1.0 Course Description
This course primarily examines the religious history, beliefs, and practices of small-scale societies based on ethnographic literature. The course is part of the academic literature called the Anthropology of Religion. Topics include myth and ritual, religious origins, trance and other altered states, healing and bewitching, and religious practitioners. This course satisfies a course requirement for a minor in Anthropology. It is cross-listed with RELS 5310, and only one may be taken for credit.

2.0 Accessing Canvas
This is a lecture course with online components in Canvas. The student accesses Canvas on the TAMUCT website (“Search myCT”).

3.0 Course Objectives
1. Students will be able to analyze and interpret beliefs, practices, and social structures in religious traditions from an anthropological perspective.
2. Students will be able to discuss key concepts in the academic and research field of anthropology.
3. Students will appreciate various forms of religious expression as adaptations to environmental and social conditions.
4. Students will be able to describe methodological features of anthropology as they relate to understanding religious phenomena.

4.0 Textbook
4.1 Required for Course

4.2 Recommended but not Required
4.3 Suggested Books for Further Reading (Optional)
See list of works in Section 16.0

5.0 Course Requirements
5.1 Exams (200 points each)
The student will take two exams, a mid-term and a final. The exams will be take home exams and will consist of short answer and essay questions. Exams will be handed out after the review session and students will have one week to complete the exam. Students are advised to review their work before submission. The following rubric will guide the instructor in grading exams:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualities &amp; Criteria</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Content</strong>&lt;br&gt;  - Elements of topics to be addressed&lt;br&gt;  - Information is correct&lt;br&gt;  - Coherency&lt;br&gt;(Weight: 70%)</td>
<td>Essay is not objective and poorly addresses the issues. The information provided is unnecessary or insufficient to discuss the issues. (0-89 pts)</td>
<td>Essay is mostly objective and addresses most of the issues. Provided information is mostly necessary and sufficient to discuss the issues. (90-139 pts)</td>
<td>Essay is objective and addresses all the issues. Provided information is necessary and sufficient to discuss the issues. (140 pts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quality of Writing</strong>&lt;br&gt;  - Clarity&lt;br&gt;  - Grammar and English usage&lt;br&gt;  - Organization and coherence&lt;br&gt;(Weight: 30%)</td>
<td>Essay is poorly written and contains flagrant spelling and grammatical errors. Essay is poorly organized, lacks clarity, and incoherent. (0-34 pts)</td>
<td>Essay is mostly well-written, without spelling or grammatical errors. Essay is well organized, is clear, and ideas are presented in coherent ways. (33-59 pts)</td>
<td>Essay is well-written, without spelling or grammatical errors. Essay is well organized, clear, and ideas are presented in coherent ways. (60 pts)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: the student is expected to have an adequate knowledge of the essentials of grammar and writing style, consistent with upper-level college standing. If the student does not have adequate knowledge in these areas, then the purchase and use of a text related to writing and referencing is recommended. Failure to provide written work in accordance with the essentials of acceptable, English writing style will result in poor grades.
The student shall avoid the use of second-person pronouns (you, yours, yourself, yourselves), “etc.” (which word does not contain specific information), sentence fragments (incomplete sentences), excessive use (once in an essay is more than enough) of metaphorical or anthropomorphic language, and dangling modifiers. Students may wish to refresh their memories of writing guidelines, such as is found in a book related to writing or the APA Manual.

5.2 Class Participation (100 points)
The student is expected to attend and participate in class discussions, which usually requires the student to read the assigned material before class. The student earns a point for full attendance on a specific day (i.e., student appears on time and does not leave early), and earns another point for participating in class discussion in a meaningful way. (No points are awarded on exam days, however.) Thus, the student earns 0-2 points on each class day, which translates into the following grade for class participation in the course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>16-17</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-27</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>14-15</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-25</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>12-13</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-23</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-21</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>8-9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-19</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>0-7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cell phone use prohibited: Unless the student is awaiting an urgent call (e.g., from a doctor), the cell phone should be placed on silent, and there should be no texting or other cell phone use during class.

NOTE: If the student is tardy (appears in class after roll is called), it is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor at the conclusion of class (before leaving the classroom that evening), that the student arrived in class and would like to receive some credit for class participation. Failure to notify the instructor may result in an absence for that day.

