

**University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee/South Campus**  
**Course Syllabus, Fall 2009; Tuesday 3-5:50 PM**

**ANT 4241 Anthropology of Religion**

Instructor: Ms. Teryn Gilbertson Office Hours: By appointment before or after class.  
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**Course Description:** This course is a cross-cultural study of the social and cultural aspects of religion. Religious activities in traditional and modern societies will be discussed. Ritual behavior, religious practitioners and symbols of belief will be considered in light of their impact on the social, political or economic aspects of peoples' lives. Anthropology of Religion fulfills either Gordon Rule 6A Communications or Exit Requirements Major Works.

**Texts Required** Moro, P.A., J.E Myers, and A.C. Lehmann. *Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion: An Anthropological Study of the Supernatural*, Seventh Edition. ISBN 978-0-07-340521-6 pback.

**Course Objectives:** This course is intended to broaden students' understanding of the definition of religion in its anthropological context. Students will understand the similarities and differences between myth, ritual, and religion; understand how drugs have been used in a supernatural context; and will differentiate between religious practitioners such as priests, prophets, and shamans. Finally, you will understand the differences between magic, witchcraft, and religion; have a basic understanding of the power of the dead on the living; and to see "how what is old is new again."

In addition to the texts, each student is required to access your USF e-mail account in order to fulfill the commitments of this course. All e-mail from me will be generated through Blackboard, so if you choose to use another e-mail account, you are responsible for setting up a proxy to re-route the mail that will be sent to your USF account. Failure to do so may have a negative affect on your course grade, since you may miss homework updates that will be sent via e-mail. All of the coursework will be posted on Blackboard, an on-line course access program, including most of the materials you will need to research in order to write your short research papers.

**Course Requirements:** Your effort required for this course will consist of successfully completing 7 segments as follows:

1. Journal	90
2. Weekly response (11 wks X 15 pts)	165
3. Media Presentation.	100
4. Discussion leader/ Presentation.	35
5. 2 Research/Analytical Papers (ea. 125 points).	250
6. Attendance & Bb discussions (16wks X 10 pts)	160
7. Quizzes based on readings (4 X 50 pts.)	<u>200</u>
	<b>1000</b>

**Unit Tests:** There will be four (4) quizzes throughout the semester, based on the readings and prior lectures and discussions. They are worth 50 points each and a minor portion of your grade. No dates are posted for these as I want you to be prepared every week....

**Weekly Response:** There will be six two-page weekly response papers alternating with on-line exercises, due by Monday at 5pm each week. The response papers are designed to demonstrate your *critical thinking* as regards the weekly reading assignments. Notes you take from the readings should be included in your class journal and should substantially reflect the content of the essays. Some weeks, a guideline to a particular reading will be used in place of the reading critically guideline, so be sure to check the assignment tab weekly in Blackboard. The five weeks that you choose the on-line exercise instead of a paper will have guidelines also posted in "Assignments" in Blackboard and will utilize the blog tool as the exercise follow-up. The first eleven weeks of the semester require either paper or exercise.

**Presentations:** You will be responsible for one presentation (about 20 minutes in length) and the mini-presentation involves you becoming the discussion leader based on the prior week's reading assignment. Topics will be collaborated with the instructor early in the semester since there will only be one on each particular topic. Your presentation should include both media and a handout for your peers in which you outline your research. Presentations lasting less than the minimum or more than the maximum will find their grades substantially lowered for failure to comply with assignment specifications. Exact time ranges will be established during the second week of class based on number of class participants.

**Analytical Papers:**

You will write two (2) 1,500 to 2,000--word research papers. These topics are derived from topics in the course textbook and the first should be approved in the first class and the second approved by week 4. ***Both papers must be fully cited and follow the guidelines for MLA style.*** If you are not already familiar with a writing style, either get yourself a guideline out of the library or become familiar with the style by reading the guidelines online at the On-line Writing Laboratory (OWL) at Purdue University by doing a "google" search for "MLA Style" and looking for the OWL link. You must use a *minimum* of 12 scholarly sources for each of these assignments. No wikipedia nor .com/.net sites accepted as sources. One of these papers will be the basis for your media presentation.

