Class Location: FH 210  
Class Hours: TR 2:30-5:15  
Instructor: Christine Jones, PhD  
Office: HH 204 C  
Office Hours: T/Th 1:00-2:30 (please make an appointment) 
Email: bioarchjones@tamuct.edu or Canvas message 
NOTE: If contacting instructor outside of Canvas, students must use their official TAMUCT emails.

1.0 Course Description
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 (“MY CT”), or at https://tamuct.onecampus.com/.

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 literacy 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.
8. Students will submit prose reactions to material and topics covered in class discussions.
9. Students will submit acceptable essays for mid-term and final exams. To be accepted, the student shall discuss all aspects of an essay question, using standard English prose and grammatical construction.
4.0 Textbooks
4.1 Required for Course

4.2 Recommended but Not Required
Syllabus for ANTH 3305: Wicca & Neo-Paganism


5.0 Course Requirements

5.1 Exams (400 pts)

The student will take two exams, a mid-term and a final. The exams are not “open-book,” nor may the student use any notes or messages from cell phones. 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 will be returned to the student. Students are encouraged to review their work before submission. The following rubric will guide the instructor:
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 those outlines to memory. Blue books must be blank before students begin their exams. After beginning the exam, however, students may wish to write working outlines on the exam questions page or on the inside cover of the blue book. A simple outline provides coherency and organization for one’s essay.

NOTE: Upper-level undergraduate students are expected to have adequate knowledge of the essentials of grammar, writing style, and essay organization in accordance with writing manuals. If the student does not have adequate knowledge in these areas, then the purchase and use of additional books are highly recommended. The University Writing Center is also available to students. Failure to provide written work in accordance with the essentials of acceptable, English writing style will result in poor grades. Examples of non-standard English usage include, among other things, sentence fragments, run-ons, dangling modifiers, lack of agreement between pronouns and their antecedents or subjects and verbs, bulleted items, slashes, flagrant misuse of punctuation, slang or abbreviated expressions, “etc.” and excessive use of metaphorical language. In Modules, there is a Power Point on “Typical Problems with Essay Exams.”

5.2 Class Participation (300 pts)
Students are expected to participate in class discussions, indicating an understanding of the reading material and how to apply it. Students are to read
assigned material before class. Students earn a point for full attendance on a specific day (appear on time and do not leave early). Students earn an additional point for participating in class discussions. (No points are awarded on exam days.) Thus, the student earns 0-2 points on each class day (total of 12 days), which correspond to the following grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-23</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-21</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-19</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-17</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-15</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-13</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-9</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** If students are tardy (appear in class after roll is called), it is their responsibility to notify the instructor at the conclusion of class (before leaving the classroom that day), that they 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 Integrity Document

During the first week of class, the student is to read the section in the syllabus on Academic Integrity (§ 8.0) and the link provided in that section regarding plagiarism. The student must sign the document (also in Canvas, under Modules) pertaining to Academic Integrity and return a hard copy 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. **A mere summary of material discussed in class, however, is insufficient for credit.** Students should make some comments on assigned readings or discussions, coupled with their reactions. Students shall identify their email with the headings of RC1, RC2, etc., as indicated in the course calendar (§ 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of RC’s</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th># of RC’s</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.0 Grading Matrix and Conversion

6.1 Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (2 @ 200)</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reaction Comments</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Integrity 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>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/4/19</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
<td>RC1 due before midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Academic Integrity</td>
<td>Academic Integrity/plagiarism readings (§ 8.0 of syllabus)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Religious Studies</td>
<td>Power Point Discussion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/6/19</td>
<td>Intro to Wicca</td>
<td>B, chs 1-2</td>
<td>Academic Integrity document due before 2:30 pm (hard copy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wiccan worldview &amp; covens</td>
<td>S, chs 1-3</td>
<td>RC3 due before midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/13/19</td>
<td>Sacred space &amp; the Goddess</td>
<td>S, chs 4-5</td>
<td>RC4 due before midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/18/19</td>
<td>Symbols &amp; the cone of power</td>
<td>S, chs 7-8</td>
<td>RCS5 due before midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/20/19</td>
<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
<td></td>
<td>Blue Book!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6/25/19  Neo-paganism and Harner’s fieldwork in shamanism  B, ch 4  
        H, Introduction  
        H, ch 1  
        RC6 due before midnight

6/27/19  Journeys & states of consciousness  
        Rhythmic drumming  
        H, chs 2-3, 7, Appendix A  
        Drumming video  
        RC7 due before midnight

7/2/19  Power  
        H, chs 4-6  
        RC8 due before midnight

7/4/19  Holiday – no class

7/9/19  Introduction to druidry  
        G, Foreward, Introduction  
        RC9 due before midnight

7/11/19  Circles, standing stones, traditions  
        G, chs 1-3  
        RC10 due before midnight

7/16/19  Druidic philosophy  
        G, chs 4-6  
        RC11 due before midnight

7/18/19  Druidic practice  
        G, chs 7-9  
        RC12 due before midnight

7/23/19  Final Exam  
        Blue Book!

1 Events are subject to minor revision (see § 15.0).
2 B = Berger, Community of Witches; G = Greer, Druidry Handbook; H = Harner, The Way of the Shaman;  
   S = Starhawk, The Spiral Dance; ch = chapter, chs = chapters

8.0  Academic Integrity

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:  

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 first communicate with Access and Inclusion.

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 Classroom Etiquette
Students shall show respect to other students and to the instructor in all communications, whether verbal or in writing (e.g., online). For example, making rude or threatening remarks or gestures, arguing, complaining, and challenging that is not based on readings, rationality, and the course objectives are all violations of classroom etiquette.

12.0 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. One may contact Dr. Bruce Bowles at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu for more information.

13.0 Late Work
As a rule, make-up work for exams is not offered. The mid-term exam may be made up with instructor approval; however, in no instance will that make-up be given later than two weeks from the original exam date. To be considered as a prospect for making up the mid-term exam, the student must contact the instructor within 24 hours of having missed the exam for purposes of making it up. 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.

14.0 Student’s Expectation of Grades
If students foresee that their scores in class participation, reaction comments, or essays are unacceptable, they may wish to drop the course. Absences for any reasons, including medical, cannot be used to exempt one from the requirements of the course. For example, students may inform the instructor that they will not or did not attend class(es) for some reason. While the instructor appreciates the information about absences, students should not expect that they will be afforded leniency or a recalculation of grades based on this information. All students in a class must be treated fairly and equally. If students foresee that they will be unable to earn the grade they desire, then they should either drop the course or accept the posted grade.

15.0 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 typos or events in the course calendar (§ 7.0). If modified, a revised course calendar will be posted on Canvas and will replace § 7.0 of the syllabus.

16.0 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. If students contact the instructor through the instructor’s official TAMUCT email, they must use their own official TAMUCT email. Many personal emails find their way to the junk folder by default.
17.0 Announcements
The student is responsible for checking Canvas for ongoing announcements or messages pertaining to the course. For example, if a class is cancelled due to inclement weather, students would benefit from checking messages about the class cancellation and thus be able to alter their travel schedules.