This course is a cross-cultural and evolutionary survey of the supernatural. It includes an examination of magic and witchcraft practices and the different functions they play in various world societies including hunting and gathering groups, and tribal level and state level societies. Religious beliefs, symbolism and ritual are explained from an anthropological perspective.

Student Learning Outcomes:
In a class-written assignment, students will demonstrate a conceptual understanding of the supernatural by (1) defining the terms animism and animatism; (2) outlining and explaining each of the characteristics of animistic beings; and (3) providing one culturally relevant example for animism and another for animatism.

Required Texts:


General note: Use of prior edition (1 previous from current) is acceptable for either text
**Course Objectives:**
1. Provide examples of ethnographic case studies to illustrate how the theoretical frameworks of the evolutionary, functional and psychoanalytic perspectives would approach the study of religion.
2. Compare and contrast the various levels of religious participation found in individualistic, shamanistic, communal and ecclesiastical organizations.
3. Define and describe the terms animism and animatism and include cultural examples of each concept.
4. Contrast the ways in which the roles of shamans and priests reflect egalitarianism and stratification respectively.
5. Explain and evaluate the importance of altered states in religious practices and provide an ethnographic example to illustrate your understanding.
6. Define the term symbol and provide a description of a religious symbol.
7. Describe the difference between witchcraft and sorcery and provide an explanation of how these beliefs function in society.
8. Contrast the concept of witchcraft in traditional societies with that of Euro-American beliefs.
9. Explain the importance of myth and ritual, making reference to the function of each in society.
10. Identify and describe the various types of revitalization movements and explain the circumstances surrounding the origins of these movements.

**Student Course Requirements:**

**Readings:** It is recommended that you read the assigned text prior to class lecture. Class lectures will not necessarily cover all of the material in your book, however, you may be tested on assigned readings even if they are not covered in class.

**Films:** Films will be shown throughout the course. The exam will include questions that are specific to the information covered in the films. Note-taking during films is advised.

**Lectures:** Lectures given in class will cover material from the assigned text and may also include material not found in the text. Overheads and handouts will elaborate on concepts brought forth in the readings. **If you miss class, it is your responsibility to see the instructor for any handouts which may have been provided and to obtain notes from another student.**

**Attendance/Tardies:** To successfully complete this class you must attend regularly. A portion of your grade is based on attendance and class participation, regular absences will adversely affect your course grade (see grading section for specific information.) Attendance will be recorded in class at the beginning of class. Students will be allowed 3 unexcused absences without grading penalty. If a student is absent 4 or more times the attendance/class participation portion of the grade will be lowered accordingly. A maximum of 2 additional absences will be excused for medical or legal reasons with proper documentation. *****Due to overwhelming demand for courses as a result of***
budget constraints, I will be implementing a modified drop policy during the first 2 weeks of classes, please listen for details announced at the first class meeting.

Arriving late and/or leaving class before dismissal is disruptive to the class. If you must leave class early, as a courtesy, please notify me at the beginning of class and make arrangements to find a seat near the exit to minimize disruption as much as possible. While you are encouraged to come into class as long as we are in session, please be aware that arriving more than 15 minutes late or leaving more than 15 minutes early may be considered an absence for that class period & that habitual tardies will not be excused.

Classroom Conduct: Chatting with a classmate while instruction is taking place is distracting and impolite towards the instructor and your fellow classmates. Such conduct may result in you being asked to leave the class for the remainder of that session with no attendance credit for that meeting.

Homework Assignments: In addition to readings, students are expected to complete 2 out-of-class homework assignments. These assignments will be due at the beginning of class on the day they are due, refer to the class schedule for specific due dates, all typed submissions should be 1.5 or dbl spaced, single spacing may result in a points deduction. Homework will be graded primarily on correct completion of the assignment, although grammar & formatting of the assignment will be considered as well. Late homework: Homework is due on the date scheduled. Please do not email homework submissions, I do not accept assignments via email. Assignments will be accepted a maximum of 2 class meetings after the deadline, but one letter grade worth of points will be immediately deducted as a late penalty. Expert Group Presentations: If a student is absent on the day he/she is scheduled to present, the student waives his/her right to those points, unless the instructor has provided email confirmation that the absence has been excused &/or the presentation rescheduled prior to the due date. Please be advised that grading of late homework receives lower priority than on-time submissions and I offer no guarantees on the timely return of materials that are deemed late submissions.

