ANTH M11: THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF MAGIC, WITCHCRAFT AND RELIGION

Originator
akinkella

Co-Contributor(s)

Name(s)
Vaughan, Ashley (avaughan)
Baker, John (johnbaker)

College
Moorpark College

Discipline (CB01A)
ANTH - Anthropology

Course Number (CB01B)
M11

Course Title (CB02)
The Anthropology of Magic, Witchcraft and Religion

Banner/Short Title
Magic/Witchcraft/Religion

Credit Type
Credit

Start Term
Fall 2021

Catalog Course Description
Provides an introduction to human belief systems around the world and the manners in which anthropology investigates these. Examines the functions and structures of belief systems, cross-cultural classifications of religions, shamanism, religious change, and religious systems in global perspective. Analyzes the historical, social, and psychobiological factors that influence the development of religions, and emphasizes the application of cultural relativism when considering other cultures and beliefs.

Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) Code (CB03)
2202.00 - Anthropology

Course Credit Status (CB04)
D (Credit - Degree Applicable)

Course Transfer Status (CB05) (select one only)
A (Transferable to both UC and CSU)

Course Basic Skills Status (CB08)
N - The Course is Not a Basic Skills Course

SAM Priority Code (CB09)
E - Non-Occupational

Course Cooperative Work Experience Education Status (CB10)
N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

Course Classification Status (CB11)
Y - Credit Course

Educational Assistance Class Instruction (Approved Special Class) (CB13)
N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

Course Prior to Transfer Level (CB21)
Y - Not Applicable

Course Noncredit Category (CB22)
Y - Credit Course

Funding Agency Category (CB23)
Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

Course Program Status (CB24)
1 - Program Applicable

General Education Status (CB25)
Y - Not Applicable

Support Course Status (CB26)
N - Course is not a support course

Field trips
May be required

Faculty notes on field trips; include possible destinations or other pertinent information
Visits to various religious sites to study the use of space, observe rituals, and interact with the people who attend/perform the rituals at these sites.

Grading method
(L) Letter Graded

Alternate grading methods
(O) Student Option- Letter/Pass
(P) Pass/No Pass Grading

Does this course require an instructional materials fee?
No

Repeatable for Credit
No

Is this course part of a family?
No

Units and Hours

Carnegie Unit Override
No

In-Class

Lecture
Minimum Contact/In-Class Lecture Hours
52.5
Maximum Contact/In-Class Lecture Hours
52.5

Activity
Minimum Contact/In-Class Activity Hours
0

Maximum Contact/In-Class Activity Hours
0

Laboratory
Minimum Contact/In-Class Laboratory Hours
0
Maximum Contact/In-Class Laboratory Hours
0

Total in-Class

Total in-Class
Total Minimum Contact/In-Class Hours
52.5
Total Maximum Contact/In-Class Hours
52.5

Outside-of-Class

Internship/Cooperative Work Experience

Paid
Minimum Paid Internship/Cooperative Work Experience Hours
0
Maximum Paid Internship/Cooperative Work Experience Hours
0

Unpaid
Minimum Unpaid Internship/Cooperative Work Experience Hours
0
Maximum Unpaid Internship/Cooperative Work Experience Hours
0

Total Outside-of-Class

Total Outside-of-Class
Minimum Outside-of-Class Hours
105
Maximum Outside-of-Class Hours
105

Total Student Learning

Total Student Learning
Total Minimum Student Learning Hours
157.5
Total Maximum Student Learning Hours
157.5

Minimum Units (CB07)
3
Maximum Units (CB06)
3

Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1   describe and evaluate the ways in which belief systems represent adaptive responses to both historical events and human biological, psychological, and social needs.

2   describe and examine their own belief systems and consider the reasons why these are both similar and different to the belief systems of other people around the world.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1   summarize and contrast the various sub-fields of anthropology and illustrate how each of these provides insights into human belief systems.

2   discuss the manners in which humans acquire knowledge of the world and consider the uses and the limitations of that knowledge.

3   identify, explain, apply, and critique the concepts of ethnocentrism and cultural relativism.

4   identify the functions of belief systems and differentiate between different expressions of these functions.

5   identify the various components which anthropologists have identified as parts of belief systems and examine the expressions of these components in different belief systems.

6   describe and distinguish between the belief systems and activities that anthropologists understand under the terms "magic," "witchcraft," and "religion."

7   illustrate how belief systems emerge and evolve in response to both historical events and human needs and, using specific examples from the ethnographic record, explain the processes by which belief systems change.

8   assess their own personal belief systems using the theories and examples provided in class.

