



**ANTH 3305/RELS 3305  
WICCA & NEO-PAGANISM  
FALL 2021**

**Class location: Tues & Thurs 11:00-12:15 ONLINE!**

**Instructor Contact Information**

**Instructor:** Christine Jones, PhD

**Office:** HH 204C

- **Contact me** via Canvas message or email: [Bioarchjones@tamuct.edu](mailto:Bioarchjones@tamuct.edu)
- **Office hours: By webex or phone appointment. Email me to set up a virtual meeting!**

**Student-instructor interaction**

During the week (Mon-Fri) I usually check emails often and respond within 24 hours. I may not respond to weekend emails until Monday or Tuesday. Email is a better way to reach me than Canvas message. If you have questions or concerns about the class and need to talk about them, please email me to request a webex or phone appointment.

**Mode of instruction and course access**

*This is a 100% online course, and uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>]. This course is synchronous, which means that students are expected to be present online for our class at the scheduled meeting times.*

Since this is an online class, most communication between the instructor and students will be electronic in nature; however, all students are welcome and encouraged to attend office hours or make an appointment for an office visit.

**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.

**Technology Requirements**

- This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.
- Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.
- Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password
  - **Canvas Support.** Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

- **For Other Technology Support.** For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week: Email: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu), Phone: (254) 519-5466 [Web Chat: \[http://hdc.tamu.edu\]](http://hdc.tamu.edu) *Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.*

### **Warrior Shield:**

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Warrior Shield is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in Warrior Shield through their myCT email account. Connect to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular \[https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login\]](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login) to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

### **Course Objectives**

- Students will be able to recognize the functions that religion serves in society.
- Students will become acquainted with theories and research on religious beliefs and practices.
- Students will be able to identify the social and environmental factors related to neo-pagan groups.
- Students will acquire basic literacy in Wicca and neo-pagan traditions.
- Students will be able to assess the impact of neo-pagan traditions on the daily lives of groups and their impact on society.
- Students will gain an appreciation for the multidimensional nature of religiosity and other ways of practicing religion.
- Students will develop a degree of objectivity about the subjective reality of religion.
- Students will submit prose reactions to material and topics covered in class discussions.
- Students will submit acceptable essays for mid-term and final papers. To be accepted, the student shall discuss all aspects of an essay question, using standard English prose and grammatical construction.

### **Required Textbooks**

1. Adler, M. (2006). *Drawing down the moon: Witches, druids, Goddess-worshippers, and other pagans in America* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: Penguin. (ALSO AN EBOOK @ LIBRARY)
2. Dorsey, L. (2020). *Orishas, Goddesses, and Voodoo Queens: The Divine Feminine in the African Religious Traditions*. Newburyport: Weiser Books.
3. Harner, M. (1990). *The way of the shaman* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). New York: HarperOne.
4. Lightfoot, N. (2019). *Good Juju: Mojos, Rites & Practices for the Magical Soul*. MN: Llewellyn.
5. Starhawk. (1999). *The spiral dance: A rebirth of the ancient religion of the great Goddess* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). New York: HarperOne.

### Course Requirements

1. **Course readings** All of the textbooks listed under required textbooks will be used in this class. Discussions of course readings make up the majority of classroom participation. Students will also be expected to reference our class readings in term papers. The instructor expects that you have read the entirety of all assigned readings by the date listed on the course schedule. This includes the notes at the back of the book. The instructor expects that you are reading intentionally and taking notes.
  - You should be able to identify the major concepts and goals of the author for each chapter. Take notes. These will help you when it is time to write term papers. **Allow yourself PLENTY of time to read the books. Don't wait until the last minute. A chapter or two a day is a good goal.**
  - **All textbooks are on reserve in the library, should you find yourself without a book.**
2. **Term papers (400 pts)** Students will submit two term paper assignments, a Midterm paper and Final paper (200 points each). Due dates for each paper are posted in the course schedule below.

**\*\*\*ON DAYS WHEN A TERM PAPER IS DUE, NO CLASS WILL BE HELD. YOU WILL USE THE USUAL CLASS TIME TO ADEQUATELY PREPARE AND SUBMIT YOUR PAPER. TERM PAPERS ARE SUBMITTED BY 12:15PM ON THE DAY THEY ARE DUE, OR BEFORE OUR NORMAL CLASS PERIOD IS OVER. THIS IS THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY, NOT MIDNIGHT!\*\*\***

**How term papers work in this class:** The instructor will provide students with 2 essay questions per term paper. Students work alone on drafting their answers during the semester. Students submit their completed essay answers in TEXT ENTRY format using the paper link in the Term paper module.

