GAVILAN COLLEGE
5055 Santa Teresa Blvd
Gilroy, CA 95023

# Course Outline

**COURSE:** ANTH 5 DIVISION: 10 ALSO LISTED AS:

TERM EFFECTIVE: Summer 2024 CURRICULUM APPROVAL DATE: 04/09/2024

SHORT TITLE: MAGIC/WITCH/RELIG

LONG TITLE: Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion

| Units | Number of Weeks | Type | Contact Hours/Week | Total Contact Hours/Units |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 18 | Lecture: | 3 | 54 / 3 Units of Lecture |
| | | Lab: | 0 | 0 |
| | | Other: | 0 | 0 |
| | | Total: | 3 | 54 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Out of Class Hrs: | 108.00 |
| Total Learning Hrs: | 162.00 |

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Explores and analyzes, from a cross-cultural and comparative perspective, religious traditions in diverse cultural contexts with particular focus on the effects of globalization on religious beliefs and practices. Cross-cultural analysis of the concepts of magic, witchcraft, and religion. Examination of connections among the concepts of race, nation, and religion. Exploration of the above through ethnographic readings, class discussions, films, short papers, and a final research paper based on original fieldwork in a local religious or spiritual community.

CREDIT STATUS: D - Credit - Degree Applicable

GRADING MODES

L - Standard Letter Grade

REPEATABILITY: N - Course may not be repeated

SCHEDULE TYPES:

02 - Lecture and/or discussion
05 - Hybrid
71 - Dist. Ed Internet Simultaneous
72 - Dist. Ed Internet Delayed

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By the end of this course, a student should:

1. Discuss the major theoretical approaches to the anthropology of magic, witchcraft, and religion.
2. Identify and analyze human behaviors, rituals, and histories characterizing particular religious cultures in western and nonwestern societies.
3. Explain how and why religious cultures are embedded within systems of race, class, gender, and/or sexuality.
4. Document and analyze a local religious or spiritual community through ethnographic research and writing.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of this course, a student should:

1. Comprehend the complexity and diversity of religious systems
2. Analyze the cultural context that informs religious systems
3. Identify major concepts of the discipline and apply them to particular situations
4. Synthesize and analyze ideas and information from various sources to improve academic writing skills

**COURSE CONTENT:**

Curriculum Approval Date: 04/09/2024

3 Hours

Content: Anthropological Perspectives on Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion

3 Hours

Content: Ethnographic Research Methods

3 Hours

Content: Theoretical Approaches Toward the Study of Religion

3 Hours

Content: Postmodern Thought

3 Hours

Content: Witchcraft

3 Hours

Content: Sorcery in Niger

6 Hours

Content: African Religious Perspectives

3 Hours

Content: Rituals

6 Hours

Content: Comparative Religion and Falwellian Fundamentalism

6 Hours

Content: Myths as Sacred Stories

3 Hours

Content: Religion and Syncretism

**COURSE CONTENT(CONTINUED):**

3 Hours

Vodou: Gender, Race, Class, Nation, and Religion

3 Hours

Content: Religion, Conflict, and Peace

4 Hours

Content: Your Research Project

2 Hours

Content: Final exam

**METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Weekly lectures - Weekly readings - Weekly or bi-weekly films - Discussion forums - Group exercises - Group work around research projects - Fieldwork activities - Reading responses - Ethnographic research - In-person office hours and/or zoom chats

**OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:**

Required Outside Hours 30

Assignment Description

Reading assignments

Required Outside Hours 30

Assignment Description

Interactive discussion forums and quizzes

Required Outside Hours 20

Assignment Description

Film and video viewing

Required Outside Hours 28

Assignment Description

Semester-long Fieldwork Project

This project is your chance to become an anthropologist for the semester! Think about a religious or spiritual community, person, or people you would like to know more about. It can be a community or tradition you're already familiar with or even a part of, or it can be a community or tradition you are just learning about for the first time. My hope is that you have fun with this project and that it helps you appreciate what anthropologists actually "do" when they "go into the field." This project will take a minimum of four hours of field research (participant-observation and interviews). You will write two essays based on your original research.

Your first essay will be a fieldwork ?description? paper, comprising part of your midterm. This paper will be based on your first two hours (round 1) of your fieldwork. After submitting your midterm essay, I will offer you some feedback. At that point, you will have some direction for your next two hours of fieldwork (round 2). Your final essay is a ?description and analysis? paper, builds on your first paper, and is based on your four hours (or more) of fieldwork. Your first essay is mainly descriptive, while your final essay is a thesis-driven, analytical paper. Both papers will be evaluated on the quality of your original research.

Possible Topics

Please choose one of the following broad topics to research throughout the semester. You will submit a field project proposal next week in which you will specify which religious or spiritual community, people, or person you will be working with throughout the semester.

1. What can a life history tell you about someone’s religious or spiritual path?
2. How do rituals and ceremonies build a culturally specific sense of community?
3. What kinds of beliefs do people have about the relationship between gender roles and religious/spiritual practices and beliefs?
4. How do people create social change through their religious or spiritual practices?

**METHODS OF EVALUATION:**

Writing assignments

Evaluation Percent 80

Evaluation Description

- Weekly discussion forum posts and engagement with each other
- Response papers to readings and films
- Research paper
- Exam essays

Skill demonstrations

Evaluation Percent 10

Evaluation Description

- Conduct ethnographic fieldwork comprising of participant-observation, interviews, and conversations
- Document fieldwork in the form of written fieldnotes

Objective examinations

Evaluation Percent 10

Evaluation Description

- Weekly multiple-choice quizzes to assist with reading comprehension and retention

**REPRESENTATIVE TEXTBOOKS:**

Mama Lola: A Vodou Priestess in Brooklyn, 3rd edition, Karen Brown, UC Press, 2011 or a comparable textbook/material.

ISBN: 0520268105

Rationale: This is a classic and foundational ethnographic text in the field.

12 Grade Verified by: Debbie Klein using Microsoft Word software.

In Sorcery's Shadow: A Memoir of Apprenticeship among the Songhay of Niger, Paul Stoller and Cheryl Olkes, University of Chicago Press, 1989 or a comparable textbook/material.

ISBN: 0226775437

Rationale: This is a classic ethnographic text in the field.

12 Grade Verified by: Debbie Klein using Microsoft Word software.

Beliefs: An Open Invitation to the Anthropology of Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion, Amanda Zunner-Keating, Online Education Resources (OER), 2021 or a comparable textbook/material.

Rationale: - This is a zero-cost text intentionally designed to be aligned with the CVC-OEI rubric. - The chapters are integrated directly into the modules, but students can also read them for free on Medium. - Each chapter has a corresponding Soundcloud playlist for students to listen to the material on-the-go.

12 Grade Verified by: Debbie Klein

**OTHER MATERIALS:**

Instructors can choose from a range of ethnographies within the field of anthropology of religion.

**ARTICULATION and CERTIFICATE INFORMATION**

GAV GE:

GAV D
GAV F
GAV Area 4

CSU GE:

CSU D

IGETC:

IGETC 4

CALGETC:

CALGETC Area 4

CSU TRANSFER:

Transferable CSU

UC TRANSFER:

Transferable UC

**SUPPLEMENTAL DATA:**

Basic Skills: N
Classification: Y
Noncredit Category: Y
Cooperative Education:
Program Status: 1 Program Applicable
Special Class Status: N
Prior to College Level: Y
Non Credit Enhanced Funding: N
Funding Agency Code: Y
In-Service: N
Occupational Course: E
Course Control Number: CCC000054049
Sports/Physical Education Course: N
Taxonomy of Program: 220200
CIP: