

**Anthropology 121**  
Section #17857  
**Dr. Leanna Wolfe**

**LA Pierce College**  
**Fall 2017**

## **Anthropology of Religion, Magic and Witchcraft**

### **Class Meets:**

**August 29, 2017 – December 12, 2017**

**Tuesdays/Thursdays: Room: ELM 1707 Time: 12:45 PM – 2:10 PM**

### **How to Reach Me:**

**Cell:** (323) 717-6167 **E-mail:** LeannaPhD@outlook.com

**Web Site:** <http://www.drleannawolfe.com/magic.html> **Office:** ELM 1726

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 12:05 PM - 12:40 PM & Thursday 11:05 AM – 11:40 AM

**Text:** (on sale at the college bookstore and online)

*Anthropology of Magic, Religion and Witchcraft* 3rd edition by Rebecca Stein and Philip Stein ISBN: 10-0-0205-71811-6 (Paper) 10-0-205-71809-4 (Course Smart E-Edition) 2<sup>nd</sup> edition is ok.

### **Class Description:**

The course will examine anthropological approaches to the study of religious beliefs and practices, western and non-western concepts of the supernatural, religion in societies undergoing rapid change, and contemporary religious expression in American society. The class will include lecture, discussion, videos in-class rituals and field projects.

### **Students Learning Outcomes:**

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.

**Exams and Grading** Grade points can be earned as follows:

**Midterm #1.....85 pts.**  
**Midterm #2.....85 pts.**  
**Final Exam.....80 pts.**  
**Moral Beliefs Survey....50 pts.**  
**Altered States Project..50 pts.**

**Field Observation.....50 pts.**  
**Religious History Interview..50 pts.**  
**Photo Field Observation.....50 pts.**  
**Photo Inventory.....50 pts.**

**Gold Option:** (for students who would like to try for an A)

Your grade will be based on **three exams** (two midterms and one final) and **three 50-point projects**. The maximum available points is **400**. Grades will be assigned as follows:

**A: 370+ pts. B: 325 - 369 pts. C: 270 - 324 pts. D: 210-269 pts.**

**Silver Option:** (for busy students who want to pass the class)

Your grade will be based on **three exams** (two midterms and one final) and **two 50-point projects**. The maximum available points is **350**. Grades will be assigned as follows:

**A: 325+ pts. B: 280 - 324 pts. C: 225 - 279 pts. D: 165-224 pts.**

**Bronze Option:** (for super busy students)

Your grade will be based on **three exams** (two midterms and one final) and **one 50-point project**. The maximum available points is **300**. Grades will be assigned as follows:

**A: 290+ pts. B: 250 - 289 pts. C: 200 - 249 pts. D: 140-199 pts.**

**Exams:** Exams are based on readings, class activities (discussions, videos, rituals). Midterm exams include two essays and all exams have objective questions (true/false, multiple choice, matching). Bring a #2 pencil and an 882 scantron.

**Timeliness:** You are expected to turn in all assignments and take all exams on time. Late exams will be docked 5 (five) pts. per class meeting day.

**Plagiarism:** Cheating on exams, improperly citing sources and turning in written work that you did not personally research and write are all examples of plagiarism. They are not allowed in this class and can result in being suspended from Pierce College. Ask for help before resorting to these unsavory activities!

**Cell Phones and Beepers:** Please SILENCE these in the classroom! Plan on focusing your full attention on class activities including avoiding texting, Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat, Pinterest, and engaging in off-topic Internet surfing.

**Attendance Policy:**

We will respect Los Angeles Pierce College's attendance policy:

"Only students who have been admitted to the College and are in approved active status may attend classes. Students are expected to be in class on time and to remain for the entire class period. Medical appointments, work, job interviews, childcare responsibilities, etc. should be arranged so as not to occur during class

time. Please do not make requests for exceptions. Any student who has unexcused absences equaling one week's worth of class time prior to census date may be excluded. Students may drop the class online, before the last day to drop. Students should never rely on the instructor to exclude them." (Gen. Cat., p. 21)

Additionally, be sure to follow the course schedule for reading and class assignments; Students are individually responsible for any information and announcements that are missed due to absence or tardiness. Please ask another student for notes.

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.

### **Foster Youth:**

*We are making a special effort to support current and former foster youths at Pierce College. If you are a current or former foster youth you may qualify for other support services to help you achieve your educational goals. Please contact our Guardian Scholars Program at (818) 710-3323 or send us an email at [guardianscholars@piercecollege.edu](mailto:guardianscholars@piercecollege.edu) so you can get support you are eligible for.*

### **Religious Holidays:**

There are a variety of "religious holidays" occurring during the semester. While these are neither Federal- or State-sanctioned holidays, they ARE days of religious observance that may impact some students in the class. If you plan to miss a class period, an assignment due date or an exam because you will be practicing your religion on a particular day, you need to notify your instructor of this fact by the end of the second week of the semester. Official notification will take the form of a note, written and signed by the student, which specifies the anticipated date(-s) of absence. A student who provides this information by the deadline will be able to reschedule missed exams or work, and their absence will not adversely affect their attendance record. Failure to provide proper notification by the end of the second week will negate the student's option to reschedule or receive credit for missed activities.

### **Campus Safety:**

In Case of Emergency: When on campus, call 818 710-4311 for immediate response from the Campus Sheriff. Do not call 911, as this will result in a substantial delay. Please program the Emergency Sheriff's number into your cell phone contacts.