- The student must submit their paper essays using TEXT ENTRY boxes provided in the paper link on Canvas. (The best way to do this is to compose and save your essay in a word document and then copy/paste the words into the text entry box).
- A cover page or list of references IS NOT NEEDED. Instead, when students refer to course readings in their answers they must use the name of the book and author (ex: In "Spiral dance," Starhawk explains the Wiccan worldview.)
- No emailed copies of papers will be accepted. No .doc or .pdf versions of papers will be accepted.
- The instructor WILL NOT accept the following excuse:
  - "I didn't submit my paper because I typed the only copy of my essay answers in the text entry box and then the computer/internet died and erased my answers"

### **Feedback on term papers:**

Students will receive feedback comments from the instructor for improvement. Upper-level undergraduate students are expected to have adequate knowledge of the essentials of grammar, writing style, and essay organization. The University Writing

Center is available to students who need assistance with writing. In our Canvas Modules, there is a Power Point on “Typical Problems with Essays” in order to help students avoid common mistakes on essays.

**TERM PAPER RUBRIC:**

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

**3. 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 days term papers are due). Thus, the student earns 0-2 points on each class day (total of 28 days), which correspond to the following grade:

| Points | Grade | Points | Grade | Points | Grade | Points | Grade |
|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| 56     | 300   | 42-43  | 223   | 28-29  | 146   | 14-15  | 69    |
| 54-55  | 289   | 40-41  | 212   | 26-27  | 135   | 12-13  | 58    |
| 52-53  | 278   | 38-39  | 201   | 24-25  | 124   | 10-11  | 47    |
| 50-51  | 267   | 36-37  | 190   | 22-23  | 113   | 8-9    | 36    |
| 48-49  | 256   | 34-35  | 179   | 20-21  | 102   | 6-7    | 25    |
| 46-47  | 245   | 32-33  | 168   | 18-19  | 91    | 4-5    | 14    |
| 44-45  | 234   | 30-31  | 157   | 16-17  | 80    | 2-3    | 3     |

**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.

#### 4. Reaction Comment (300 pts)

Once a week students will submit a Reaction Comment (RC), due before midnight. A total of 15 reaction comments are assigned this semester, with due dates listed in our course schedule. In RCs, 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. A paragraph or two is sufficient. **Obviously, students must attend class before they can react to material presented or discussed in class.** RCs are private and can only be seen by the student and instructor. The instructor will provide feedback on the first few RCs so that the student knows they are completing them properly. Links will be provided each week in the Canvas module for students to submit their RC (i.e. “RC1, RC2, RC3, etc.”).

➔ **RCs should NOT be submitted in advance of the weekly materials, as they are reactions. EX: Wait until the due date for RC 2 has passed before submitting RC 3, etc.** There are no makeups for RCs (see late policy).

#### A NOTE ON CLASS DISCUSSIONS AND REACTION COMMENTS (RCS)

Class discussions are not the same as RCs. In an RC, a student can reflect on their own personal biases, strongly agree or disagree with a topic, or express negative and positive emotional reactions. In an RC, students are able to freely share their reactions with their instructor as they become familiar with difficult course materials.

In a class discussion, it is of paramount importance to **be respectful to others** and allow space so all can feel welcome to share. In the classroom, students often encounter experiences, beliefs, and viewpoints that are different from their own. It is important to **be patient with others**. Some students may need more time than you would need to process new class materials.

- Students should be courteous and respectful to others, including the authors of the text books!
- Students should seek to limit or control their personal biases when reading course materials AND when responding to the contributions of others.

**One of our course objectives is to “develop a degree of objectivity about the subjective reality of religion.”** As such, student discussions should maintain an attitude of objectivity based on study and reflection of the course materials.

- Students should consider the objective study of religious traditions and practices as valuable and relevant to understanding local, national, and global problems and issues.