Course Content

Lecture/Course Content
- 6% - The Nature of Anthropology and the Uses of Anthropology for Studying Belief Systems
- 6% - The Ways in which Humans Construct the World and the Limits of Objective Human Knowledge
- 6% - Consciousness, and Normal and Altered Modes of Consciousness
- 12% - Functions and Structures of Belief Systems
- 6% - Theories on the Origins of the Religious Impulse
- 6% - Shamanism as a Belief System and as a Prototype for the First Religions
- 6% - Magic as a System for Explaining and Controlling the World
- 6% - Witchcraft as a System for Explaining and Controlling the World
- 6% - Religion as a Means for Defining a Group and for Defining Ways to Relate to Other Groups
- 12% - How Religions Emerge and How They Change
- 18% - Examples of Belief Systems Throughout History and Across Cultures
- 10% - Current and Future Trends in Religion

Laboratory or Activity Content
NA

Methods of Evaluation

Which of these methods will students use to demonstrate proficiency in the subject matter of this course? (Check all that apply):
Problem solving exercises
Written expression

Methods of Evaluation may include, but are not limited to, the following typical classroom assessment techniques/required assignments (check as many as are deemed appropriate):
Classroom Discussion
Essay exams
Group projects
Individual projects
Journals
Objective exams
Projects

Problem-solving exams
Participation
Quizzes
Reports/Papers/Journals
Reports/papers
Research papers
Written analyses

Instructional Methodology

Specify the methods of instruction that may be employed in this course

Audio-visual presentations
Collaborative group work
Class activities
Class discussions
Case studies
Distance Education
Demonstrations
Field trips
Group discussions
Guest speakers
Instructor-guided interpretation and analysis
Internet research
Large group activities
Lecture
Observation
Problem-solving examples
Readings
Small group activities

Describe specific examples of the methods the instructor will use:

Instructor will use PowerPoint presentations, educational videos, group discussions, group work, and individual essay prompts to explain course content.

Representative Course Assignments

Writing Assignments
- Application of class material as the basis for students to analyze their own belief systems in magic, witch craft and religion from an anthropological perspective.
- Summary and analysis of guest lecture or other outside-of-class presentation.
- Written evaluations of information provided on the Internet.
- Essays on assigned topics such as paganism in the modern world.
- Term paper(s).
- Short answer and/or comprehensive written exams.

Critical Thinking Assignments
- Applying different theoretical approaches to discuss aspects of religious systems.
- Assessing the ways in which individual experiences are shaped and given expression by the belief systems of the society in which a person lives.
- Taking Objective and short-answer exams.

Reading Assignments
- Read peer-reviewed journal articles presenting case studies and discussing the methods and theories anthropologists use to study belief systems, and responding the questions about these articles. And example could be: Read the article "Revitalization Movements" and use the model presented therein to interpret a contemporary religious movement.
- Read assigned chapters from a textbook on the anthropology of religion.

Outside Assignments

Representative Outside Assignments
- Library, internet, or fieldwork-based research into multiple different belief traditions, including (but not limited to) visits to religions sites, conversations with practitioners of different traditions, research into the history and central beliefs of different traditions.

- Discussions with representatives of various religions.
- Visits to religious sites.
- Assigned writings.
- Assigned readings from text(s) and other sources.

Articulation

Equivalent Courses at 4 year institutions

University	Course ID	Course Title	Units
UC Riverside	RLST/ETST 12	Religious Myths and Rituals	4
CSU, Northridge	ANTH 222	Visions of the Sacred	3
CSU Chico	ANTH 140	Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion	3

Comparable Courses within the VCCCD

ANTH R111 - Magic, Witchcraft and Religion: Anthropology of Belief
ANTH V07 - The Anthropology of Magic, Witchcraft and Religion
ANTH R111H - Honors: Magic, Witchcraft and Religion: Anthropology of Belief

Equivalent Courses at other CCCs

College	Course ID	Course Title	Units
Los Angeles Pierce College	ANTHRO 121	Anthropology of Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft	3
College of the Canyons	ANTH 220	Magic, Witchcraft and Religion	3

District General Education

A. Natural Sciences

B. Social and Behavioral Sciences

B2. Social and Behavioral Sciences
Approved

C. Humanities

D. Language and Rationality

E. Health and Physical Education/Kinesiology

F. Ethnic Studies/Gender Studies

Course is CSU transferable
Yes

CSU Baccalaureate List effective term:
F1995

CSU GE-Breadth

Area A: English Language Communication and Critical Thinking

Area B: Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning

Area C: Arts and Humanities

Area D: Social Sciences

D Social Sciences
Approved

Area E: Lifelong Learning and Self-Development

Area F: Ethnic Studies

CSU Graduation Requirement in U.S. History, Constitution and American Ideals:

