Anthropology of Religion, Magic, & Witchcraft –121-3040
Los Angeles Valley College
Fall 2016
Meets: Th (H) 6:45pm-9:55pm room FL 112
Office hours: 12:20pm-1pm in 1511
Professor Sashur Henninger-Rener
Henninsl@piercecollege.edu

About the course: This course introduces students to the anthropological study of religion. Theories about the origins and functions of religion are examined, along with the role of religion in traditional non-Western societies. Shamanism, witchcraft, magic, religion in non-Western medicine, and religion conflict and change in the modern world are among the topics covered.

Student Learning Objectives: Upon completion of the course the student will be able to perform a real-world task requiring knowledge of magic, witchcraft, and religion that demonstrates meaningful application of essential knowledge and skills. Examples of essential knowledge and skills at the introductory level may include but are not limited to: a) Reasoning about and interpreting cross-cultural supernatural beliefs and behaviors, b) Demonstrating a perspective of cultural relativism in relationship to supernatural beliefs, c) Comparing supernatural belief systems around the world.

Text and Readings:
- Other readings will be included this semester and can be found on Canvas.

Course Website: There is an online Canvas website for this course. PLEASE CHECK Canvas REGULARLY. PLEASE CHECK YOUR LACCD EMAIL REGULARLY.

Course Policies:

Attendance policy: We will respect Los Angeles Pierce College’s attendance policy. As well as:

- Do not come to class late or leave early, it is disruptive and 4 times will result in one absence being recorded.
- 4 absences will result in being dropped from the course.
Dropping the class: It is your responsibility to drop the class if you discontinue coming to class; however, you may be dropped by the instructor if you are not attending class.

**Late Work:** Late work will not be accepted unless we have discussed the issue prior to the due date and made new arrangements. This will also result in a 10% deduction for each day late.

**Statement on Academic Integrity:** As students and faculty of Los Angeles Pierce College and as members of a larger academic community, we hold ourselves responsible for the maintenance of academic integrity. Our standard of integrity precludes any form of knowing and willful misrepresentation of one’s work or performance in fulfilling course requirements or any other requisites for certificates and degrees. **In short, if you quote another’s work you must give adequate attribution and credit. Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated, and will result in disciplinary action! In my class, plagiarism will result in an automatic F on the assignment and possible failure of the class.**

**Grading:** is based on points. Total points are subject to change.

Exam 1 – 100 points  
Exam 2 – 100 points  
Final Exam – 100 points  
Article reflections – 20 points each, 2 lowest grade will be dropped.  
Critical Thinking Essay – 100 points  
Ritual Ethnography Topic Proposal – 25 points  
Ritual Ethnography Observation notes – 50 points  
Ritual Ethnography paper and presentation – 200 points

**GRADING SCALE:** A 90-100, B 80-89, C 70-79, D 60-69, F 0-59

I do not round up grades at the end of the term. Your current grade will be available to you on Canvas throughout the semester. Keep track of them and request help from me immediately after you’ve received your grade for an assignment, and I will help you. I will not help you after the semester is over and you want to be boosted to a B from a 79%.
Assignments:

All written assignments should follow these guidelines:

- Must include a cover page that includes:
  - Title of Paper
  - Student’s name
  - Course name and number
  - Instructor’s name
  - Date submitted
- Each paper must have **1-inch margins all around**
- Each paper’s length will be listed in its assignment.
- Each paper must be in **Times New Roman font, sized 12**.
- Each paper must be **double-spaced**
- Each paper must be submitted as a **.doc file**, otherwise it may not open.
- Must use APA (6th ed.) style as outlined in the approved APA style guide to document all sources.
- Must include, on the final page, a Reference Page that is completed according to APA
- Source must be academic. Refrain from using most interest sources. NO Wikipedia!
- **If you want to rewrite after I return your assignment, you have one week to return it to me. This accounts for final drafts only.**

Reading Summaries: For every reading in the course you will provide a summary and reflection. This will be a 2-4 paragraph response to the reading that includes the general points, your response to it, and any remaining questions. These will be posted to Moodle.

Exams: All exams will be in essay format and consist of several questions related to the articles discussed in class. We will have a study guide and review in class.

