

Myth, Ritual and Mysticism: ANT. 3241: Spring 2009; HLS 160

Dr.MARTÍN

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hours: Th. 2:30-3:30 PM in office; before or after class in classroom or by app't.

COURSE GOALS: To provide students with the opportunity to understand and analyze the spiritual beliefs, world-views and philosophies of other cultures.

GRADING POLICY: Students earn grades based on the following formula:

First Examination = 25%

Second Examination = 25%

Final Examination = 25%

Working Group Presentation = 25%

Please note that grades are not negotiable. I will be glad, however, to review any graded work to analyze how a student's performance could be improved.

EXAMINATIONS: The three examinations are multiple choice. The first examination covers the first third of the course material; the mid-term examination covers the second third of the course material and the final examination covers the final third. All class materials may appear on the examinations i.e. all lectures, books, videos, and discussions.

WORKING GROUP PRESENTATION: Students will work in groups of approximately 10 students, investigating one of the themes listed on the syllabus and present their work to the class in a 25 minute presentation. Students earn a common grade within each working group.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS: Class participation implies on time class attendance at all classes. Absence from class, late arrival to class and disruptive or unprofessional behavior will result in a lowered final grade. All students are encouraged to participate in class discussions by asking questions and offering comments on course material.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS or FAILURE to COMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS: Absence from any examination or failure to complete the working group assignment will earn a 0 and be averaged into the calculations for the final grade. In the case of emergencies students are expected to contact me regarding their assignments.

REQUIRED BOOKS: The following books constitute the required reading for this course. All books are available from the FIU Bookstore. New and used copies may be available in other bookstores. Any problems with acquiring these books should be brought to my attention immediately.

1. Moro, Pamela A., James Meyers and Arthur C. Lehmann

2008 **Magic, Witchcraft and Religion: An Anthropological Study of the Supernatural.** McGraw Hill: Boston, MA, ISBN: 0-07-312269-6. 7th edition.

2. Jones, David E.

1984 **Sanapia, Comanche Medicine Woman.** Long Grove, Illinois: Waveland Press. ISBN: 0-881330041-8.

3. Orion, Loretta

2004 **Never Again the Burning Times.** Long Grove, Illinois: Waveland Press. ISBN: 0-88133-835-4.

CLASS SCHEDULE and DUE DATES:

Jan. 6: Introduction, syllabus and selection of working groups.

Jan. 8: Explanation of Anthropology as a Social Science and the Culture Concept.

Jan.13: Explanation of anthropological research methods.

Jan.15: The meaning of myth: MML: 68-71.

Jan. 20: No class.

Jan. 22: Film, "Popol Vuh: Maya Creation Story"

Jan. 27: Ritual: MML:pp.101-108; 117-126.
 Jan. 29: Sanapia, Comanche Medicine Woman due. Class discussion.
 Feb. 3: Ethnomedicine: MML: pp.225-229; 239-250.
 Feb. 5: Exam 1
 Feb. 10: Ethnomedicine and Drugs: MML: 195-198; 205-210.
 Feb. 12: Shamans: MML: 109-116:155-166
 Feb.17: Shamans, Peyote and Healing: Film, "To Find our Life"
 Feb. 19: Shamans in Modern Times: MML:182-188; MML: pp.81-86.
 Feb. 24: Workshop on Working Groups
 Feb. 26: Never Again the Burning Times due. Class discussion.
 March 3: Witchcraft and Magic: MML: 290-308.
 March 5: The Dead and the Undead: MML: 319-324; 336-341.
 March 10: Mysticism: Film, "St. Teresa of Avila"
 March 12: Exam 2
 March 17: No Class: Spring Break
 March 19: No Class: Spring Break
 March 24: Workshop on Working Groups with Ms. Roe
 March 26: Ms. Roe Lecture
 March 31: Some Contemporary Religious Issues: MML: 407-417; 433-448.
 April 2: Working Group Presentations
 April 7: Working Group Presentations
 April 9: Working Group Presentations
 April 14: Working Group Presentations
 April 16: Working Group Presentations
 April 21: Final Exam, 5-7PM in classroom

WORKING GROUP PRESENTATIONS: CONTENT of PRESENTATION: (a.) Introduce topic briefly (b.) Analyze the topic critically as a research issue(c.) Summarize and conclude. **Please note that a hard copy bibliography of sources employed in the presentation and a printed list of the participating students with their signatures are required the day of the presentation. Wikipedia is not an acceptable source.** Remember to cooperate and solve your own group issues within the group should any arise. If a problem within the group proves irresolvable, I will make an intervention. MOTIVATION: Remember the class presentation represents 25% of your final grade and that all working group members will earn the same grade.

Please remember that requests for special equipment (portable computer, projectors, etc.) need to be made through me. I would need the name and panther number of the student who will be obtaining the equipment from the Media Equipment Office in the Greene Library. I will then forward students' requests to the ME Office. Please make these requests two weeks in advance of the date for which the equipment is needed.

WORKING GROUP TOPICS:

- (1). Are there spiritually significant places in central and southern Florida? If so, what do they represent?
- (2). Why do people in so many cultures seek altered states of consciousness? Please draw examples from 3 cultures.
- (3). How do electronic forms of communication change styles of social interaction in the USA ?
- (4). How does contemporary popular culture from Japan influence popular culture in the USA?
- (5). What are the predominant cultural influences in contemporary American music and dance and their meaning?
- (6). Are there alternate forms of healing are practiced in the USA? From where do they originate?
- (7). The Female in Religion: Goddess Worship
- (8). Native American Spirituality: Influence on the Greening of America or Cultural Exploitation?
- (9). Predicting the Future: Control over the Unpredictable, the Unscientific in a Scientific Time
- (10) Student choice of topic: form a group of at least 7 students and suggest a topic.