5.3 Academic Honesty
During the first week of class, the student is to read the section in the syllabus on academic honesty and the material at the Purdue University OWL website regarding plagiarism. The student must sign the document on academic honesty and return it to the instructor. NOTE: Students will not be allowed to continue in the course without notifying the instructor of their comprehension of this material (by signing the document and submitting it to the instructor).

5.4 Term Paper Topic (50 pts)
Students shall turn in a brief description for the topic of their final project. See options for final projects below.

5.5 Term Paper Presentation (150 pts)
Graduate students shall give an oral presentation of the main points of their term papers to the class and field questions, using PowerPoints. This should take about 10-15 minutes.

5.6 Final Project (300 pts.)
Students shall submit a final project report, using APA guidelines. You may choose one of the following three options for your final report/paper.

**Option 1:** Student shall submit a term paper, using APA guidelines. The paper shall be in the form of a literature review based on peer-reviewed sources. A highly recommended practice is that graduate students compose annotated bibliographies (sources with notes) before composing the literature review. Students shall choose from any of the following topics, as follows:

- Anthropology of religion (perspective and methods)
- Religious origins
- Religion and society
- Religion and the environment
- Supernatural beings and powers
- Religious practitioners
- Ritual and liminality
- Hallucinogenic use
- Killing of special groups
- Satanic Abuse
- Alien abductions
- Witch hunts
- Religion and politics
- Revitalization movements
- Wicca
- Christian terrorism

The literature review will be based on a minimum of twenty (20) sources. The sources must be from articles in the textbook and from peer-reviewed journals from the TAMUCT library databases. *It is important that each of one’s sources stems from anthropological research. A source that is not anthropological will not be accepted.* Annotated bibliographies are the best way to take notes on sources.

The paper shall conform to the APA Manual and having a cover page, the body of the paper, and a references page. No abstract page is required due to the
literature review nature of the paper. The paper shall be double-spaced. The completed term paper shall consist of at least 9 pages, including the cover page, body of paper, and references page. The body of the paper should have a minimum of 7 pages, including an introduction and a summarizing conclusion. The typeface shall be Times New Roman, size 12. The paper shall have a header with page number. (The student chooses Insert, Page Number, Top of Page, Plain Number 3.) The student shall use normal margins (1”).

Option 2: Attend a religious service of your choice, preferably a service from outside of your own religious community. If you need suggestions for appropriate service locations please email the instructor. Select a specific ritual from that service and write a detailed description of it from your perspective. Use the Grimes handout, "Mapping the Field of Ritual" to aid you in this description. Please include the location of the ritual as well as the date and time attended so I know you actually attended. Insufficient detail in your report will suggest to me that you did not actually attend the service and I will deduct points accordingly.

Your final report must have a cover page with your name, date, class, and title of the report. The body of the report (not including cover page) must be 12 pt font, pages numbered, double spaced, a minimum of 5 pages of text. Please address the following topics (as outlined by Grimes) in your final report.
- Ritual space
- Ritual objects
- Ritual time/timing
- Ritual sound and language
- Ritual identity
- Ritual action

Option 3: Create a ritual of your own making to mark a significant action or event in your life. Write a detailed description of your ritual from your perspective. Use the Grimes handout, "Mapping the Field of Ritual" to aid you in this description. Comment on your reasons for structuring your ritual in a specific way. You may use photographs or drawings of ritual objects, space, or action to help illustrate your ritual (no more than 1 page of photos/drawings please). If you wish you may also perform your ritual and include any observations about whether you feel your ritual was successful or not.

Your final report must have a cover page with your name, date, class, and title of the report. The body of the report (not including cover page) must be 12 pt font, pages numbered, double spaced, a minimum of 5 pages of text. Please address the following topics (as outlined by Grimes) in your final report.
- Ritual space
- Ritual objects
• Ritual time/timing
• Ritual sound and language
• Ritual identity
• Ritual action

Under no circumstances shall the student quote any portion of any source. Instead, students shall use their own words in conveying the meaning of referenced source material. Students should review their papers before submission and make needed changes.

Writing taboos mentioned in section 5.1 (Exams) also apply to the term paper. The cover page shall include the following information, centered on the page:

An Examination of (topic)

John Smith (student’s name)

ANTH 4310-Myth and Ritual

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

The words “An Examination of” may be omitted, in accordance with APA guidelines, and the student shall use the “running head” feature of APA.