Critical Thinking Essay: The purpose of your written assignment is for you to think critically about the theories posed in your readings, and then apply them to contemporary situations. You will argue for or against the specified theory/main points/purpose of the assigned article by providing current (2010- Present) support. How do contemporary examples support or negate these original ideas of the readings?
This essay will be 3-5 pages in length, not including cover page and bibliography. You will be required to provide only ONE article from the class and ONE article to compare it to from 2010 or later.

Ritual Ethnography: This semester you will observe and participate in a religious ritual. You will turn in your notes of that experience and write a 4-5 paged paper, relating your experience back to topics and concepts in the course. You will then present your findings in a brief 5 minute presentation to the class. More detailed instructions will be provided.

What is expected of you in this course?

1. That you ATTEND every class session. Each class session will introduce general information about the topic and an in depth discussion of the readings.
2. That you will READ ALL the required readings BEFORE class, prepared to answer questions and participate in the discussion.
3. That you SUBMIT your reading summaries. Reading summaries add up and will be important to your grade. They also will prepare you for your exams.
4. That you TAKE NOTES during class sessions that are in depth, asking questions when you have them.
5. That you COME ON TIME to class and stay the entire time. Arriving late or leaving early is disruptive to the class and will impact your attendance. **You will not be able to take an exam if you arrive after someone else has completed their exam.**
6. That you ASK ME QUESTIONS when you have them this semester. I am always here to help.

Course Outline and Schedule: All readings and summaries must be done by the first day of the week they are assigned. Schedule and readings are subject to change.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assigned Reading for that Week</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/1</td>
<td>First day! Introduction to the class and syllabus</td>
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| 9/8  | 1. Chapter 1 Introduction Pp. 1-5;  

Article summations due 9/8 before class
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Chapter/Section</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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</table>
*Critical Thinking Paper due 9/29 before midnight* |
<p>| 10/6   | Exam 1                                                                           |                                                                          |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/27</td>
<td>Article summations due 10/20 before class</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Article summations due 10/27 before class</td>
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<td>11/3</td>
<td>Ritual ethnography topic proposal due 10/27 before midnight</td>
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<td>11/10</td>
<td>Article summations due 11/3 before class</td>
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<td>11/17</td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/1</td>
<td>Article summations due 11/17 before class</td>
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**Article summations due 5/18 before class**

**12/15 FINAL**

**Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty**

The faculty and administration of Los Angeles Valley College are committed to the belief that honesty and integrity are integral components of the academic process. The College expects students to be honest and ethical at all times in their pursuit of academic goals. Students who violate the code of academic conduct by which the College maintains its academic integrity will be dealt with in a manner reflecting the seriousness of these violations.

I. Violations of academic honesty and integrity occur when a student participates in any act in which he/she uses deception or fraud while performing an academic activity. Violations include, but are not limited to, the following: Using study aids such as calculators, tape recorders or notes, when not authorized by the instructor. Cheating on examinations, assignments or experiments (allowing another student to copy one’s answers or copying the answers of other students; exchanging information by any means, including verbal exchanges, sign language, hand signals, secret codes, passed notes, creation of a distraction for the purpose of cheating; changing answers on a previously scored test, assignment or experiment; inventing information and/or data.) Allowing another student to assume one’s identity in order to fulfill an assignment or take a test. Submitting for a grade the words, ideas, and/or written work (including laboratory notes and drawings) of another person without giving due credit to that person. This includes purchased papers or papers written by other students. Falsifying or attempting to falsify attendance records and/or grade rosters. Conspiring with other students to commit any of the above behaviors.

II. Consequences for any offense against academic honesty and integrity may include: An “F” or a “0” on the examination or assignment. Suspension from the class and other sanctions and/or penalties authorized by the Board of Trustees for violations of the
District Code of Conduct. A record of the student’s violation placed in the student’s disciplinary file. Students are required to be honest and complete their own work at all times (homework, class work, quizzes, tests, etc.). Additional information about plagiarism can be found at www.plagiarism.org or through various websites on the Internet.

**(Essential Resources)**

**Academic Counseling Services** – (818) 947-2600 x. 4200
Student Services Annex (SSA)
Academic counselors are available to assist you with many of your educational needs such as help in clarifying your values and goals; develop a student education plan (SEP); interpret articulation agreements with other colleges and universities, and much more.

**Special Services** – (818) 947-2681 Student Services Annex (SSA) -- Room 175

Students with disabilities, whether physical, learning, or psychological, who believe that they may need accommodations in this class, are encouraged to contact the office of Special Services as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. Authorization, based on verification of disability, is required before any accommodation can be made.