

Syllabus: Anthro 121

Course Information:

- Discipline: Anthropology
- Course Number: 3028
- Title: **Anthropology of Religion, Magic and Witchcraft**

Instructor Information:

- Name: Erin J Moran
- Office hours: 6:15 pm – 6:50 pm
- Phone Ext: x 4689
- Email: MoranE@lamission.edu
- Office location:

Semester: Fall 2012

Time: 6:50pm -10:00pm, Wednesday

Location: CMS 004

Course Description:

Focuses on religious beliefs and practices around the world. Overview of forms of religious beliefs; variety of gods and supernatural forces; use of myth, ritual, religious ceremony; shamans, priests, and religious specialists. Topics: symbolism, ritual, magic, divination, witchcraft, religious syncretism, death and the afterlife; ghosts, souls, and reincarnation.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will compare and contrast religion & belief systems within the context of culture.
 1. [Advisory Prerequisite: English 28 or ESL 8](#)
- Students can also expect to:
 1. Comprehend the breadth and depth of the anthropological study, methods, and knowledge of the supernatural and religion.
 2. Recognize and apply the role of the study of the supernatural in anthropology's holistic study of humankind.
 3. Think critically about systems of magic, witchcraft, and religion from the past and the present and from societies around the world.
 4. Recognize and identify supernatural beliefs and practices in cultural settings with respect to the role of the material world and social systems.
 5. Apply critical thinking skills in regards to the study of supernatural beliefs and practices in the United States and in cultures around the world.
 6. Develop a more thorough understanding of how the belief in supernatural forces affect daily life, change, and conflict on local and global scales.
 7. Develop reading, writing, and collaborative study skills- life skills!

Required Readings:

Stein, Rebecca L. and Philip L Stein. *The Anthropology of Religion, Witchcraft, and Religion*. Second Edition. Boston MA, Pearson Education. 2008.

Assignments, Quizzes and Exams:

Participation	10 %
Daily Quizzes	10 %
Exercise #1	5 %
Exercise #2	10 %
Belief System Research Project	
Proposal	10 %
Research Essay	15 %
Midterm #1	10 %
Midterm #2	15 %
Final	15 %
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Total	100 %

Day/Date/Time of Final Exam:

Wednesday, December 12, 2012 @ 6:50pm – 10:00 pm

Active Attendance:

Success in this course requires what I call “active attendance.” This involves more than showing up for class each day. Students are expected to participate productively and thoughtfully in classroom discussions and group work. In addition, we will regularly start class with short writing assignments. These writing activities are geared toward three important things: (1) eliminating students’ fear of writing by making it routine; (2) enabling students who are less vocal in class to share their ideas; and (3) making sure that we’re all staying on top of the reading each week. In-class writing assignments will not be announced in advance. They will form a large portion of your “active attendance” grade.

Assignment #1: Supernatural Research Paper

Your final project will be a research paper on some aspect of the supernatural. This is worth 250 points (150 project & 100 project outline). Full details are in the project handout. Late papers will NOT be accepted.

You will research and write about one of the belief systems we have examined in class that intrigues you, or you may chose a one that you know of and want to learn more about. You will also identify and write about a particular issue, challenge, or change that the belief system is experiencing.

- (a) A one-page proposal that explains what belief system you will research, what sources you will use, what issues the belief system faces, and how it fits into this class.
- (2) Research essay describes the belief system that you have researched, the issue that you have identified, and they way that these issues relate to class. You will incorporate the concepts and theories that we cover in the class, and you will locate your discussion in a

particular social and historical context. 4-5 pages long, typed, double-spaced, standard margins, 12 point.

Quizzes:

Daily quizzes are meant to test your understanding of the readings and to job your memory.

Midterm Exams and Final:

Three exams will be given during the semester. Exams are not cumulative, but only cover material (readings, lectures, discussions, and films) between the exam dates. However, you will need to understand the main concepts from the first half of the course in order to succeed on the final exam. Prior to the exam, a review sheet will be distributed. Exams are multiple choice and short essay. Makeup exams will be allowed only at the instructor's discretion and must be completed within one week of the regularly scheduled exam. This assumes that you have been progressing satisfactorily, participating in class, and keeping up with coursework. For each exam bring a long 50/50 scantron; for the final, you will need the scantron that includes an attached essay page.

Classroom Policy:

Course Requirements - Your continued enrollment in this course confirms that you have read this syllabus and that you have agreed to the course schedule and requirements that I have laid out here. All students are therefore expected to fulfill ALL of the requirements for the course that I have outlined. It is my policy NOT to grant extensions. You may opt to hand in an assignment late; 20% of the total grade will be deducted each day.