**Grading:**

All assignments will receive a numerical grade. Final letter grades will be determined on an accumulated percentile basis, in accordance with the customary scale used in university courses:

A+ 98-100%    A 94-97%    A- 90-93%    B+ 87-89%    B 84-86%    B- 80-83%  
C+ 77-79%    C 74-76%    C- 70-73%    D+ 67-69%    D 64-66%    D- 60-63%    F 0-59%

**Last day to drop without penalty: August 28!**

Make-up tests, Late Submissions, and Incompletes: You are expected to complete all assignments on time. The in-class presentations will be an integral component of class activities. Therefore, if you cannot deliver a presentation on the assigned date, your makeup presentation shall be penalized by one letter grade, regardless of reason. Papers must be submitted by the due date indicated in the syllabus. Papers that are submitted late will be penalized one letter grade per day, regardless of reason. Weekly responses are due via electronic drop box no later than 5pm each Monday, giving me time to read them before I see you on Tuesday. Late weekly submissions get a zero grade, regardless of reason for their latency.

A grade of Incomplete (I) will be awarded only if at least one-half of your required work has been completed with a cumulative passing grade.

**Attendance:** Attendance in class is expected. Roll will be taken and attendance points awarded each week you are present. Additional points are awarded when attendance includes active participation, demonstrating familiarity with the subject (you did your homework) and critical thought (you considered what you read and formed an educated opinion). Personal discussions, passing notes, etc. will lower your attendance point values.

On-time arrival to class is also expected. In enrolling in this class, you are making a commitment to be in class during the scheduled time. I am trying to arrange for guest speakers and/or alternate class locations periodically in the coming months. Venue will also be posted on Blackboard.

*In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for USF to suspend normal operations. During this time, USF may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: Blackboard, Elluminate, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule. It's the responsibility of the student to monitor Blackboard site for each class for course specific communication, and the main USF, College, and department websites, emails, and MoBull messages for important general information.*

Important note on electronic submissions: **I do not** have the means to open Word Perfect nor Microsoft Works documents. *Please submit Microsoft Word (.doc) only documents electronically. No hard copies will be accepted of any of the papers.*

**Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism (the presentation of someone else's work as your own) and cheating (dishonesty or deception in fulfilling academic requirements) are unacceptable. All submissions will be scrutinized by an electronic plagiarism service, turnitin.com. Penalties for academic honesty, including failure of the test or assignment or failure of the course, will be assessed according to USF procedures.

Students with Disabilities: Per the requirements of USF policy and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the instructor will make reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Per USF policy, any student with a disability must contact Student Disability.

Bring notes from your readings to each class meeting. The syllabus contains important information concerning policies and schedules. Do not discard it. I recommend that you keep it with your class notes. If you need a duplicate copy, print it from Blackboard. The schedule given in this syllabus is subject to change. In particular, the instructor may announce additional off-campus locations for class meetings.

**August 25:** First week. General discussion of what will be expected of the students during the next 10 weeks; video, PowerPoint presentation to introduce the anthropological study of religion. Each of you will walk away with your first topic for paper 1. **Homework:** Chapters 1-5. There will be a study guide posted in Blackboard for the first written assignment, due next Monday by 5pm. Submit using “send” in the digital dropbox feature in Course Tools. If you chose the on-line exercise, instead, see those guidelines, also under “Assignments” in Blackboard. Subsequent blog tool is under “Course Tools.”

**September 1:** PowerPoint and lecture; discuss case studies/ readings; also introduce personal experiences. Close with a Video. **Homework:** Chapters 6-11. Use the “Reading Critically” guidelines posted in Blackboard for the assignment, due next Monday by 5pm. Submit using the “send” button in the digital dropbox feature in Course Tools. If you chose the on-line exercise, instead, see those guidelines, also under “Assignments” in Blackboard. Subsequent blog tool is under “Course Tools.”

**September 8:** PowerPoint on rituals. Lecture to expand on those introduced in the text and discussion will include those in which you have been a participant. **Homework:** Chapters 12-16. Use the “Reading Critically” guidelines posted in Blackboard for the assignment, due next Monday by 5pm. Submit using the “send” button in the digital dropbox feature in Course Tools. If you chose the on-line exercise, instead, see those guidelines, also under “Assignments” in Blackboard. Subsequent blog tool is under “Course Tools.”

