

Course Outline for: ANTH 1188 Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion: The Anthropology of Religion**A. Course Description**

1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
3. Prerequisites: None
4. Corequisites: None
5. MnTC Goals: Goal #5 History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences
Goal #8 Global Perspective

This course offers a systematic comparison of the many religions in human cultures, from straightforward to complex. Students will explore not only beliefs, mythology, and rituals, but also the sacred, symbolism, organization, practitioners, and religion as it relates to other aspects of culture, such as language and politics. May include one or more field trips.

B. Date last reviewed/updated: February 2022**C. Outline of Major Content Areas**

1. Culture defined; religion defined
2. Myth and sacred narrative
3. Belief systems
4. Symbolism and meaning
5. Sacred places and sacred landscapes
6. Different types of ritual
7. Shamans, sorcerers, witches, and other personnel
8. Magic
9. World religions
10. Religious movements
11. Functions of religion
12. Altered states and drugs
13. Archaeology of religion
14. Religious leadership and membership
15. Gender dynamics in religion

D. Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Develop a working knowledge of the Anthropological terms and concepts that make it possible to think and talk about religion in our society and others. (Goals 2a, 5b, 5c, 8b)
2. Evaluate different components of religion – myth, belief system, ritual, symbol system, organization of personnel, and other key terms. (Goals 2a, 2b, 5b, 5c, 8b)
3. Analyze evolutionary trends in the history of religion. (Goals 2a, 2b, 2d, 5b, 5c, 8a, 8b)
4. Evaluate one or two of the major world religions and how they function in society. (Goals 2a, 2b, 2d, 5b, 5c, 5d, 8b, 8c)
5. Articulate the ways religion functions in society – in the life of the individual and in the life of the community. (Goals 2a, 2b, 2d, 5b, 5c, 5d, 8b, 8c)

6. Evaluate the many ways religion interacts negatively as well as positively with other aspects of culture, including aspects not usually associated with religion, such as nutrition or politics. (Goals 2a, 2b, 5b, 5c, 5d, 8a, 8b, 8c)
7. Analyze the relationship between religion and sociocultural change. (Goals 2a, 2b, 5b, 5c, 5d, 8a, 8b, 8c)

E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning:

Assessment methods may include, but are not limited to, the following formats exams, essay exams, quizzes, journals, research papers, oral presentations, written assignments, reflection essays, group work, and/or any other assessment measures based on the discretion of the instructor.

F. Special Information:

None