

ANTHROPOLOGY OF MAGIC, WITCHCRAFT, + RELIGION

Fullerton College

Anthropology 107 - Section 23279

Spring Semester 2020: Jan 27 - May 22

Online - 3 Lecture Units



INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Michelle Stockdale, M.A., M.S.

The preferred method of student-instructor contact for this course is through Canvas Messages. Remind Texting and FC campus email are alternate options – Please see “Instructor Contact” in Canvas Modules for detailed information on student-instructor communication.

- Canvas Messaging (preferred)
- Remind Text: Message [@FC13094](#)
- FC email (mstockdale@fullcoll.edu)

I do not have on-campus office hours but I am happy to set a “Virtual Office Hour” with students via *Google Hangouts* or *ZOOM*. “Virtual Office Hours” can be held individually or with more than one student. Please make sure to get confirmation from your instructor on an agreed time, date, and location for the meeting.

My “Virtual Class Hours” are typically Monday-Friday between 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. (PST). This is when students can expect responses to course inquiries, messages and feedback on assignments and discussion board posts. I do my best to respond to all messages within 24 hours (Mon - Fri).

REQUIRED TEXT + MATERIALS:

The Anthropology of Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft, 4th edition. Rebecca L. Stein & Philip L. Stein, *ISBN: 978-1-138-69252-7*. Additional articles/readings, videos, links will be assigned as part of the course curriculum.

Your computer and internet connection are the two most important components of an online course. You should make certain that you have all the necessary resources available to successfully complete the course work.

Office365 (email and Office software) is provided free for all FC students. You will need to use your campus email address @fullcoll.edu, for example 01234567@fullcoll.edu and your MyGateway password.

I also strongly recommend using [Google Chrome](#) as your browser. It works best with the apps and programs used in this course.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

THREE WAYS TO ACCESS CANVAS

1. Fullerton College website: click Canvas icon on the top right-hand corner of webpage (see image below; red arrow pointing to icon).
2. Go directly to the secure login page at: fullcoll.instructure.com.
3. Login to MyGateway. Go to the Fullerton section and scroll down to the Distance Education box. Click on Canvas at Fullerton College.



At all three of these locations, login using your MyGateway user name (with no @ sign in front of it) and password. If you need to reset your MyGateway password, do it only once and wait for the system to sync up. If you reset it multiple times, the system will get gridlocked.

For help with **MyGateway**, call the District Information Services Help Desk: 714-808-4849.

If you are having a **Canvas tech issue**, contact the Canvas Helpline:

Canvas provides a 24/7 helpline to faculty and students.

Phone: 844-600-4948 or click on the Help (?) icon on the Canvas dashboard to chat or send an email

COURSE DESCRIPTION + CLOS

Description of Course:

This course is an anthropological survey of systems of magic, witchcraft, and religion from the past and the present, from societies around the world. It examines beliefs and practices in cultural settings with respect to the role of the supernatural. Special topics include myth, religious healing, witchcraft and sorcery, ritual and millenarian movements. This course fulfills the Multicultural Education Requirement for graduation. (CSU) (UC) (Degree Credit) AA GE, CSU GE, IGETC, MULT CULT REQ

Course Learning Objectives

At the end of this semester, you should be able to do the following:

- Recognize and interpret formal anthropological theories relation to magic, witchcraft, religion, shamanism, voodoo, cultural revitalization processes, and paranormal forces.
- Define, describe, and demonstrate the differences and similarities between magic, witchcraft, and religion, in both practice and as systems of belief.
- Describe and differentiate the functions that magic, witchcraft, and religion have within the social contexts of specific cultures. .

Throughout human history, people have expressed a need for spiritual fulfillment, and various religious/spiritual practices have been present throughout most cultures in the world from small villages to complex societies. Anthropology with its holistic approach explores questions about the human search for spirituality and the various representations of “supernatural forces and/or beings” among various cultures. This course will examine theories and controversies in the study of religion, including the origins and meaning of religion. We will examine the role of religion in societies and cultures in fostering social integration and community, as well as power, oppression and salvation.

ONLINE COURSE EXPECTATIONS

This online course is not entirely self-paced. You will have to complete work and meet deadlines throughout the week. In fact, we stay on a weekly schedule together as a class. You really can't move ahead of the class. The Modules are date specific for the respective week. Please make sure to follow the [Course Schedule and Module Dates](#).

Also, just because this is an online course, you should not expect for it to be any "easier" than a traditional face-to-face course. On the contrary, it may be more demanding because with an online course, you are forced to be more active in your learning versus passively attending a face-to-face class and just taking it in. There is a substantial amount of reading that can't be "faked." You should be prepared to work very hard in this course.

