



Texas A&M
UNIVERSITY
Central Texas

ANTH/RELS 4389
WICCA & NEO-PAGANISM
Summer 2018

Class Location: Founder's Hall 211
Class Hours: Tues & Thurs 2:00-4:30pm
This class is team taught by Dr. Berry & Dr. Jones

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1.0 Course Description

Wicca and Neo-Paganism. 3 Semester Credit Hours.

A critical examination of Wicca and Neo-pagan groups in the US. Explores the history of such groups and exposes the student to academic research in this area.

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 recognize the functions that religion serves in society.
2. Students will become acquainted with theories and research on religious beliefs and practices.
3. Students will be able to identify the social and environmental factors related to Neo-pagan groups.
4. Students will acquire basic literary in Wicca and Neo-pagan traditions.
5. Students will be able to assess the impact of Neo-pagan traditions on the daily lives of groups and their impact on society.
6. Students will gain an appreciation for the multidimensional nature of religiosity and other ways of practicing religion.
7. Students will develop a degree of objectivity about the subjective reality of religion.

4.0 Textbooks

4.1 Required for Course

Adler, M. 1986. *Drawing Down the Moon: Witches, Druids, Goddess-Worshippers and other Pagans in America*. Penguin Books: New York (This is the 2nd edition, the 3rd edition from 2006 is also acceptable).

Berger, H.A. 2005. *Witchcraft and Magic: Contemporary North America*. University of Pennsylvania Press: Philadelphia.

Harner, M. 1990. *The Way of the Shaman*. HarperOne: New York. 3rd ed.

Starhawk. 1999. *The Spiral Dance: A Rebirth of the Ancient Religion of the Great Goddess*. HarperOne: New York. 3rd ed.

5.0 Course Requirements

5.1 Exams (400 pts)

The student will take two exams, a mid-term and a final. The exams are essays, written in a blue book. Work not done in a blue book will not be graded. Blue books are available from the bookstore. Each exam is valued at 200 points. The student has a maximum of two hours to take the exam, given immediately after roll call. The exam window closes, however, when two hours have elapsed. The mid-term exam will receive comments from the instructor and returned to the student. Any use of books, notes, or internet (through cell phones) is forbidden during these two exams. Students are advised to review their work before submission. The following rubric will guide the instructor in grading exams:

| Qualities & Criteria | Poor | Good | Excellent |
|--|---|---|---|
| Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elements of topics to be addressed • Information is correct • Coherency <i>(Weight: 70%)</i> | Not objective and poorly addresses the issues. Information is unnecessary or insufficient to discuss the issues. (0-109 pts) | Mostly objective and addresses most of the issues. Information is mostly necessary and sufficient to discuss the issues. (110-131 pts) | Objective and addresses all the issues. Information is necessary and sufficient to discuss the issues. (132-140 pts) |
| Quality of Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity • Grammar and English usage • Organization and coherence <i>(Weight: 30%)</i> | Poorly written and contains flagrant spelling and grammatical errors. Poorly organized, lacks clarity, and is incoherent. (0-40 pts) | Mostly well-written, without egregious spelling or grammatical errors. Organized, clear, and ideas are presented in coherent ways. (41-55 pts) | Well-written, without egregious spelling or grammatical errors. Well organized, clear, and ideas are presented in coherent ways. (56-60 pts) |

A week before each exam, the instructor will provide students with two exam questions. This practice provides the student with a week's worth of preparation. It is highly recommended that students compose some outline of how they will write their essays and commit that outline to memory. After beginning the exam, students may wish to write their memorized outlines on the blank exam questions page, given to students before they begin their exams. This practice provides coherency and organization for one's essay.

NOTE: Upper-level students are expected to have adequate knowledge of the essentials of grammar, writing style, and paper organization in accordance with the APA manual. If the student does *not* have adequate knowledge in these areas, then the purchase and use of additional books are recommended. Failure to provide written work in accordance with the essentials of acceptable, English writing style and APA guidelines will result in poor grades. Examples of non-standard English usage include sentence fragments, dangling modifiers, lack of agreement between pronouns and their antecedents or subjects and verbs, bulleted items, flagrant misuse of punctuation, second-person pronouns, and slang or abbreviated expressions.

5.2 Class Participation (300 pts)

The students are expected to participate in class discussions, indicating an understanding of the reading material and how to apply it. Students earn a point for full attendance on a specific day (appears on time and does not leave early). Students earn an additional point for participating in class discussion. (No points are awarded on exam days, however.) Thus, the student earns 0-2 points on each class day (total of 13 days), which corresponds to the following grade:

| Points | Grade | Points | Grade |
|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| 26 | 300 | 16-17 | 200 |
| 24-25 | 280 | 14-15 | 180 |
| 22-23 | 260 | 12-13 | 160 |
| 20-21 | 240 | 10-11 | 140 |
| 18-19 | 220 | 0-9 | 0 |

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.

Cell phone use is forbidden during class, and such behavior is not awarded class participation points.

