



El Camino College
 COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Course Acronym:	ANTH
Course Number:	11
Descriptive Title:	Anthropology of Religion, Magic and Witchcraft
Division:	Behavioral and Social Sciences
Department:	Anthropology
Course Disciplines:	Anthropology
Catalog Description:	Through the use of cross-cultural and holistic approaches, this course provides students with a thorough exploration 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 and state level societies. Religious beliefs, symbolism and ritual are explained from an anthropological perspective.
Prerequisite:	
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	English 1 or eligibility for English 1A or qualification by appropriate assessment
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	3
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	6
Total Course Hours:	54
Course Units:	3
Grading Method:	Letter Grade only
Credit Status:	Credit, degree applicable
Transfer CSU:	Yes
Effective Date:	03/20/2000
Transfer UC:	Yes
Effective Date:	
General Education: ECC	Area 2C - Social and Behavioral Science
Term:	
Other:	
CSU GE:	Area D - Social Sciences Area C2 - Humanities

	Term:	
	Other:	
	IGETC:	Area 3B - Humanities Area 4 - Social and Behavioral Sciences
	Term:	
	Other:	
Student Learning Outcomes:		<p>SLO #1 Shamans and Priest</p> <p>In an in-class assignment, students will demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between religion and social structure by discussing the ways in which the roles of shamans and priests reflect egalitarianism and stratification, respectively.</p> <p>SLO #2 Animism</p> <p>In a 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 both animism and animatism.</p> <p>SLO #3 Rites of Passage</p> <p>In an in-class assignment, students will demonstrate an understanding of a rite of passage by defining the process and explaining each of its stages.</p>
Course Objectives:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Major Topics:		<p>I. The Functions of Supernatural Beliefs (6 hours, lecture)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Psychological, Sociological, and Anthropological Approaches B. Definition of Religion

- C. Holism and the Comparative Method
- D. Scientific Method
- E. Animism and Animatism

II. Myth, Ritual, Symbolism, and Taboo (6 hours, lecture)

- A. Myth
 - 1. Models for Behavior
 - 2. Explanations on the Origins of the World
- B. Ritual
 - 1. Rites of Passage
 - 2. Rites of Intensification
 - 3. Possession
 - 4. Divination
- C. Art and Material Expression
- D. Taboo

III. Religious Specialists (6 hours, lecture)

- A. Shamans
- B. Prophets
- C. Priests

IV. Ethnomedicine: Religion and Healing (4 hours, lecture)

- A. Medical Anthropology
 - 1. !Kung
 - 2. Yanomamo
- B. Mental Illness

V. Religious Use of Drugs (3 hours, lecture)

- A. Religious Versus. Medicinal or Recreational Use
- B. Hallucinogens and Shamans
 - 1. Yanomamo

VI. Explanation of Crisis (6 hours, lecture)

- A. Witchcraft in Azande Society
- B. European Witchcraft
- C. Sorcery
- D. Malicious Ghosts and Spirit Possession

	<p>VII. Magic and Divination (8 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Types of Divination Methods</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Magic 2. Imitative 3. Sympathetic 4. Contagious <p>B. Gods and Spirits</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spirit Possession and Exorcism 2. Demonology <p>VIII. Power of the Dead (6 hours, lecture)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Ancestor Cults B. The Soul Concept C. Totems <p>IX. Old and New Religions (9 hours, lecture)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Cults, Sects and Syncretism B. Neopaganism C. Revitalization Movements D. Culture Change
Total Lecture Hours:	54
Total Laboratory Hours:	0
Total Hours:	54
Primary Method of Evaluation:	1) Substantial writing assignments
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	Read the following two articles: <i>Witchcraft</i> and <i>Some Implications of Urban Witchcraft Beliefs</i> . In a two-page paper, compare and contrast the contending theories put forth by each respective author and evaluate their theories regarding practices and functions of witchcraft.
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	Write a two- to three-page essay that assesses how non-western indigenous societies sometimes organize revitalization movements as a response to western-imposed extreme cultural change.
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	In a three-page essay compare and contrast the characteristics of the religious specialists: shamans, prophets and priests. Identify and describe in which types of societies each of these specialists operates.
Other Evaluation Methods:	Completion, Essay Exams, Matching Items, Multiple Choice, Other Exams, Term or Other Papers, True/False

Instructional Methods:	Discussion, Guest Speakers, Lecture, Multimedia presentations
If other:	
Work Outside of Class:	Answer questions, Required reading, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Textbooks:	Rebecca Stein, Philip L. Stein, <u>The Anthropology of Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft</u> 4th edition, Routledge, 2017. (Discipline Standard)
Alternative Textbooks:	Fiona Bowie, <u>The Anthropology of Religion</u> , 2nd edition, Blackwell Publishing, 2006. (Discipline Standard). Pamela Moro, James Myers, <u>Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion: A Reader in the Anthropology of Religion</u> , 9th edition, Mc-Graw Hill Education, 2012. (Discipline Standard).
Required Supplementary Readings:	
Other Required Materials:	
Requisite:	
Category:	
Requisite course(s): List both prerequisites and corequisites in this box.	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	
Requisite Skill and Matching Skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). If applicable	
Requisite course:	English 1 or
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	Students need well-developed reading skills in order to understand and interpret information in their textbooks and writing skills to develop essays and assignments. ENGL 1 - Summarize, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize college-level texts. ENGL 1 - Write a well-reasoned, well-supported expository essay that demonstrates application of the academic writing process.
Requisite Skill:	eligibility for English 1A or qualification by appropriate assessment
Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding	This course involves reading college level textbooks, written assignments and answering essay questions. A student's success in this class will be enhanced if they have these skills. Summarize, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize college-level texts.

course objective under each skill(s). If applicable	Write a well-reasoned, well-supported expository essay that demonstrates application of the academic writing process.
Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	Karen L. Daar, Angela Rodriguez
Date:	10/21/1999
Original Board Approval Date:	03/20/2000
Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:	Rodolfo Otero
Date:	10/21/2021
Last Board Approval Date:	