Drop Policy

A student may be withdrawn by the instructor if no longer participating in the course. Definitions of nonparticipation shall include, but are not limited to, excessive unexcused absences. While an instructor officially may withdraw a student who has poor attendance, it is the student's responsibility to withdraw from the course. All student withdrawals are to be completed through MyGateway. The last day to drop without a "W" and qualify for a refund is (insert the appropriate day and date). The last day to withdraw is (insert the appropriate day and date). Failure to do so may result in the student receiving a failing grade. In an online class, you are expected to "attend" at least 3 times a week.

Fullerton College Important Dates and Deadlines

<https://admissions.fullcoll.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/44/2019/08/Calendar-of-Important-Dates-Fall-2019.pdf>

Tips on "Netiquette"

In a traditional classroom setting, there would be certain rules of classroom conduct that students would be expected to follow, such as arriving for class on time and refraining from disruptive conversation. Obviously, those rules wouldn't apply to an online class, but there are still standards of common courtesy that course participants should follow when interacting with one another in the discussion forums, messaging, and video conferences.

For example, it is appropriate to use a relatively informal style of communication in email/text messages and discussion posts, but it is not appropriate to use *slang/profanity, derogatory views, or insensitive remarks*. There's nothing wrong with expressing a contrary opinion, but when you do so, remember to be respectful of the other person(s) (including the cultures we will be learning about). Always use tact and consideration of others. If you are unsure about how to phrase a viewpoint or feel someone else has been offensive, please be sure to contact the instructor immediately.

Electronic communication has considerable limitations compared to actual conversation. In discussions or in email/text messages, no one can hear your tone of voice; so much of the subtlety and nuance of your communication may be lost. To deal with that problem, electronic communicators have developed certain conventions to follow to help make their meaning clear.

For example, you can use emoticons to express humor. An "emoticon" is a symbol that substitutes for tone of voice; if you are being sarcastic, for instance, or making a joke, one of the most popular emoticons is the basic smiley face, which you create by using the colon, the dash, and the right parenthesis :-) or a wink ;-). You can also use developed emojis on certain devices.

To avoid instilling an inappropriate connotation in electronic communication, you should refrain from using either all-upper-case letters or all-lower-case letters in your messages, both of which suggest an unpleasant tone of voice. The tone of voice that's conveyed by all-upper-case letters is generally perceived to be SHOUTING; the tone of voice that's

conveyed by all-lower-case letters suggests that you don't have sufficient respect and regard for your correspondent to take the time to construct a well-articulated message.

In general, the best guide to network etiquette is common sense, courtesy, and scholarly tact. Just give others the same respect and consideration that you'd expect them to give you. :-)

GRADING POLICY + PROCEDURES

The gradebook calculations in Canvas are updated throughout the semester. Points fluctuate as tasks are graded. Please keep track of your grades against the course summary respectively. VERY IMPORTANT to remember is that your term paper, final exam and fieldwork assignment grades are not calculated until the very end of the course. This means you could have a grade standing that will be significantly impacted once those assignments are graded.

This online course is date set and time sensitive. There are no extensions on exams/quizzes, discussions, assignments, or papers. In the event of extenuating circumstances, the instructor and student can meet on how to accommodate the loss of learning or assessment opportunity on an individualized agreement.

All assignments must be completed online through Canvas submission. **Do not email any assignments to your instructor.** If you have difficulties submitting assignments, exams, or quizzes, please refer to the [Canvas Orientation \("How To" Tutorials\)](#) in the Canvas Module titled "[Course Information.](#)"

2 Exams (75 pts. each)

There will be both a midterm and a final exam in this class. The exams' format is a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and essay. You will be given 2 hours and you will have until the last day of the respective week (Sunday) 11:55 p.m. to complete it. You must be very prepared for each exam to succeed, especially if you have typing, internet, or computer issues. It may be wise to take the exam on campus to ensure the safe submission of your exam. Please refer to this link to get information on the 4 open computer labs on campus: <http://fcnet.fullcoll.edu/complabs.htm>

1 Fieldwork Module (50 pts. total)

The hallmark of anthropology is fieldwork. Anthropologists conduct fieldwork in a variety of fashions - your assignment will allow you to experience data collection and informant interviews. The fieldwork assignments require you to collect data from the field, analyze the information, and synthesize it with content learned in the various readings, films, etc. To receive the maximum points your paper should reflect thoughtful and in-depth consideration of the assignment. More detailed instructions and a rubric will be provided for the assignment.

