

**Anthropology 121**  
Section #17445  
**Dr. Leanna Wolfe**

**LA Valley College**  
**Fall 2017**

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

### **Class Meets:**

**August 31, 2017 – December 14, 2017**  
**Thursdays: Room: FL 101 Time: 6:50 PM – 9:55 PM**

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

**Cell:** (323) 717-6167    **E-mail:** LeannaPhD@outlook.com  
**Web Site:** <http://www.drleannawolfe.com/magic.html>  
**Office:** AHS 303    **Office Hours:** 6:15 PM – 6:50 PM Thursday in FL 101

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

***Anthropology of Magic, Religion and Witchcraft* 4th edition by Rebecca Stein and Philip Stein ISBN: 9781138692527 (Paper) 9781315532158 (E-Edition) 3rd 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:**

- You will be able to discuss religion in other cultures in a non-ethnocentric manner.
- You will be able to evaluate religious behaviors using basic anthropological concepts and theory

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

<b>Midterm #1.....85 pts.</b>	<b>Field Observation.....50 pts.</b>
<b>Midterm #2.....85 pts.</b>	<b>Religious History Interview..50 pts.</b>
<b>Final Exam.....80 pts.</b>	<b>Photo Field Observation.....50 pts.</b>
<b>Moral Beliefs Survey....50 pts.</b>	<b>Photo Inventory.....50 pts.</b>
<b>Altered States Project..50 pts.</b>	

**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 2 sheets of blank paper, a #2 pencil and an 882 scantron.

**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 Valley 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.

**Accommodation / Access:** If you are a student with a disability requiring classroom accommodations, and have not contacted SSD, do so in a timely manner. SSD is located in the Student Services Annex, Room 175 or call SSD at (818) 947-2681 or TTD (818) 947-2680 to meet with a SSD counselor. If SSD has already sent the memo to instructor confirming accommodations required by student for this class, please meet with me to discuss arrangements.

**Sheriff:** For issues related to campus security, the Sheriffs Office is open 24/7 and can be reached at (818)947-2911.

**Tutoring:** In person and online tutoring are available to all students. For more information go to [www.lavc.edu/tutor](http://www.lavc.edu/tutor). Internet tutoring can be accessed via Canvas by clicking "net Tutor."

**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**

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	8/31	AMRW —ch. 1 <b>Video:</b> Festival <b>Slide Show:</b> Kumbha Mela <b>Slide Show:</b> Moscow and St. Petersburg	Introductions Defining Religion
2	9/7	AMRW—ch. 2 AMRW—ch. 3 <b>Video:</b> The Asmat of New Guinea <b>Slide Show:</b> New Guinea Sing Sing PLAN CLASS RITUAL	Mythology Religious Symbols
3	9/14	AMRW—ch. 4 <b>Is God An Accident?</b> <b>The Evolution of the God Gene</b> <b>The Adaptive Value of Religious Ritual</b> <b>Prayer and Healing</b> <b>Slide Show:</b> Negotiating Ethnicity in Malaysia RELIGIOUS HISTORY PANELS <b>Video:</b> Secrets of Psychics	Ritual
4	9/21	<b>HOLIDAY – ROSH HASHANNAH – NO CLASS</b> <b>Please Watch: Video: Kidnapped by UFOs</b>	



<u>Week</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Topic</u>
10	11/2	AMRW—ch. 8 <b>Video:</b> The Aztec Empire <b>Slide Show:</b> Religions of Eastern Europe <b>PHOTO INVENTORY DUE!</b> <b>DAY OF THE DEAD RITUAL</b> MIDTERM #2 REVIEW	Souls, Ghosts, Death Oral Reports
11	11/9	<b>PROFESSOR AT A CONFERENCE – NO CLASS</b>	
12	11/16	AMRW—ch. 9 <b>Secrets of Haiti’s Living Dead</b> <b>Video:</b> Voodoo and the Church in Haiti <b>MIDTERM #2</b>	Gods and Spirits Voodoo
13	11/23	<b>THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS</b>	
14	11/30	AMRW—ch.10 <b>Video:</b> Burning Times <b>Slide Show:</b> Lisbon and Porto <b>MORAL BELIEFS SURVEY DUE!</b>	Witchcraft Oral Reports
15	12/7	AMRW—ch. 11 <b>The Heavens Gate Cult</b> <b>Video:</b> Heaven’s Gate <b>Video:</b> A Polyamorous Couples Guide <b>Video Clips:</b> Men/Women Who Share <b>LAST DAY TO TURN IN EXTRA CREDIT</b> FINAL REVIEW	Religious Movements New Religions
16	12/14	<b>FINAL EXAM – 7 PM – 9 PM</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.