MAGIC, WITCHCRAFT AND HEALING

GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYLLABUS – Fall ’08

CATALOG INFO

Meets: Mondays and Wednesdays 5:45-7:00 HU 101

Course: ASB 214: Magic, Witchcraft and Healing (section 0001) Credit: 3 semester hours

Instructor: D. McCaig
E-mail: dave.mccaig.az@gmail.com
Web: TBA

Office Hours: Schedule a time that works well for both of us. I’m available for extra advisement on coursework, informal advisement on majoring in anthropology, or other concerns regarding higher education. Don’t hesitate to seek any additional help; it is a part of my role as your instructor.

Accommodations: If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, you need to notify the Disability Services and Resources Office, located at the main campus in TDS 100. Their phone number is 623-845-3080.

Withdrawal Dates: Last Day to withdraw without an instructor’s signature Fall ‘08: Fri, Oct, 10th
Last Day to withdraw with an instructor’s signature Fall ‘08: Mon, Dec, 1st

STUDENT INFORMATION

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK  *BRING TEXT TO EVERY CLASS MEETING


COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Course Description
Origins, elements, and forms of religion; a comparative survey of religious beliefs, myths, rituals and symbolism including magic, witchcraft and healing as practiced in selected regions of the world; the place of religion in the total culture.
Prerequisites: none

District Course Competencies:

- Distinguish among major theories of the origin of religion
- Contrast the major characteristics of tribal religion with those of world religions
- Define magic, myth, ritual, and symbol and describe their functions to the individual and the social group using selected examples from belief systems in various regions of the world
- Classify types of religious action in selected cross-cultural contexts
- Describe and analyze how religious healing rituals affect illness states
- Define and differentiate between the major types of religious practitioners/healers
- Classify categories of altered states of consciousness and describe their social and psychological functions
- Define the major classifications of evil forces in selected cross-cultural contexts
- Analyze attitudes about witchcraft and evil in the context of social control and social harmony
- Describe the functions of funerals and death ceremonies in selected cross-cultural contexts
- Distinguish between various attitudes/beliefs concerning life after death in selected cross-cultural contexts
- Identify the major forces of religious change and innovation
- Analyze the occurrence of nontraditional beliefs in western society
- Identify characteristics of belief in the occult
- Compare and contrast selected culturally-specific belief systems indifferent regions of the world
**CLASSROOM PARTICIPATION**

- Attend every class meeting.
- Arrive before class starts.
- Take Notes.
- Listen carefully to what is said by other students and instructor.
- Ask questions, respond to questions and add meaningful comment as frequently as appropriate during the term.
- Don’t chat during class meetings; participate in discussion or even ask a seemingly strange question.
- Don’t sleep during class meeting times – you will be asked to leave; drink a caffeinated beverage if necessary.

**Mobile Phones**

Ritually set mobile phones to Silent prior to class meetings – SERIOUSLY. Taking or sending calls, text messages, 2-way radio communication, web access, emails and/or photos are strictly forbidden during class meeting times.

**GRADING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item*</th>
<th>Points Each</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 Discussion Question assignments* (see below)</td>
<td>x 20</td>
<td>= 240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Quizzes**</td>
<td>x 20</td>
<td>= 240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>x 100</td>
<td>= 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Midterm Exam</td>
<td>x 100</td>
<td>= 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Final Exam</td>
<td>x 100</td>
<td>= 100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>780</strong></td>
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**Grading Scale**

- 90 - 100% A
- 80 - 89% B
- 70 - 79% C
- 60 - 69% D
- ≤ 59% F

**Discussion Questions**

Discussion questions will be due at the beginning of each week of class: Monday at the beginning of class. You will need to type the document and print two copies: one to hand in for credit and one to have in front of you for reference during class. *The lowest or missing single discussion question assignment will be dropped.

Format: 1 inch margins all around, MLA format heading, double spaced, 12 point font: Times New Roman, type the question above your answer, stapled. Check for grammar, spelling, and mechanics.

LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED.

**Makeup Quizzes and Exams**

**The lowest/missing quiz will be dropped. Makeup quizzes or exams will NOT be offered. Any rescheduled exceptions will require credible documentation in order to accommodate the situation.**

**Why Study Anthropology or even the Anthropology of Religion?**

Although general education requirements may seem tedious they are designed to develop a student’s mind such that they may better understand the world in which we live. We have likely heard of ‘cultural sensitivity,’ but it is another thing entirely to understand the basis of cultural differences. People from differing linguistic and cultural backgrounds are coming into contact with each other at an ever-increasing rate. Anthropology is one of the lesser known disciplines at the academy, but is perhaps one of the best suited to help us critically understand behavioral, religious, and physical differences in the human species. By gaining a solid background in the ways in which humans can be studied objectively, we may better direct our actions, and at the very least derive some comfort in knowing that other cultural notions have just as much meaningfulness to their adherents as our own.