1 Term Paper (100 pts.)

The term paper will be a 5-8 page writing assignment. This assignment will be an opportunity for you to translate the class material in a creative manner. More details will be given at a later date. Since this is a final term paper, there will be *absolutely* no opportunity for papers to be turned in late.

13 Quizzes (15 pts. each chapter module)

You have an online quizzes for each of the chapter modules. Quizzes will include content from text, supplemental readings and videos. The quizzes have 15 multiple choice/True False questions. You will be given 30 minutes for the quizzes; you must be well-prepared to take them (Read the and view all of the material!).

The quizzes must be taken by the due date, no exceptions! Quizzes are always due **Sundays** at 11:59 p.m.! However, you can take them any time before the due date during the respective week.

You have an opportunity to take the quiz twice in which your two scores will be averaged. If you elect to take the quiz a second time and score lower than the first, there are no canceling of scores-- the scores are automatically averaged. Do not ask, no exceptions.

In order to protect the integrity of the quizzes and exams, answers are not released. If you have a specific question about the quiz or exams, please contact the instructor directly via Canvas messaging. Thanks for your understanding!

13 Discussions (20 pts. each chapter module)

This is an online course, which means that there are no specific days that we meet in a classroom. However, participation is required within this course. Participation is done by posting messages in the discussion board and "attending" class.

Each module will contain prompts in the discussion boards that you are required to answer. Your **personal response posts are ALWAYS due Thursdays by midnight**. These are responses you make directly to the discussion prompt. These posts should be approximately **300** words in length (about ½ a page – use your word count function) and convey your understanding of the readings. **IMPORTANT:** You must include your word count at the bottom of each post. The responses should properly cite any readings or content where necessary. This response alone is worth 15 pts.

In addition, you are required to respond to **at least 1** of your classmates' posts. (Please feel free to post more!) The **peer responses** are expected on each of the discussion prompts for each module **ALWAYS due on Sundays by 11:59 p.m.** The responses you make to the other students' posts should be thoughtful, on topic and **at least 100 words**. This is worth 5 points. You must also include your word count at the bottom of your peer responses.

Discussions are at the heart of this online class. These strict due dates allow time for your classmates to read your postings and then respond. Using the discussion board in this manner is a way to generate classroom discussions about topics that we will be covering in class. Your discussion grade is based on the quality and substance of your comments (not necessarily just the quantity of comments that you post).

Extra Credit (points vary)

Extra credit will be given periodically throughout the semester. Students are not "owed" a chance for extra credit; you must "pay attention" for extra credit opportunities as they arise. There is maximum of 20 extra credit points total for this course.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Many accommodations, services, and/or support may be provided to students with disabilities. I am here to ensure the success of all students - if there is anything I can do to assist in your learning experiences, please let me know before the need for support (preferably at the very start of the semester).

Fullerton College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities upon request by the student and upon verification of a disability. Students with disabilities requiring special treatment must inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester. If you need additional time to complete a test or if you require special accommodations, you must notify the instructor in a timely manner. Otherwise, you will be expected to adhere to the information included in this syllabus.

The Disability Support Services (DSS) office, (714) 992.7099, functions as a resource for students in the determination and provision of educational accommodations.

STUDENT SERVICES

Fullerton College Skills Center

The Skills Center's mission is to assist students in improving their academic skills through self-paced work with computer programs, print, audio, video, and Internet-based materials. The Skills Center: supports reading, ESL, and foreign language courses provides self-paced learning materials for all students helps students improve learning strategies, critical thinking, writing, etc.

<http://academicsupport.fullcoll.edu/skills-center/>

Fullerton College Writing Center

The Writing Center's mission is to promote students' success and independence as writers in College and beyond. They strive to provide an environment that is conducive to writing and learning and to serve as a model for peer interaction. They help writers make their own choices about a text rather than "fixing" papers for them. They don't write on students' papers; they counsel students about the choices they have as writers.

<http://academicsupport.fullcoll.edu/writing-center/>

Fullerton College Tutoring Center

The Tutoring Center's mission is to assist students in successfully completing their courses and improving their learning skills. This endeavor is accomplished through peer and expert tutoring. Tutors share their knowledge of the subjects with students, explaining difficult concepts, steps and methods, giving examples and being a sounding board to illuminate problems. Tutors impart encouragement, inspiration, motivation and confidence to students enabling them to keep a positive attitude and succeed in their courses. The Center's goal is for students to become independent learners with an interest in lifelong learning.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICIES

Academic Honesty Policy Students are expected to abide by ethical standards in preparing and presenting material which demonstrates their level of knowledge and which is used to determine grades. Such standards are founded on basic concepts of integrity and honesty. These include, but are not limited to, the following areas:

