledge? How is knowledge negotiated?
4. How does uncertainty relate to magical rituals?

#### Discussion Questions

1. How do you use your own embodied knowledge in times of uncertainty? How do you negotiate knowledge in these situations? Do you further adopt religious practices in time of stress (like praying)?
2. Are all forms of knowledge recognized as "proper" or the "right kind of knowing"? (Intuitive knowledge VS scientific knowledge)

### Reading 38 Gmelch

#### Study questions

1. How does routine eliminate feelings of uncertainty?
2. Describe some rituals commonly used by baseball players. How are these rituals used as a control factor?
3. How are taboos avoided and respected?

4. What is the importance of fetishized objects?
5. How does Gmelch apply Malinowski's theory of magic and uncertainty to a modern context?

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Can you think of at least two modern contexts in which uncertainty and magic coincide?
2. Rituals, taboos and fetishes can be viewed as a uniting factor. What other groups of people share a similar knowledge base which allow them to relate to one another?

## **Chapter 8 part 1**

### **Introduction to Chapter 8**

#### **Study Questions**

1. What are the two major attitudes about the dead?
2. What are the respective cults and concerns regarding them?
3. What has the study of Ancestor worship focused on?
4. How do ancestors function to control society in societies with Ancestor cults?

### **Reading 39 Barber**

#### **Study Questions**

1. Describe the original 'vampir'
2. What did the German medical officers who visited Medvegia in the 1730s find?
3. What are the medical explanations for these observations?

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. Mass hysteria seems to explain some of the behaviours of the villagers who were frightened of vampires. How do you think this human tendency to mass hysteria relates to religion more widely?

### **Reading 40 McCarthy Brown**

#### **Study Questions**

1. How does Vodou work? What is it?
2. How does Vodou interact with Roman Catholicism?

3. How do Vodou believers conceive of the spirit/s or souls of a person?

#### Discussion Questions

1. Compare different ideas about the number and nature of human souls. Do you think the Judeo-Christian concept of one soul adequately covers what you perceive your soul/spirit/s to be?

### Chapter 8 part 2

#### Reading 41 Metcalf

#### Study Questions

1. Compare American and Berawan funerary rituals and beliefs.

#### Reading 42 Brandes

#### Study Questions

1. Why was the family of Axel Flores horrified that his body had been cremated? Explain all the different types of reasons (economic, social, spiritual etc.)

#### Discussion Question

1. What do these two reading tell us about how Americans view the dead?

### Chapter 9 part 1

#### Introduction to Chapter 9

#### Study Questions

1. Define revitalization and a revitalization movement.
2. What are the different types of revitalization movements?
3. What is a mazeway?
4. Define church, sect, and cult.
5. What are reasons that people are attracted to new religious movements? Give Glock's 5 types of deprivations.

#### Discussion Question

1. "Churches are places for the poor, lonely and sick." Comment on this statement, giving ideas that support and ideas that refute it. What do you think?

## Reading 43 Wallace

### Study Questions

1. What happened to the Seneca that led to their revitalization movement?
2. What are the 5 stages that Wallace discerns in revitalization movements? Explain each.

### Discussion Question

1. Which school of thought in the anthropological study of religion best explains the success of Handsome Lake's Code (structuralism etc.)?

## Reading 44 Kehoe

### Study Questions

1. What did Jack Wilson/Wovoka's Ghost Dance religion entail?
2. How was it spread?
3. What happened to it?

## Chapter 9 part 2

## Reading 46

### Study Questions

1. What rules of the institutions of Rastafarianism are revealed through this writing?
2. What are 4 Rasta principles?
3. How is ganja used to connect with spirituality?

### Discussion Questions

1. What do you think about the way Rastafarians view popes and priests?
2. How does Rastafarianism denounce aspects of modernity such as the comb and the razor? What do these items represent? Is this concept relatable?
3. Although both are Rastafarians, David and Lion and Nigel live different lifestyles. How do each frame their lifestyle in the Rastafarian teachings?

## Reading 47 Harding

### Study Questions

1. What are the two types of people, according to the Baptists in this paper?
2. How does the witness draw the listener into the story in order to open them to conversion?
3. What happens once a person is saved by the Holy Spirit?
4. Describe the rhetoric of conversion from a Fundamental Baptist perspective.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Language holds a significant amount of power. How is language used in other ways than religion as a form of influence or even social control?
2. Do you think that the changes in the past few decades in mainstream religious views (predominately around protestant religious sects) reflects the beginning of a revitalization movement in North America?

### **Reading 48**

#### **Study Questions**

1. What is the Shari'a way?
2. What is the Qur'an?
3. What is the narrative behind the Islamic banking and finance movement?
4. Describe women's economic role

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. What do you think about punishment in Islam?

## **Chapter 10 part 1**

### **Introduction**

#### **Study Questions**

1. Think about the globalization debate. How does globalization affect religion?
2. How does Appadurai describe culture and religion in a global text?

### **Reading 49 -The Veil in Their Minds and on Our Heads: Veiling Practices and Muslim Women- Homa Hoodfar**

#### **Study Questions**

1. Describe the difference between veiling and seclusion.
2. List some of the reasons for veiling.
3. How has colonization created "fantasies" about Muslim women? What are these so called fantasies, and how are Muslim women represented in them?
4. Does the case study in Hoodfar's article shed light on some of the realities in Muslim women's lives? How did the de-veiling law change things? What are some negative effects of de-veiling?

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. Is the assumption that what is good for Western middle-class women should be good for all other women valid? Can you think of ways in which Western women show “lack of agency” because of their own clothing/fashion choices?
2. How can strong religious belief play a large role in societal organization? (Think about how women of the strictest household were allowed to attend mosque) How can religion be a savior from social roles/restrictions?
3. Think about the obsession with the plight of Muslim women. Has western cultural framing prevented the serious exploration of the roots of this human suffering?
4. How has Veiling itself been confused with, or made to stand for, lack of agency?

## **Chapter 10 part 2**

### **Reading 51- Religious Terror and Global War- Mark Juergensmeyer**

#### **Study Questions**

1. What is a religious war?
2. What does the author mean when he describes acts of religious terrorism as devices for symbolic empowerment?
3. How do notions of modernity compromise religious practices and beliefs and lead to terror?
4. What does “goading secular authorities into responding to terror with terror” accomplish?

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. How do acts of religious terrorism/ violence control or “purchase public recognition”. Why are public acts of violence more viable to people? How do they differ from non-public acts of violence- do non-public get the same recognition?
2. How can religion be used as a form of social control?

### **Reading 52- Homer the Heretic and Charlie Church: Parody, Piety, and Pluralism in The Simpsons**

#### **Study Questions**

1. How does The Simpsons reflect realism? How is reality skewed through use of the show? (mirrors)
2. How do some characters in the Simpsons-like Krusty, Apu or Ned, reflect western stereotypes about specific religious people or religion itself?
3. How are Satan and God represented in the show?
4. What does the author mean by saying that the characters in the show represent “us” and “not us”?

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. How does 'the Simpsons' reflect our attitudes about religion and how does it shape them?
2. Can shows like the Simpsons, South Park, and Family Guy be responsible for dialogue about religion? Considering that T.V is a popular phenomena, is it safe to say that the parody and comedy are beneficial in the representation of religions?