**September 15:** Quiz 1. Discussion of readings, video, and specifics of MLA 2009 guidelines for writing papers. **Homework:** Chapters 17-22. Use the “Reading Critically” guidelines posted in Blackboard for the assignment, due next Monday by 5pm. Submit using the “send” button in the digital dropbox feature in Course Tools. If you chose the on-line exercise, instead, see those guidelines, also under “Assignments” in Blackboard. Subsequent blog tool is under “Course Tools.”

**September 22:** Some of you will want to present your first papers and this is the first night for those presentations. I will also have a PowerPoint that will expand on those topics introduced in the text. **Homework:** Chapters 23-27. Use the “Reading Critically” guidelines posted in Blackboard for the assignment, due next Monday by 5pm. Submit using the “send” button in the digital dropbox feature in Course Tools. If you chose the on-line exercise, instead, see those guidelines, also under “Assignments” in Blackboard. Subsequent blog tool is under “Course Tools.”

**September 29:** First research paper due tonight! If you will want to present your first papers, this is the last night for those presentations. There will also be a video.

**Homework:** Chapters 28-32. Use the “Reading Critically” guidelines posted in Blackboard for the assignment, due next Monday by 5pm. Submit using the “send” button in the digital dropbox feature in Course Tools. If you chose the on-line exercise, instead, see those guidelines, also under “Assignments” in Blackboard. Subsequent blog tool is under “Course Tools.”

**October 6:** Quiz 2. Video, discussion of readings, and Power Point presentation.

**Homework:** Chapters 33-38. Use the “Reading Critically” guidelines posted in Blackboard for the assignment, due next Monday by 5pm. Submit using the “send” button in the digital dropbox feature in Course Tools. If you chose the on-line exercise, instead, see those guidelines, also under “Assignments” in Blackboard. Subsequent blog tool is under “Course Tools.”

**October 13:** Video, discussion of readings, and Power Point presentation. **Homework:**

Chapters 39-43. Use the “Reading Critically” guidelines posted in Blackboard for the assignment, due next Monday by 5pm. Submit using the “send” button in the digital dropbox feature in Course Tools. If you chose the on-line exercise, instead, see those guidelines, also under “Assignments” in Blackboard. Subsequent blog tool is under “Course Tools.”

**October 20:** Quiz 3. Discussion of the readings from the last week and follow with a movie. **Homework:** Chapters 44-48. Use the “Reading Critically” guidelines posted in Blackboard for the assignment, due next Monday by 5pm. Submit using the “send” button in the digital dropbox feature in Course Tools. If you chose the on-line exercise, instead, see those guidelines, also under “Assignments” in Blackboard. Subsequent blog tool is under “Course Tools.”

**October 27:** Discussion of the readings from the last week, video, and PowerPoint presentation. **Homework:** Chapters 49-52. Use the “Reading Critically” guidelines posted in Blackboard for the assignment, due next Monday by 5pm. Submit using the “send” button in the digital dropbox feature in Course Tools. If you chose the on-line exercise, instead, see those guidelines, also under “Assignments” in Blackboard. Subsequent blog tool is under “Course Tools.”

**November 3:** We will discuss the readings from the last week and see a video that coincides with one of the readings. I will close the class with a PowerPoint presentation.

**Homework:** Work on your second research paper and read Chapters 53-57. This is the last weekly assignment and you know if you need it to be a two-page paper or the on-line exercise and blog.

**November 10:** Quiz 4. Discussion of the readings from the last week and follow with a movie. **Homework:** Work on your second research paper and presentation, if you have not done yours yet.

**November 17:** Student presentations tonight and next week! If you did not present your first paper topic, these are the last two weeks to present. After student presentations, we will discuss the readings from the last week and possibly see a film. **Homework:** Work on finishing your second research paper.

**November 24:** Student presentations end tonight! If you did not present yet, this is your last chance to present. After student presentations, we will discuss the readings from the last week. **Homework:** Finish your second research paper and give me a great journal for the semester when I see you next.

**December 1:** Completed journals are due at the beginning of class! Second paper is due today and should be dropped in the digital drop box before you come to class! Tonight you grade the instructor as well as the class. There is also movie that will touch on many of the concepts you have studied over the past 15 weeks. **Homework:** Study for final exams in your other classes!

**December 8:** Final's week. *No final for the class as the 4 quizzes were the only tests* but you need to come to contribute to the closing discussion, pick up your journal, and get the last day attendance points. I have invited a closing guest and expect we can all knowledgably discuss the concepts that we were exposed to over the semester. This will be a class party with discussion and gusto!