Students shall not plagiarize, which is defined as: A. stealing or passing off as one's own the ideas or words of another, or B. using a creative production without crediting the source. The following cases constitute plagiarism: paraphrasing published material without acknowledging the source, making significant use of an idea or a particular arrangement of ideas, e.g., outlines, writing a paper after consultation with persons who provide suitable ideas and incorporating these ideas into the paper without acknowledgment, or submitting under one's own name term papers or other reports which have been prepared by others. 2. Students shall not cheat, which is defined as: A. using notes, aids, or the help of other students on tests or exams in ways other than those expressly permitted by the teacher, or B. misreporting or altering the data in laboratory or research projects involving the collection of data. 3. Students shall not furnish materials or information in order to enable another student to plagiarize or cheat.

Instructors may deal with academic dishonesty in one or more of the following ways: 1. Assign an appropriate academic penalty such as an oral reprimand or point reduction. 2. Assign an "F" on all or part of a particular paper, project, or exam. 3. Report to the appropriate administrators, with notification of same to the student(s), for disciplinary action by the College. Such a report will be accompanied by supporting evidence and documentation. Fullerton College Policies and Rules

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Week 1: Jan 27 - Feb 2

- Intro Module: Introductions
- Watch: The Worldwide Web of Belief and Ritual, Wade Davis
- Syllabus Quiz

Week 2: Feb 3 - Feb 9

- Module 1: Chapter 1, The Anthropological Study of Religion
- Discussion: Personal response due Thurs, midnight; peer response due Sun, midnight
- Ch. 1 Quiz

Week 3: Feb 10 - Feb 16

- Module 2: Chapter 2, Mythology
- Discussion: Personal response due Thurs, midnight; peer response due Sun, midnight
- Ch. 2 Quiz

Week 4: Feb 17 - Feb 23

- Module 3: Chapter 3, Religious Symbols
- Discussion: Personal response due Thurs, midnight; peer response due Sun, midnight
- Ch. 3 Quiz

Week 5: Feb 24 - Mar 1

- Module 5: Chapter 4, Ritual
- Discussion: Personal response due Thurs, midnight; peer response due Sun, midnight
- Ch. 4 Quiz

Week 6: Mar 2 - Mar 8

- Module 6: Chapter 5, Altered States of Consciousness
- Discussion: Personal response due Thurs, midnight; peer response due Sun, midnight
- Ch. 5 Quiz

Week 7: Mar 9 - Mar 15

- Module 7: Chapter 6, Religious Specialists
- Discussion: Personal response due Thurs, midnight; peer response due Sun, midnight
- Ch. 6 Quiz

Week 8: Mar 16 - Mar 22

- Midterm Module: Chapters 1-6, articles, videos, discussions
- Fieldwork Module: **Culture and Spirituality FW Assignment (Due May 22, midnight)**

Week 9: Mar 23 - Mar 29

- Module 8: Chapter 7, Magic and Divination
- Discussion: Personal response due Thurs, midnight; peer response due Sun, midnight
- Ch. 7 Quiz

Week 10: Mar 30 - Apr 5

- Module 9: Chapter 8, Souls, Ghosts, and Death
- Discussion: Personal response due Thurs, midnight; peer response due Sun, midnight
- Ch. 8 Quiz

Spring Break: Apr 6 - Apr 12

- No discussion, quizzes, or assignments this week

Week 11: Apr 13 - Apr 19

- Module 10: Chapter 9, Gods and Spirits
- Discussion: Personal response due Thurs, midnight; peer response due Sun, midnight
- Ch. 9 Quiz

Week 12: Apr 20 - Apr 26

- Module 11: Chapter 10, Witchcraft
- Discussion: Personal response due Thurs, midnight; peer response due Sun, midnight
- Ch. 10 Quiz

Week 13: Apr 27 - May 3

- Module 12: Chapter 11, The Search for New Meaning
- Discussion: Personal response due Thurs, midnight; peer response due Sun, midnight
- Ch. 12 Quiz

Week 14: May 4 - May 10

- Module 13: Chapter 12, Religion, Conflict, and Peace
- Discussion: Personal response due Thurs, midnight; peer response due Sun, midnight

- Ch. 13 Quiz

Finals Week: May 11 - May 22; All items below due May 22, midnight

- Final Exam: Chapters 7-13, articles, videos, & discussions (comprehensive in nature; some content concepts carry over from chapters 1-6 as well)
- Fieldwork Assignment Due
- Term Paper Due
- Extra Credit Assignment Due