NOTE: The student shall not submit the term paper to turnitin.com or related tool. The Instructor will do that.

The following rubric will provide the instructor guidelines for grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualities &amp; Criteria</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Format/Layout</td>
<td>Follows poorly the requirements related to format and layout. (0-30 pts)</td>
<td>Mostly follows the requirements related to format and layout. (31-35 pts)</td>
<td>Closely follows all the requirements related to format and layout. (36-40 pts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Presentation of the text</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Structuring of text</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Requirements of length, font, and style</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• APA style</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Weight: 20%)
### Rubric continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Essay is not objective and poorly addresses the issues. The information provided is unnecessary or insufficient to discuss the issues.</th>
<th>Essay is mostly objective and addresses most of the issues. Provided information is mostly necessary and sufficient to discuss the issues.</th>
<th>Essay is objective and addresses all the issues. Provided information is necessary and sufficient to discuss the issues.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Weight: 40%)</td>
<td>(0-63 pts)</td>
<td>(64-71 pts)</td>
<td>(72-80 pts)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality of Writing</th>
<th>Essay is poorly written and contains flagrant spelling and grammatical errors. Essay is poorly organized, lacks clarity, and incoherent.</th>
<th>Essay is mostly well-written, without spelling or grammatical errors. Essay is well organized, is clear, and ideas are presented in coherent ways.</th>
<th>Essay is well-written, without spelling or grammatical errors. Essay is well organized, clear, and ideas are presented in coherent ways.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Weight: 20%)</td>
<td>(0-30 pts)</td>
<td>(31-35 pts)</td>
<td>(36-40 pts)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citations, References, &amp; Style</th>
<th>Essay fails to follow APA guidelines and sources are incorrectly referenced for content expressed in sources.</th>
<th>Essay mostly follows APA guidelines and sources are (mostly) referenced correctly for content.</th>
<th>Essay follows APA guidelines and sources are correctly referenced for content.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Weight: 20%)</td>
<td>(0-30 pts)</td>
<td>(31-35 pts)</td>
<td>(36-40 pts)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 6.0 Grading Matrix and Conversion

#### 6.1 Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (2 @ 200)</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Topic</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation of final project</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Honesty Document</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>1000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6.2 Conversion to Course Letter Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>900 – 1000</td>
<td>90 – 100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800 – 899</td>
<td>80 – 89</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700 – 799</td>
<td>70 – 79</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 – 699</td>
<td>60 – 69</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 – 599</td>
<td>0 – 59</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.0 Course Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics/Activities</th>
<th>Readings²</th>
<th>Assignments Due³</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/16</td>
<td>Academic honesty</td>
<td>Academic honesty/plagiarism readings (see document)</td>
<td>RC1 due by 11:59 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Course requirements</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Religious Studies and Anthropology</td>
<td>PowerPoints</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/23</td>
<td>Religious origins</td>
<td>Introduction, chs 1-3 (pp x-32)</td>
<td>Academic honesty document due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>RC2 due by 11:59 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/30</td>
<td>Religion and society</td>
<td>chs 4-6 (pp 33-66)</td>
<td>RC3 due by 11:59 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/6</td>
<td>Religion and the environment</td>
<td>chs 7-9 (pp 67-100)</td>
<td>RC4 due by 11:59 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/13</td>
<td>Supernatural beings and powers</td>
<td>chs 10-13 (pp 102-129)</td>
<td>RC5 due by 11:59 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/20</td>
<td>Religious practitioners</td>
<td>chs 14-16 (pp 130-165)</td>
<td>Final Project Topic Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>RC6 due by 11:59 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/27</td>
<td>Ritual and liminality</td>
<td>chs 17-19 (pp 166-193)</td>
<td>RC7 due by 11:59 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/6</td>
<td>Review/Mid-term Exam</td>
<td>[Introduction, chs 1-19]</td>
<td>RC8 due by 11:59 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/13</td>
<td>Spring break</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/20</td>
<td>Trance &amp; altered states</td>
<td>ch 22-24</td>
<td>RC9 due by 11:59 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/27</td>
<td>Death &amp; Funerals</td>
<td>chs 27-28</td>
<td>RC10 due by 11:59 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/3</td>
<td>Healing</td>
<td>ch 31-33</td>
<td>RC11 due by 11:59 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/10</td>
<td>Religion and politics</td>
<td>ch 38-40</td>
<td>RC12 due by 11:59 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/17</td>
<td>Revitalization movements, Wicca, and Christian terrorism</td>
<td>chs 41-43 (pp 387-411)</td>
<td>RC13 due by 11:59 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/24</td>
<td>World Religions</td>
<td>Part 6</td>
<td>Final Project Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>RC14 due by 11:59 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/1</td>
<td>World Religions</td>
<td>Part 6, Presentations</td>
<td>RC15 due by 11:59 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/8</td>
<td>Review/Final Exam (chs 22-24, 27-28, 31-33, 40-43 &amp; part 6)</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Events are subject to minor revision
² All readings are in Warms et al., Sacred Realms (2nd ed.)
³ ch = chapter, chs = chapters, pp = pages
³ All assignments are due at 6:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted
8.0 **Academic Honesty**
TAMUCT expects all students to maintain high standards of personal and scholarly conduct. Students guilty of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, self-plagiarism ("recycling"), or collusion. The instructor shall initiate action for each case of academic dishonesty and report it to the Associate Director of Student Conduct. Zero points will be assigned for any course product that violates academic honesty. The student should access this link for more information: [http://www.tamuct.edu/departments/studentconduct/facultyresources.php](http://www.tamuct.edu/departments/studentconduct/facultyresources.php).

