



EAST TENNESSEE STATE  
UNIVERSITY

College of Arts & Science

Department of Sociology & Anthropology



## Anthropology 3800 Witchcraft, Magic and Religion

### Witchcraft, Magic, and Religion

**Anth 3800**

**Fall 2021**

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### Overview of the course

This class provides an overview to the scientific examination and comparison of world religious beliefs. It examines the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, and research methods of cultural anthropology.

### Course organization

The course is organized into 15 modules that correspond to the chapters in the textbook chapters. Extensive use is made of film, lecture, and Discussion board activities.

### Student requirements include

- 1) Reading the assigned text for each module
- 2) Review the lecture material for each module
- 3) Completing all discussion board assignments and quizzes for each module
- 4) Watching the assigned movies
- 5) Completing a Midterm and Final Exam

### Required texts

*The Anthropology of Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft*, (4th ed.). By Rebecca L. Stein and Phillip L. Stein: (New York, NY: Routledge). ISBN 978-1-69252

### Assignments

There will be 6 substantial Discussion Board Assignments, 12 Quizzes, and 2 Exams (midterm and final). Instructions for posting the Discussion Board Assignments and Quizzes are found in the “Getting Started”

Section of the content page on the D2L site.

### **Participation and punctuality**

Punctual participation in the discussion board activities is mandatory for this course. These will explore side topics related to the lectures. Your job will be to participate in a respectful fashion. Disruptive, disrespectful, or rude behavior will result in your final grade being reduced by up to 15 points. Multiple events of such behavior will result in an F in the course.

### **Course ground rules**

(Copied and modified from ETSU Memo of understanding)

#### *In general*

- Participation is required
- Learn how to navigate in the ETSU Course Management System
- Keep abreast of course announcements
- Use the *assigned* college or university e-mail address as opposed to a personal e-mail address (D2L email is preferred)
- Address technical problems immediately
- Observe course *netiquette* at all times

#### *Email*

- Always include a subject line. Use standard fonts.
- Respect the privacy of other class members.

#### *Discussion assignments*

- Review the discussion threads thoroughly before entering the discussion.
- Try to maintain threads by using the “Reply” button rather starting a new topic.
- Do not make insulting or inflammatory statements to other members of the discussion group. Be respectful of other’s ideas.
- Be patient and read the comments of other group members, and your instructor, thoroughly before entering your remarks.
- Respond in a thoughtful and timely manner.

### **Contacting the instructor**

Email is the best way to get in touch with me, but we can set up phone appointments if you need. I will not schedule physical office hours because I will not be in Johnson City. Students are also encouraged to post questions or comments to the “Questions about the class” forum on the Discussion page. I will respond to all emails within 24/36 hours.

### **Grading**

120 points: 12 quizzes (10 pts each)

180 points: 6 discussions (30 points each)

100 points Midterm Exam

100 points Final Exam

Total: 500 points

**Grading Scale:**

A	450-500
B	400-449
C	350-399
D	300-349
F	299-0

**Cheating**

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any form. Your student catalog provides an explanation of such dishonesty, but anytime you represent someone else's ideas as your own without giving appropriate credit will be considered cheating. If you are unclear, ask me. Anyone intentionally representing other's work as their own will receive an F for the course and will be dealt with as outlined in the university handbook. Remember, your instructor has a search engine too.

**Make up policy**

Late work will only be accepted with instructor's approval and a documented valid excuse, such as serious illness, death in the family, etc.

**Accommodations**

Any student with a special need for an accommodation in course activities should make arrangements with the instructor.

**Student resources**

A series of links on topics ranging from D2L, to Goldlink, to disability services and counseling is available on D2L for download under the "Welcome/Getting Started" module.

**Module Topic/Reading/Assignment (See D2L calendar for specific due dates)**

- 1 Welcome/Getting Started**  
Read Syllabus and Familiarize yourself with the site  
Post a welcome message introducing yourself
- 2 The Anthropological Approach to Religion**  
Ch. 1  
Quiz 1
- 3 Mythology**  
Ch. 3  
Quiz 2  
Discussion 1

- 4 Religious Symbols**  
Ch. 4  
Quiz 3
- 5 Ritual**  
Ch. 5  
Quiz 4  
Discussion 2
- 6 Altered States of Consciousness**  
Ch. 6  
Quiz 5
- 7 Religious Specialists**  
Ch. 7  
Quiz 6
- 8 Midterm Exam**
- 9 Magic and Divination**  
Ch. 8  
Quiz 7  
Discussion 3
- 10 Souls, Ghosts, and Death**  
Ch. 9  
Quiz 8
- 11 Gods and Spirits**  
Ch. 10  
Quiz 9  
Discussion 4

**12 Witchcraft**

Ch. 11

Quiz 10

**13 The Search for New Meaning**

Ch. 12

Quiz 11

Discussion 5

**14 Religion, Conflict, and Peace**

Ch. 13

Quiz 12

**15 Wrapping Up**

Discussion 6

**Final Exam**

**Faculty Bio**

I am an instructor of Anthropology. I have been teaching anthropology for 23 years in various settings, from Universities to Community Colleges to Prisons. I am trained as a cultural anthropologist. My primary research interests are Symbolic Anthropology, Music and Culture, and Rituals. I am also a husband and father who enjoys fishing, disc golf, and playing the bass.