### **Special Services:**

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. 818.719.6430 Student Services Bldg, 1st floor

**Extra Credit:** A maximum of 40 extra credit points can be earned. You can receive 5 extra credit points for participating on a religious history panel, and/or doing an oral report on your field observation, photo field observation, photo inventory, altered states project or moral beliefs survey. You can do additional class projects (25 points per project) or go to museum exhibitions (listed under class links) for 10 points per exhibition.

### **Course Outline**

Please read assigned readings *before* each class meeting.

AMRW: Anthropology of Magic, Religion & Witchcraft/

Additional Readings are in **Bold**—links for these are on the class website

<b><u>Week</u></b>	<b><u>Day</u></b>	<b><u>Reading</u></b>	<b><u>Topic</u></b>
1	8/29	AMRW —ch. 1 <b>Video:</b> Festival	Introductions
	8/31	<b>Slide Show:</b> Kumbha Mela <b>Slide Show:</b> Moscow and St. Petersburg	Defining Religion
2	9/5	AMRW—ch. 2 AMRW—ch. 3	Mythology Religious Symbols
	9/7	<b>Video:</b> The Asmat of New Guinea <b>Slide Show:</b> New Guinea Sing Sing PLAN CLASS RITUAL	
3	9/12	AMRW—ch. 4 <b>Is God An Accident?</b> <b>The Evolution of the God Gene</b>	Ritual
	9/14	<b>The Adaptive Value of Religious Ritual</b> <b>Prayer and Healing</b> <b>Slide Show:</b> Negotiating Ethnicity in Malaysia <b>Video:</b> Secrets of Psychic	
4	9/19	<b>CLASS RITUAL</b> <b>Why Is Religion Natural?</b> <b>You Are What You Eat: Health Food Movement</b>	
	9/21	<b>HOLIDAY – ROSH HASHANNAH – NO CLASS</b>	
5	9/26	<b>Video:</b> Burning Man Pastiche <b>Slide Show:</b> Burning Man <b>Video:</b> Gift Society and Basic Income <b>Video:</b> Five Insane Burning Man Facts <b>Researching Sex (and Drugs) at Burning Man</b> <b>Burning Woman (blog)</b>	Burning Man

<u>Week</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Topic</u>
	9/28	RELIGIOUS HISTORY PANELS <b>RELIGIOUS HISTORY INTERVIEW DUE!</b>	
6	10/3	<b>Video: Kidnapped by UFOs</b> <b>Close Encounters of the Facial Kind</b> MIDTERM #1 REVIEW	Aliens
	10/5	<b>MIDTERM #1</b>	
7	10/10	<b>The Initiation of a Maasai Warrior</b> <b>Video: Rites of Passage: Xhosa Male Circumcision</b> <b>Circumcision: Rite of Passage or Violation?</b>	Circumcision
	10/12	AMRW—ch. 5 <b>Slide Show: Yemanja Festival in Brazil</b>	Altered States
8	10/17	<b>Psychedelics and Religious Experience</b> <b>Alcohol in the Western World</b> <b>History of Peyotism and the Peyote Church</b> <b>The Sound of Rushing Water</b> <b>Video: Red Road: Peyote Rituals, Mexico</b>	Drugs
	10/19	<b>ALTERED STATES PROJECT DUE!</b>	Oral Reports
9	10/24	AMRW—ch. 6 <b>Discovering the Way of the Shaman</b> <b>Video: Shamans of the Amazon</b>	Religious Specialists
	10/26	<b>Slide Show: Religion in India</b> <b>FIELD OBSERVATION DUE!</b> PLAN DAY OF THE DEAD RITUAL	Oral Reports
10	10/31	<b>DAY OF THE DEAD RITUAL</b> <b>PHOTO FIELD OBSERVATION DUE!</b>	Oral Reports
	11/2	AMRW—ch. 7 <b>Baseball Magic</b> <b>Video: Strange Beliefs</b> <b>Slide Show: Berlin and Amsterdam</b>	Magic and Divination
11	11/7 - 9	<b>PROFESSOR AT A CONFERENCE – NO CLASS</b>	
12	11/14	AMRW—ch. 8 <b>Video: The Aztec Empire</b>	Souls, Ghosts, Death

<u>Week</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Topic</u>
12, con't	11/16	<b>Slide Show:</b> Religions of Eastern Europe <b>PHOTO INVENTORY DUE!</b> MIDTERM #2 REVIEW	Oral Reports
13	11/21	<b>MIDTERM #2</b>	
	11/23	<b>THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS</b>	
14	11/28	AMRW—ch. 9 <b>Secrets of Haiti's Living Dead</b> <b>Video:</b> Voodoo and the Church in Haiti <b>Slide Show:</b> Lisbon and Porto <b>MORAL BELIEFS SURVEY DUE!</b>	Gods and Spirits Voodoo Oral Reports
	11/30	AMRW—ch.10 <b>Video:</b> Burning Times <b>LAST DAY TO TURN IN PROJECTS!!!</b>	Witchcraft Oral Reports
15	12/5	AMRW—ch. 11 <b>The Heavens Gate Cult</b> <b>Video:</b> Heaven's Gate <b>PPT: Polyamory 101</b> <b>Video:</b> A Polyamorous Couples Guide <b>LAST DAY TO TURN IN EXTRA CREDIT</b> FINAL REVIEW	Religious Movements New Religions
	12/7		
15	12/14	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	

**Information for using the class website:**

- See "Class Links" for assigned articles.
- "Quizzes"—download these and bring them to class
- See "Projects" for information on how to do Class Projects
- See "Student Work" for examples of completed projects
- "Exams" contains review information for the midterm and final
- "Links" contains leads to additional information on Magic, Religion and Witchcraft.