9.0 **Disability Support**
If students believe that this course may present barriers to learning due to a disability, they must contact Access and Inclusion at (254) 501-5831 in Warrior Hall, Ste. 212. For more information, students may access their website at [https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/disabilitysupport/](https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/disabilitysupport/). Any information that the student provides is private and confidential and will be treated as such. The instructor cannot accommodate a disability unless the student communicates with Access and Inclusion first.

10.0 **Diversity in the Classroom**
Respect for cultural and human biological diversity are core concepts within the social sciences. In this course, each voice in the classroom has value in contributing to class discussion. Students should respect the different experiences, beliefs, and values expressed by their fellow students and instructor, and refrain from derogatory comments about other individuals, cultures, groups, or viewpoints. In this course we welcome individuals of all ages, backgrounds, citizenships, disabilities, education, ethnicities, family statuses, genders, gender identities, geographical locations, languages, military experience, political views, races, religions, sexual orientations, socioeconomic statuses, and work experiences.

11.0 **Writing Center**
The University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students. The UWC is located in Warrior Hall, Rm 416. The Center is open 11 am - 6 pm, Monday-Thursday during the semester. Students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that uses Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting the resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Students may also arrange an individual session with a trained and experienced writing tutor. Tutorials can be arranged by visiting the UWC. Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. Sessions typically last between 20-30 minutes. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will help students develop more effective invention and revision strategies.
12.0 Late Work
As a rule, make-up work for reaction comments, term paper topic, term paper, presentation, and exams will not be accepted. In rare instances, however, the mid-term exam may be offered, but with a 20-point or 10% deduction (evidence pertaining to a serious emergency will be considered for such a makeup). In no instance will a make-up be offered for the final exam, and in no instance will a make-up for an exam be given after two weeks from the original exam date. To be considered as a prospect for making up an exam, the student must contact the instructor within 24 hours of having missed an exam for purposes of making it up. A request for make-up, of course, may or may not be granted. The final course grade will be posted within a few days of the final exam; therefore, no incompletes will be awarded for this course. If students foresee that they will be unable to complete the course, then they should either drop the course or accept the posted grade.

13.0 Modification of the Syllabus
This syllabus may be revised in minor ways at the discretion of the instructor. The student is responsible for noting any changes in the syllabus. More than likely, a change in the syllabus will pertain to events in the Course Calendar (sect. 7.0). A revised course calendar will then be posted on Canvas, and it will replace section 7.0 of the syllabus.

14.0 Contact with the Instructor
The student should contact the instructor via the message feature of Canvas about any topic or issue that pertains to the course.

15.0 Announcements
The student is responsible for checking Canvas for ongoing announcements pertaining to the course.

16.0 Suggested Works for Further Readings


by Sir James George Frazer. New York: Mentor.