UC TCA

UC TCA
Approved

IGETC

Area 1: English Communication

Area 2A: Mathematical Concepts & Quantitative Reasoning

Area 3: Arts and Humanities

Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Approved

Area 5: Physical and Biological Sciences

Area 6: Languages Other than English (LOTE)

Textbooks and Lab Manuals
Resource Type
Textbook

Classic Textbook
No

Description
Winkelman, Michael, and John R. Baker. *Supernatural as Natural: A Biocultural Approach to Religion*. Routledge, 2010.

Resource Type
Textbook

Classic Textbook
No

Description
Moro, Pamela A., and James E. Myers. *Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion: A Reader in the Anthropology of Religion*. 9th ed., McGraw-Hill, 2012.

Resource Type
Textbook

Classic Textbook
No

Description
Stein Rebecca, and Philip L. Stein. *The Anthropology of Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft*. 4th ed., Routledge, 2017.

Resource Type
Textbook

Classic Textbook
No

Description
Bielo, James, *Anthropology of Religion: The Basics.* Routledge, 2015.

Library Resources

Assignments requiring library resources
Research projects using the Library's print and online resources such as JSTOR, AnthroSource, and EBSCO Academic Search Complete.

Sufficient Library Resources exist
Yes

Example of Assignments Requiring Library Resources
Research such topics as the functions of religion in human life, the evolution of the human impulse for religion, and to study specific belief systems in detail.

Distance Education Addendum

Definitions

Distance Education Modalities
Hybrid (51%–99% online)
Hybrid (1%–50% online)
100% online

Faculty Certifications

Faculty assigned to teach Hybrid or Fully Online sections of this course will receive training in how to satisfy the Federal and state regulations governing regular effective/substantive contact for distance education. The training will include common elements in the district-supported learning management system (LMS), online teaching methods, regular effective/substantive contact, and best practices.
Yes

Faculty assigned to teach Hybrid or Fully Online sections of this course will meet with the EAC Alternate Media Specialist to ensure that the course content meets the required Federal and state accessibility standards for access by students with disabilities. Common areas for discussion include accessibility of PDF files, images, captioning of videos, Power Point presentations, math and scientific notation, and ensuring the use of style mark-up in Word documents.
Yes

Regular Effective/Substantive Contact

Hybrid (1%–50% online) Modality:

Method of Instruction	Document typical activities or assignments for each method of instruction
Asynchronous Dialog (e.g., discussion board)	Instructor will post a question or a prompt for students to discuss. Students will also use this prompt to interact with other students.
E-mail	nstructor will email students with announcements about the course or an upcoming event. Students in turn may email the instructor with their questions or concerns.
Face to Face (by student request; cannot be required)	Students will have the option to meet the instructor during face-to-face office hours.
Other DE (e.g., recorded lectures)	Instructor may record the lectures and post them for students to view within a specified time frame to be ready for the accompanying assignments for that module.
Synchronous Dialog (e.g., online chat)	Instructor may be available on a certain day or days of the week within a certain time frame to help students and answer their questions via an online chat.
Telephone	Instructor may provide a phone number for the students where they can leave a voicemail and expect a call back within 24 hours.

Hybrid (51%–99% online) Modality:

Method of Instruction	Document typical activities or assignments for each method of instruction
Asynchronous Dialog (e.g., discussion board)	Instructor will post a question or a prompt for students to discuss. Students will also use this prompt to interact with other students.
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100% online Modality:

Method of Instruction	Document typical activities or assignments for each method of instruction
Asynchronous Dialog (e.g., discussion board)	Instructor will post a question or a prompt for students to discuss. Students will also use this prompt to interact with other students.
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Telephone	Instructor may provide a phone number for the students where they can leave a voicemail and expect a call back within 24 hours.

Examinations

Hybrid (1%–50% online) Modality
On campus

Hybrid (51%–99% online) Modality
On campus

Primary Minimum Qualification
ANTHROPOLOGY

Review and Approval Dates

Department Chair
04/01/2021

Dean
04/08/2021

Technical Review
04/29/2021

Curriculum Committee
5/4/2021

DTRW-I
MM/DD/YYYY

Curriculum Committee
MM/DD/YYYY

Board
MM/DD/YYYY

CCCCO
MM/DD/YYYY

Control Number
CCC000428589

DOE/accreditation approval date
MM/DD/YYYY