Religion and Magic

Anthropology 452

Spring 2007

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Office Hours:
Tuesday and Thursday, 9:45-11:00 a.m. and 2:05-2:30 p.m. Also by appointment.

Texts:


Tentative Course Schedule:

January 25
Introduction: What this course is and is not about.

January 30
Approaches to the study of religion
Reading:
  Paden: preface, introduction and chapter 1

February 1
Religion as subject matter
Reading:
  Paden: chapter 2

February 6
Religious Worlds
Reading:
  Paden: chapter 3
  Ortiz (handout)

February 8
Origins of religion
Reading:
  Atkinson, c. 2 (handout)
  Hallowell (handout)
February 13
Myth
Reading:
  Paden: chapter 4

February 15
Myth, continued
  Campbell (video)

February 20
Oral tradition and the written word
Reading:
  Crossan (handout)

February 22
The insider’s perspective
Reading:
  Simmons: vi-xviii, 1-87

February 27
Ritual and time
Reading:
  Paden: chapter 5
  Ridington and Ridington (handout)

March 1
Shamanism
Reading:
  Kalweit (handout)
  Rasmussen (handout)

March 6
Shamanism, continued
  Magical Death (video)

March 8
Initiation and Purification
Reading:
  Lame Deer and Erdoes, chapter 1 (handout)
  Simmons: 157-178
  Turner (handout)
  Mbiti (handout)

March 13
Health and its restoration: a closer look
Reading:
  Katz: vii-57
  Simmons: 114-134
  Stoller and Olkes: ix-xiii, 3-41
March 15
Health and its restoration, continued
Reading:
   Katz: 56-116
   Stoller and Olkes: 49-55

March 27
Immersion: Kung Healing
Reading:
   Katz: 118-176

March 29
Kung Healing, continued
Reading:
   Katz: 178-228

April 3
Kung Psychological and Spiritual Growth
Reading:
   Katz: 230-249

April 10
Immersion: Songhay Sorcerer’s Apprentice
Reading:
   Stoller and Olkes: 56-102

April 12
Immersion: Songhay Sorcerer’s Apprentice, continued
Reading:
   Stoller and Olkes: 117-149

April 17
Immersion: Songhay Sorcerer’s Apprentice, continued
Reading:
   Stoller and Olkes: 153-166; 179-186

April 19
Parting Experiences and Thoughts
Reading:
   Stoller and Olkes: 199-232
   Katz: 251-308

April 24
Return to Hopiland
Reading:
   Simmons: 135-178

April 26
Return to Hopiland, continued
Reading:
   Simmons: 179-257
May 1
Return to Hopiland, continued
Reading:
Simmons: 258-295

May 3
Europe and the Fairy Faith
Reading:
Davidson (handout)
Evans-Wentz (handout)

May 8
Europe and the Fairy Faith, continued

May 10
Wicca and New Age
Reading:
Friedrich (handout)
Crowell (handout)
Mails (handout)

Course Requirements
This course requires the active participation of every student. It is therefore essential that you do all assigned reading on time and be prepared to discuss it in detail. This in turn requires that you take notes as you read – a superficial familiarity with the content of the assignments will not do! You may not miss more than two classes without incurring a penalty that will lower your final grade. That grade will be based on your performance on exams and in class discussions.

If you have a disabling condition which may interfere with your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the Office of Disability Services.