Exams: There will be 3 in-class exams, consisting of multiple choice, fill-ins, true/false, and short answer/essay questions. For exams you will need an 882-E scantron form and a #2 pencil. Exam questions will be based on assigned readings (text and handouts), films, lecture, homework assignments and class discussions. Exams will not be cumulative. Students are expected to take the exam at the scheduled time, make-up exams will not be given. In extenuating circumstances, with proper documentation, a make-up may be scheduled at the instructor’s discretion & subject to the instructor’s availability.

Student Services: El Camino College offers a variety of services to aid students in being successful. These services include: learning skills center, tutoring, and supplementary workshops. If you are struggling with the material, it is recommended that you seek out and utilize these support services. To learn more, please visit the Learning Resources Center website at: http://www.elcamino.edu/library/lrc/
**Academic Honesty Policy:** Students are expected to abide by ethical standards in preparing & presenting material which demonstrates their level of understanding & which is used to determine course grades. Students are expected to observe the following guidelines:

1) Students shall not plagiarize, this includes: claiming credit for the words or ideas or another as your own and/or utilizing another person’s creative production without crediting the source. You may study together, **but you may not turn in the same work, use your own words** in completing the assignments.

2) Any student who has been cited for an alleged act of academic dishonesty is subject to be automatically disqualified from any bonus/extra credit points earned up to that point in the course & may be ineligible for further extra credit participation.

I consider academic dishonesty a serious offense, and it will be treated accordingly. Academic dishonesty is a disservice to yourself and your peers. As your instructor I may deal with the situation in one of the following ways: assignment of an “F” grade on all or part of the exam, paper, or project, assignment of an “F” in the course, and/or reporting the student to the appropriate administrators for further disciplinary action.

The instructor reserves the right to submit student assignments to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) to check for textural similarities between those assignments, Internet sources and the Turnitin.com assignment database. Assignments submitted to Turnitin.com will become part of their database and will be used only for plagiarism prevention and detection.

**Services for Students with Disabilities:** If you have need of special accommodation for a learning or physical disability, please notify me at the beginning of the semester. El Camino College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities, upon request of the student and upon verification of a disability.

**Dropping the class:** If you choose to drop the course, it is your responsibility to officially drop the course via admissions & records, and to do so by the campus deadline for course withdrawal. If you simply stop attending, an “F” grade will be submitted by the instructor.

**Class Schedule:**

*Schedule is tentative & may be altered if necessary. Changes will be announced in class*

**Week 1: 8/31 & 9/2**

Text RMW: no new readings
Reader MWR: Harris “Why We Became…” (#2)
Intros & icebreaker, anthropological perspective

**Week 2: 9/7 & 9/9**

Text RMW: Chapter 1
Reader MWR: Stipe “Anthropologists vs..” (#4) & Beattie “Nyoro Myth” (#7)
Defining religion, mythology

**Week 3: 9/14 & 9/16**
Week 4: 9/21 & 9/23  **Fri 9/23: Expert Group Session #1**
Text RMW: Chapter 3  Reader MWR: Turner “Betwixt & Between” (#12) & monomyth theory, religious symbolism

Week 5: 9/28 & 9/30  **Exam #1 (Fri 9/30)**
Text RMW: Chap 4  Reader MWR: no new readings
Cont. Ritual, Exam Review & Exam

Week 6: 10/5 & 10/7  **Group Presentation Projects Assigned**

Week 7: 10/12 & 10/14

Week 8: 10/19 & 10/21

Week 9: 10/26 & 10/28  **Fri 10/28: Expert Group Session #2**
Text RMW: Chapter 8  Reader MWR: Barber “The Real Vampire” (#39) & Lehmann “Eyes of the Ngangas…” (#29) Souls, ghosts & death & Expert group session & quiz

Week 10: 11/2 & 11/4  **Exam #2 (Fri 11/4)**
Text RMW: no new readings  Reader MWR: no new readings

