## Myth and Ritual

### Texas A&M (Central Texas)

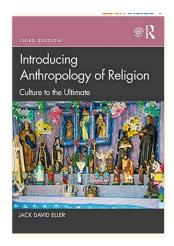
Instructor: Professor Ben Maniscalco

Preferred Email: profmaniscalco@gmail.com

# Our class runs from August 28th to December 15th.

This is an online asynchronous class. Assignments, expectations, and requirements will be posted each Sunday and students will be required to complete the assignments and expectations by the following Sunday at 11:59pm.

#### Required textbook for this course:



Title: Introducing Anthropology of Religion; Culture to the Ultimate by Jack David Eller

• ISBN-10 : 103202304X

• ISBN-13: 978-1032023045

\*You can buy or rent a hard copy or an electronic version of the text, it is up to you to decide what format will work best for you.

## **Grading Framework for the course:**

There is a total of <u>1100</u> points that can be earned throughout the course of the semester.

5 Textbook/article based written response assignments (50 points each): 250 points

7 Weekly Discussion Forum Responses (50 points each): 350

Exam 1 100 points

Exam 2 100 points

Exam 3 100 points

Exam 4: 100 points

Discussion responses / Class participation 100 points

**Total: 1100** 

\* Extra credit assignments may be offered throughout the semester at the instructor's discretion.

<sup>\*</sup> There will be an online discussion forum activity <u>or</u> a response paper that students are required to complete each week.

<sup>\*</sup>Throughout the course of the semester, there will be assigned response papers for a few different articles. These response assignments should be two to three pages in length. Please consult the rubric for response paper assignments which is posted in module one. The rubric will clarify what is

expected as far as your written assignments go. Be sure to include a thorough amount of personal reflection and perspective in your writing pieces. You are required to summarize the article, however your response paper is expected be just that and not only a regurgitation of what you have read.

\*In order to earn full credit, you are required to cite information from at least two outside sources in your summary critique/textbook written response assignments. Review the expectations and the "Rubric for written assignments" before beginning.

\*The weekly breakdown of course material and topics below is <u>only</u> meant to give you a general overview of the course material. Please refer to the weekly requirements and expectations that are posted on canvas for the specific week by week instructions, requirements, and expectations.

#### **Weekly Schedule Breakdown:**

Week 1: Introductions and Examining the Study of Myth and Ritual

Week 2: Beliefs, Beings and Bodies

Week 3: Symbols, Specialists, and Substance

Week 4: Religious Language: Words of Truth, Words of Power

Week 5: Ritual: Religion in Action

Week 6. Religion and Morality: Forming Society, Transforming Self

Week 7. Religion, Medicine, and Wellness

Week 8. Religious Change and New Religious Movements

Week 9. Translocal or "World" Religions

Week 10. Religious Fundamentalism

Week 11. Religious Violence

Week 12. Thanksgiving week -Extra Credit Assignment

Week 13: Secularism and Irreligion

Week 14: Trends in religiosity in U.S. and around the world

Week 15 Final Exam