5.3 Academic Honesty

During the first week of class, the student reads the section in the syllabus on academic honesty (section 8.0) and the material at the Purdue University OWL website regarding plagiarism (see handout and link). The student must sign the document pertaining to 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 Reaction Comments (300 pts)

At the conclusion of each class (except when exams are taken), students will submit a Reaction Comment (RC), due before midnight. In Canvas, the student will send an email to the instructor, reacting to material discussed or experienced in class. A paragraph or two is sufficient. Students express their reactions to something discussed or experienced in class. The reaction may be emotional, cognitive, insightful, positive, negative, or neutral. **A mere summary of material discussed in class, however, is insufficient for credit.** Students should make some comments on assigned reading or discussion, coupled with their reactions. Students shall identify their email with the headings of RC1, RC2, etc., as indicated in the course calendar (section 7.0). Using headings other than RC1, RC2, etc. may result in no credit. **Obviously, students must attend class before they can react to material presented or discussed in class.** RC's correspond to the following grades:

| # of RC's | Grade | # of RC's | Grade |
|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|
| 16 | 300 | 8 | 150 |
| 15 | 281 | 7 | 131 |
| 14 | 262 | 6 | 112 |
| 13 | 243 | 5 | 93 |
| 12 | 224 | 4 | 74 |
| 11 | 206 | 3 | 56 |
| 10 | 188 | 2 | 37 |
| 9 | 169 | 1 | 18 |

6.0 Grading Matrix and Conversion

6.1 Matrix

| | Points |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Exams (2 @ 200) | 400 |
| Class Participation | 300 |
| Reaction Comments | 300 |
| Academic Honesty Document | ----- |
| Total: | 1000 |

6.2 Conversion to Course Letter Grade

| Points | % | Grade |
|------------|----------|-------|
| 900 – 1000 | 90 – 100 | A |
| 800 – 899 | 80 – 89 | B |
| 700 – 799 | 70 – 79 | C |
| 600 – 699 | 60 – 69 | D |
| 0 – 599 | 0 – 59 | F |

7.0 Revised Course Calendar¹

| Date | Topics/Activities | Readings ² | Due Dates |
|------|---|---|--|
| 6/5 | Academic honesty Course requirements Religious studies & Anthropological perspective | Academic honesty/plagiarism readings (see document) Syllabus PowerPoint discussion | RC1 due before midnight |
| 6/7 | Intro to Wicca, New Age & Magic | B, Introduction & Ch 1 | Academic honesty document due at 6:00 p.m. RC2 due before midnight |
| 6/12 | Wicca & Neo-Paganism | B, ch 2 | RC3 due before midnight |
| 6/14 | Adler's Version of Wicca | A, chs 1-4 | RC4 due before midnight |
| 6/19 | Adler's Version (cont.) | A, chs 5-8 | RC5 due before midnight |
| 6/21 | Commodification of Witchcraft | B, ch 7 | RC6 due before midnight |
| 6/26 | Spiral Dance | S, chs 1-6 | RC7 due before midnight |
| 6/28 | Spiral Dance (cont.) | S, chs 7-12 | RC8 due before midnight |
| 7/3 | Feminist Spirituality | B, ch 3 | RC9 due before midnight |
| 7/5 | Midterm Exam | | |
| 7/10 | Commodification of Witchcraft | B, ch 7 | RC10 due before midnight |
| 7/12 | Lucumi | B, ch 5 | RC11 due before midnight |
| 7/17 | Shamanism & Magic | B, ch 4 | RC12 due before midnight |
| 7/19 | Shaman film | | RC13 due before midnight |
| 7/24 | Way of the Shaman | H, Introduction H, chs 1-3 | RC14 due before midnight |
| 7/26 | Way of the Shaman (cont.) | H, chs 4-6 | RC15 due before midnight |
| 7/31 | Rhythmic Drumming | H, ch 7 H, appendix A Drumming Video | RC16 due before midnight |
| 8/2 | Review for Final exam | | |
| 8/7 | Final exam | | |

¹ Events are subject to minor revision

² A = Adler, *Drawing Down the Moon*; B = Berger, *Witchcraft and Magic*; H = Harner, *The Way of the Shaman*;
S = Starhawk, *The Spiral Dance*

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: <https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/studentconduct/academicintegrity.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 visit their website at <https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html> . Any information that the student provides is private and confidential and will be treated as such. The instructor cannot accommodate students’ disabilities unless they communicate 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. The student should respect the different experiences, beliefs, and values expressed by one’s 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 experiences, 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 10 am - 5 pm, Monday through Thursday. Students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs 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 a 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 20-30 minutes. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will help students develop more effective creative and revision strategies. The UWC pilots synchronous online writing tutoring. Students may email the UWC director at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if they would like to schedule an online writing consultation.

12.0 Late Work

As a rule, there is no make-up work for exams. In rare instances, however, a make-up for the mid-term exam may be offered, but with a 20-point deduction, or 10% of the

grade (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 the student foresees that he or she will be unable to complete the course, then the student 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). If modified, the revised course calendar will be posted on Canvas and will replace section 7.0 of the syllabus.

14.0 Contact with the Instructors

The student should contact the instructors 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 on a near-daily basis for ongoing announcements pertaining to the course.