This course will use anthropological modes of inquiry to examine the diversity of supernatural conceptions found among human beings in their respective contexts and localities. The course is designed to allow us to begin to see that particular worldviews or religious beliefs play a role in human well-being and that their basis is often very practical and meaningful when one considers the practitioners’ total culture. Material examined within this class encourages students to reflect on the nature of own social and cultural way of life as they learn of diverse and shared experiences found among the worlds’ peoples.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Text/Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/25, 8/27</td>
<td>What is this course about? What is Anthropology? Characteristics of Culture</td>
<td>CH 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>9/03</td>
<td>NO CLASS MONDAY this week. Fieldwork, Ethnographic Research, Forms of Anthropological Literature, Brief Introduction to Applied Anthropology</td>
<td>CH 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9/08, 9/10</td>
<td>How does anthropology help us understand conceptions of the supernatural? What is religion?</td>
<td>CH 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9/13, 9/17</td>
<td>Myth, Folktales, Legends</td>
<td>CH 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9/22, 9/24</td>
<td>Religious Symbols</td>
<td>CH 3</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>9/29, 10/01</td>
<td>Ritual</td>
<td>CH 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10/06, 10/08</td>
<td>Altered States of Consciousness</td>
<td>CH 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10/12, 10/14</td>
<td>Religious Specialists</td>
<td>CH 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10/20, 10/22</td>
<td>Ethnomedicine: Religion and Healing</td>
<td>Select Readings: Handouts</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10/27, 10/29</td>
<td>Applied Anthropology, Medical Anthropology</td>
<td>Select Readings: Handouts</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>11/03, 11/05</td>
<td>Selected Topics, Film</td>
<td>Films, Select Readings: Handouts</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>11/10, 11/12</td>
<td>Magic and Divination</td>
<td>CH 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>11/17, 11/19</td>
<td>Souls, Ghosts, and Death</td>
<td>CH 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>11/24, 11/26</td>
<td>Deities and Spirits</td>
<td>CH 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>12/01, 12/03</td>
<td>What are witches?</td>
<td>CH 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>12/08, 12/10</td>
<td>The Search for New Meaning</td>
<td>CH 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mon.12/15</td>
<td>Final Exam: 5:45PM (standard meeting time)</td>
<td>All forms of media examined in class.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*Above outline is subject to change.

**DISCLAIMER:** The entire syllabus is subject to change if needed during the semester; each student in my course is responsible for the information contained within this document as a good faith agreement between instructor and student.

**GCC INFORMATION**
WITHDRAWAL POLICY

• Student may initiate an official withdrawal from any course by submitting a withdrawal form with required signatures to the Enrolment Services office within published deadlines.
• Failure to attend any classes is not a guarantee for a refund or an excuse of debt incurred through registration.
• Official date of withdrawal is last date of attendance as determined by student’s withdrawal or as reported by the instructor.
• The official date of withdrawal will determine degree of refund, if any.
• Failure to file official withdrawal form within published deadlines can result in a failing grade and may effect refund of course tuition and fees.
• Additional information on Withdrawals can be found in the 2008/09 College Catalog online at http://www.gc.maricopa.edu/catalog/
• Last Day to withdraw without an instructors signature Fall ’08: Fri, Oct, 10th
• Last Day to withdraw with an instructors signature Fall ’08: Mon, Dec, 1st

ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES

A variety of student services can be accessed online. Click on “Current Students” at the GCC homepage: http://www.gc.maricopa.edu/ Services are free of charge to all registered GCC students.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

• Every student in this class is expected to produce his/her own original work.
• Plagiarism is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.
• Plagiarism will result in being dropped from the course with a failing grade.
• Plagiarism will result in a letter to the Dean of Students for further action.
• See GCC Student Handbook: http://www.gc.maricopa.edu/catalog/

CODE OF CIVILITY

Instructors are expected to be professional, courteous, respectful and empathic to students. They will:
• Begin and end class on time
• Be prepared for each class session
• Provide academic feedback and grade assignments in a timely manner
• Be available for individual consultation
• Clarify assignments and inform students of any adjustments to the class schedule

Students are expected to be reflective, courteous, respectful and emphatic to classmates, instructor and other college staff assisting in their learning. Students are expected to arrive on time for class and remain until class has ended. The instructor should be notified in advance if there is a need to leave early. Students will be expected to:
• Turn off cell phones and pagers before entering classroom
• Be in class and be on time
• Be prepared for class sessions
• Participate in class activities
• Follow instructions and complete assignments
• Keep up with and turn in assignments by due dates
• Put forth their best efforts
• Exchange phone numbers [or email] with two classmates in order to keep current
• Ask questions when they don’t understand
• Maintain knowledge of their grade status
• Contact instructor right away about concerns or situations that interfere with their success in class
• Comply with policies found in the GCC Catalog and GCC Student Handbook