Classroom conduct:

At all times, the classroom environment must be one of respect for conflicting viewpoints and opinions. I encourage active debate and exploration of complex issues. In order to do this, we all must work to make our classroom community a supportive and inclusive one. Please refrain from using cell phones (for both calls and text messages) during class. Cell phones should be set to "silent" before you come to class each week. If there is an emergency and you MUST use your cell phone, please excuse yourself and take the call outside.

Communication policy:

I do my best to answer student emails promptly. Please be aware, however, that I cannot respond immediately. Generally, you can expect a reply from me within 24 hours. I will not answer emails after 7pm.

Grading Policy:

Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism:

Please note that any student found engaging in either cheating on exams or plagiarizing papers will receive an F as the final grade in this course and will be referred to campus administration for further disciplinary action. Exams and papers must be the student's own work! Proper citations must be incorporated in your papers whenever utilizing

outside sources.

Policy on Request for Grade Changes:

It is the job of the TAs and myself to evaluate your progress in this course. Your grade is based on our level of satisfaction with your work for this class. Grade changes will only be made in the event that an actual error has occurred. A student's grade will not be changed simply because a student feels that "I deserved a higher grade" or "I worked very hard and should have received a better grade." Grades are the prerogative of the class professor and TAs and are not negotiable.

If you feel that your midterm essay or course paper grade is in error, then you need to submit a written statement clearly stating the reason why you believe your grade is in error. This statement needs to be submitted within one week of posting of the score to your TA or the professor.

DROPPING:

Remember that it is your responsibility to drop by the deadline as follows:

 Last day to apply for a refund – September 7, 2012

 Last day to drop without a "W" – November 18, 2012

 Last day to drop with a W – September 9, 2012

Failure to drop a class by the official drop deadline may result in a grade of "F" for the class.

N.B. A new state policy in effect as of Summer 2012 limits students to 3 attempts per course. Receiving a grade or "W" for a course counts as an attempt, regardless of when the course was taken. Withdrawal by September 9, 2012 (avoiding a "W") will not count as an attempt.

CREDIT/NO CREDIT:

This course is transferable to UC & CSU; See College Catalog for details.

REQUEST FOR I-grade:

Granted only for documented, serious reasons. It must be requested before the week of final exams, you must be up to date with all work & requirements, and you have been progressing satisfactorily.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM:

Any form of cheating or plagiarism will earn an F for the activity in question or, depending on the circumstances, for the entire course. Cheating will be reported to the Vice President of Student Services.

Attendance and Absence Policies:

Attendance Policy:

Daily attendance is a requirement in this course. Attendance will be taken daily at the beginning of class and your attendance will be reflected in a portion of your final grade. It is your responsibility to arrive before attendance is taken in order for your presence to be recorded.

Policy on Missed Classes:

You are allowed a **maximum of 3 absences** during the semester. Your absences do not need to be excused, but if you miss more than three classes you will be in danger of being dropped from the course. Students with medical emergencies are required to show a note from their physician.

It is the students' responsibility to get notes from a classmate if she or he misses a lecture. I do not send notes via emails or give notes to students who missed any lectures. You may want to make sure you have a "buddy" in the class to get notes from if you ever have to miss class.

Assignments:

Week	Date	Your grade, so far	Readings/Topics- See notes below for details	Assignments & Due Dates
1			Introduction to the Anthropology of Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft; Syllabus review; Intro, Key Terms and Concepts --Anth. Study of Religion, --Anth. of Religion, History and Context and theory --What is religion --Theoretical approaches to religion	
2			Read Chapter 1 Chapter 2: Mythology --The Nature of Myths --Understanding Myths	Daily Quiz
3			Chapter 3: Religious Symbols --What is a symbol? --Sacred Art --Sacred space/time --Symbolism of music/dance	Daily Quiz
4			Chapter 3/Chapter 4: Ritual --Ritual and myth --Basics of ritual performance --Classification of rituals --Religious Obligations	Daily Quiz

5			Chapter 4: Ritual --Ritual and myth --Basics of ritual performance --Classification of rituals --Religious Obligations Review for part one	Daily Quiz PAPER PROPOSAL DUE
6			Exam 1: Chapters 1-4	EXAM 1
7			Chapter 5: Altered State of Consciousness --The nature of altered states of consciousness --Ethnographic examples of altered states of consciousness	Daily Quiz
8			Chapter 5/Chapter 6: Religious Specialists --Shamans --Priests --Other specialists	Daily Quiz
9			Chapter 6/Chapter 7: Magic and Divination --The world of magic --Magic and society --Divination	Daily Quiz
10			Chapter 7: Magic and Divination --The world of magic --Magic and society --Divination Review for part two	Daily Quiz
11			Exam 2: Chapters 5-7	EXAM 2
12			Chapter 8: Souls, Ghosts, and Death --Souls and Ancestors --Bodies and souls	Daily Quiz
13			Chapter 9: Gods and Spirits --Spirits --Gods	Daily Quiz
14			Chapter 10: Witchcraft --The concept of witchcraft in small-scale societies --Euro-American witchcraft beliefs	Daily Quiz
15			Chapter 11: The Search for New Meaning --Adaptation to change	Daily Quiz PAPER DUE