Week 11: 11/9 & 11/11  **Fri 11/11 no class mtg: Veteran’s Holiday**

Week 12: 11/16 & 11/18  **Wed 11/16: Presentation Projects Due**
Text RMW: no new readings  Reader MWR: Wallace “Revitalization Movements” In class presentations

Week 13: 11/23 & 11/25  **Fri. 11/25 No class mtg.-Thanksgiving**
Text RMW: no new readings  Reader MWR: Lewis “Urban Rastas” (#46) Witchcraft

Week 14: 11/30 & 12/2
Text RMW: Chapter 10

Reader MWR: Kehoe “The Ghost Dance..” (#44) &
Worsley “Cargo Cults” (#45)

The Search for New Meaning

Week 15: 12/7 & 12/9
Text RMW: No new readings

Fri 12/9: Expert Group Session #3
Reader MWR: No new readings

Expert Group session & quiz

Week 16: 12/14 & 12/16
Text RMW: Chapter 11 Reader MWR: no new readings

Syncretism, & revitalization movements, exam review

Final Exam: Fri 12/16: regular time & place

Course grading & Grading Scale:
Attendance/Class Participation: 50 pts= 5%
Expert Group Presentation Sessions: 100 pts= 10%, Oracle/Divination Project: 100 pts=10%
Exam #1, #2, & Final exam: 250 pts=25% each for a total of 75%

Final Grades will be determined utilizing the following scale
(900 pts) 90% & above: “A” grade
(800-899 pts) 80-89%: “B” grade
(700-799 pts) 70-79%: “C” grade
(600-699 pts) 60-69%: “D” grade
(Below 600 pts) Below 60%= “F” grade

It is your responsibility to keep track of your prospective grade. I retain student exams, thus, when you have the opportunity to view your graded exam, be sure to make note of your score so that you can track your progress in the course. Keep all other graded papers until you have received your final grade. If you need help calculating your prospective grade, make an appointment to see me and I will gladly assist you.

Extra credit: Students will have the option of turning in one extra credit assignment, which will be worth up to 5% of the course grade. Students may either read one of the MWR Reader articles other than the articles assigned for the class, or attend a museum, or view a film pertaining to magic, witchcraft & religion; a critical response paper must be submitted for any of the options above. The format for the paper is as follows: 1) describe what you saw, 2) incorporate at least 3 concepts or terms learned in class, 3) provide personal analysis of your reaction to the experience. Papers should be typed, 3pgs. long, & double spaced, using 11 or 12 pt. font.

Prior verbal approval of the instructor is recommended if you choose a location or film not listed below. Papers that do not meet these criteria will not be eligible for full points. Book papers will be graded out of 55 points, location visits & article papers out of 50 pts, while film papers will be graded out of 30 pts. Other opportunities to earn bonus points will be announced throughout the term & are considered separate of this extra credit assignment. Extra credit is due by the date of the final exam but may be submitted early. No late extra credit submissions will be accepted.
MWR Extra Credit Film List: (Please be aware that some of the movies listed below may include graphic, frightening & otherwise disturbing content, feel free to research the film before viewing & pls. choose a film accordingly)

Beowulf
Blade (all)
Blasphemy
Bloodrayne
Carrie
Constantine
Da Vinci Code
Dark Water
The Sixth Sense
The Seventh Sign
The Wizard of Oz
Vampire Hunter D: Bloodlust
Van Helsing
Wholly Moses!
Witchboard
X-Files episodes (specify & select 2)

Dogma
Dracula
Evan Almighty (all)
Fire in the Sky
Ghost Hunters episodes (specify & select 2)
Ghost Lake
Ghost Son
Ghost Whisperer episodes (specify & select at least 2)
Ghostbusters
Harry Potter films (all)
History of the World
Hocus Pocus
In Search of History: The Salem Witch Trials
Jacob’s Ladder
Lady in the Water
Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein
Medium episodes (select at least 2)
Pan’s Labyrinth
Poltergeist (all)
Possession
Powder
Revelation
Rosemary’s Baby
Signs
Sleepy Hollow
Star Wars (all)
The Blair Witch Project
The Book of Life
The Breed
The Brothers Grimm
The Celestine Prophecy
The Exorcism of Emily Rose
The Lord of the Rings
The Mothman Prophecies
The Mummy (all)
The Ritual