**More information will be provided on classroom participation, discussions, and objectivity by the instructor during Week 1.**

## Grading Matrix and Conversion

### Grading

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Papers (2 @ 200)  | 400         |
| Reaction Comments | 300         |
| Participation     | 300         |
| <b>Total:</b>     | <b>1000</b> |

| Points     | %        | Letter 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            |

**Grade posting:** All grades will be posted online; it takes about 1-2 weeks for the instructor to grade written work. Be assured that she is grading classwork as fast as she possibly can. Feedback on writing assignments will be provided within the Canvas grading system.

## Course Schedule

### 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. If modified, a revised course calendar will be posted on Canvas and will replace of the syllabus.

#### Week 1 Introduction: Terms and early development

##### **Adler: Both prefaces, Ch 1-3**

Aug 24 T

Aug 26 R: RC 1 due after class no later than midnight

#### Week 2: Paganism and Neo-pagans

##### **Adler: Ch 4-6**

Aug 31 T

Sep 2 R: RC 2 due after class no later than midnight

#### Week 3: Witches and Wiccans

##### **Starhawk: Both intros, Ch 1-4**

NOTE ON STARHAWK: YOU MUST READ THE NOTES INDICATED BY \* AND \*\* Sometimes the notes contradict the text. This is because Starhawk reflected on her original text 10 and 20 years after she wrote it.

Sep 7 T

Sep 9 R: RC 3 due after class no later than midnight

#### Week 4: Magic, Ritual, and Divinity

##### **Starhawk: Ch 5 & 6**

##### **Adler: Ch 7**

Sep 14 T

Sep 16 R: RC 4 due after class no later than midnight

Week 5: Closing the Circle

**Starhawk: 7, 8, and 12**

Sep 21 T

Sep 23 R: RC 5 due after class no later than midnight

Week 6: First paper due!

**Sep 28 T: NO CLASS. Midterm PAPER DUE on Canvas today by 12:15pm (end of class period).**

Sep 30 R: RC 6 due after class no later than midnight

Week 7 Women & Witchcraft

**Adler: Ch 8**

**Starhawk: 9-13**

Oct 5 T

Oct 7 R: RC 7 due after class no later than midnight

Week 8 Other Neo-pagans

**Adler: 9-13**

Oct 12 T

Oct 14 R: RC 8 due after class no later than midnight

Week 9 Folk magick traditions in America 1

**Lightfoot: Whole book**

Oct 19 T

Oct 21 R: RC 9 due after class no later than midnight

Week 10: Folk magick traditions in America 2

**Dorsey: Intro, Chapters 1-3, Glossary on p. 215**

Oct 26 T:

Oct 28 R: RC 10 due after class no later than midnight

Week 11: African religious traditions 1

**Dorsey: Ch. 4-9**

Nov 2 T

Nov 4 R: RC 11 due after class no later than midnight

Week 12: African religious traditions 2

**Dorsey: Ch 10-12**

Nov 9 T: RC 12 due after class no later than midnight

Nov 11 R: Veterans Day No Class

Week 13: Shamanism and Neo-shamanism 1

**Harner: Preface, Intro, Ch 1-3**

Nov 16 T

Nov 18 R: RC 13 due after class no later than midnight

Week 14: Neo-shamanism 2

**Harner: Chapter 4**

Nov 23 T: RC 14 due after class no later than midnight

Nov 25 R: Thanksgiving No Class

Week 15: Neo-shamanism 3

**Harner: Ch 5-6**

Nov 30 T

Dec 2 R: RC 15 due after class no later than midnight

Week 16: This is the end

**Harner: Finish book**

Dec 7 T: NO RC this week, work on paper

Dec 9 R **NO CLASS. Final PAPER DUE on Canvas today by 12:15pm (end of class period).**

## COURSE PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

### 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 something of value to contribute to class discussion. Please respect the different experiences, beliefs and values expressed by your 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.

### 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:

<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html>.

### LATE WORK

**Midterm Papers and Rcs:** *If a student needs more time on the midterm paper or RC, they can email the instructor to request an extension **before the assignment is due**. If the extension is granted the student can submit the assignment at the date specified by the instructor.*

*Midterm papers or RCs submitted after the due date without contacting the instructor to request an extension will not be accepted. Late final papers will not be accepted. Assignment submitted late without an extension will not be accepted.*

**UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES**

*All University resources, procedures, and guidelines are available online through the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] in the modules section.*

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