			--Revitalization Movements ---New religious movements Review for part three	
16			Final Exam	FINAL EXAM

Your Grade, So Far:

Assignment	Points Possible	Points Received	Your grade, so far
Attendance	100		
Daily Quizzes	100		
Exercise #1	50		
Exercise #2	100		
Belief System Research Project	---		
Proposal	100		
Research Essay	150		
Midterm 1	100		
Midterm 2	100		
Final exam	150		
Total grade	1000		

Other Important Information:

Important matriculation dates:

- Last day to apply for a refund – September 7, 2012
- Last day to drop without a “W” – November 18, 2012
- Last day to drop with a W – September 9, 2012

Website(s) with resources for students

Life Science Department website: www.lamission.edu/lifesciences

College resources for students

- **Library:** For information on hours, resources, workshops, and other services contact 818-364-7106 or visit <http://www.lamission.edu/library/>
- **Tutoring Services in Learning Center:** Laboratories for Learning, Writing, Math & Science. Walk-in and appointment services offered. Call 818-364-7754 or visit www.lamission.edu/learningcenter/
- **Bookstore:** For hours of operation, book availability, buybacks, and other information call 818-364-7767 or 7768 or visit <http://www.lamissionbookstore.com/>
- **Counseling Department:** For appointments and information call 818-364-7655 or visit: <http://www.lamission.edu/counseling/>
- **Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S):** For appointments, eligibility and information call 818-364-7732 or visit <http://www.lamission.edu/dsps/>
- **Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS):** For appointments, eligibility and information call 818-364-7645 or visit <http://www.lamission.edu/eops/>
- **Financial Aid:** For information and applications call 818-364-7648 or visit <http://www.lamission.edu/financialaid/>

Code of Honor and Integrity:

Los Angeles Mission College
Department of Life Sciences

Students at Los Angeles Mission College, because they are members of an academic community dedicated to the achievement of excellence and the pursuit of honor, are expected to meet high standards of personal, ethical, and moral conduct. These standards require personal integrity and a commitment to honesty without compromise. Without the ability to trust in these principles, an academic community and a civil society cannot exist. Los Angeles Mission College students and faculty are as committed to the development of students with honesty and integrity as they are to the academic and professional success of its students.

The **Code of Honor and Integrity** is an undertaking of the students, first and foremost, both individually and collectively, that they will:

1. not give or receive dishonorable aid during exams, quizzes or assignments
2. do their share and take an active part in seeing to it that fellow students, as well as themselves, uphold the spirit and letter of the Code of Honor and Integrity.

Some examples of conduct that are regarded as being in violation of the Honor Code include:

- Copying from another's examination or quiz, or allowing another to copy from one's own papers
- Using any unpermitted source of information, human or other, during an exam, quiz or assignment that influences the grade; this includes the use of technological devices
- Any student-to-student collaboration that is unpermitted
- [Plagiarism](#) (plagiarism is defined as the use, without giving reasonable and appropriate credit to, or acknowledging the author or source, of another person's original work)
- Representing as one's own work as the work of another
- Giving or receiving aid on an academic assignment under circumstances in which a reasonable person should have known that such aid is not permitted

As a part of the effort to promote an environment of honesty and integrity during quizzes and examinations, the following guidelines will apply for any courses in the Department of Life Sciences:

1. Students will leave all books and all other non-essential items (e.g. paper, electronic devices) on the floor so that they are not useable nor block the sight line between professor and student. No electronic devices will be in reach.
2. Students will not communicate in any way that will dishonorably assist themselves or another student.
3. Students will leave the room during an exam only if permitted by the professor's policy. If permitted, only one student may leave the room at any time and be gone for only the average length of time needed for the stated purpose. Students will leave all purses, bags, books, phones, jackets, etc., in the classroom during the absence.
4. Students will promote the spirit and letter of the **Code of Honesty and Integrity** by dissuading fellow students from dishonest activity and, when such casual persuasion does not work, informing the professor of the possible dishonest activity, either anonymously, or otherwise.
5. Students will make every effort to avoid even the appearance of dishonesty or lack of integrity

Violation of this policy will not be tolerated and violators will be subject to severe penalties. The success of the **Code of Honor and Integrity** is based upon the collective desire of students, faculty and the community to live in an environment that embraces respect for that which is right – both in the college and in society as a whole.