

ANTHROPOLOGY 3600

MAGIC, SHAMANISM, AND RELIGION

T Delfín, Ph.D.

Office: 5-131

Office Hours: T/Th 10-12

Welcome to Anthropology 3600. This course is designed to introduce you to global concepts and theories surrounding magic, shamanism, and religion. We will learn how anthropologists think about questions of spirituality and cosmology, how they research these topics, and how these themes compare across cultures. While this class will provide a broad overview, we will begin by delving deep into an ethnography focused on Peru and shamanism. Through this text, we will learn to read *ethnographically* and to identify our own cultural biases. From there, we will move onto our textbook, which offers short readings focusing on shamanism, magic, and religion throughout the world.

Required Reading:

Magic, Witchcraft and Religion (Moro) – 9th edition
The Hold Life Has (Allen)

Grade Breakdown

Blackboard Quizzes	30%
Presentation	30%
Midterm Paper	25%
Oral Exam Final	15%

Assignments:

You will be expected to come to class each day having completed the assigned reading and assignments. Each day the assignment will be a short open-book Blackboard quiz. **Quizzes** will open no later than 24 hours before class begins and will close the minute class starts. Quizzes will not be reopened unless there is a glitch with the technology. This happens. We will frequently break up into small groups to discuss the material more effectively; participation is expected of all students. You will have one 500-word (five-paragraph) **midterm paper**, which will be based on our first book, *The Hold Life Has*. Each student will give a **presentation** once during the semester. The goal of this presentation is to engage your peers and supplement the information provided in the reading with outside research that can add depth to the reading. Presentations will be given in groups, but students will be graded individually. Presentations will begin in week 9. Your **final** will be an oral exam during which you will synthesize information from our second book. Detailed guidelines for all assignments can be found on Blackboard.

Attendance:

You will be expected to attend all class meetings. You are permitted two absences without adverse effects on your grade, but you are responsible for making arrangements to submit any in-class assignments that may have been collected during your absence and to complete quizzes on time. After two absences, each additional one will lower your grade by a point. (If you have a B+ your grade will drop to a B, and so on.) Students with athletic or academic opportunities, family obligations, or other non-negotiable responsibilities may be exempted from this policy if arrangements are made ahead of time with the professor. Please note that on several occasions class will not meet during our normally scheduled meetings. These dates are shaded in on the class schedule on the final page of the syllabus. Please check Blackboard and email for updates.

Expectations:

You will be expected to be present and punctual at each class meeting, ready to engage the material with an open mind and with respect and compassion for your peers. You should come to class with the reading

and accompanying Blackboard quiz completed. Please bring the day's reading, a notebook, and pen to each class meetings. Phones should be turned off and put away at the start of class, and laptops may only be used in class with express permission from the professor. You will be expected to be an active participant in class discussions and activities. Failure to participate may adversely impact your grade. For example, if you are present only in body but not in mind (falling asleep, texting, doing work for other classes, etc.), your attendance that day may be counted as an absence. Academic dishonesty (including plagiarism, cheating, etc.) will result in a failing grade on the assignment and possible referral for disciplinary action.

Blackboard and email:

Blackboard (Bb) will be our primary tool for communication, updates, and assessment. Please get in the habit of checking Blackboard frequently. I am available by email Monday-Thursday. If you need to reach me, please do not put off communicating until the last minute. Please also exchange contact information with your peers so you can reach out in case of absence or to coordinate group activities. My cell phone number is listed above, but it should only be used in case of emergency and preferably only for texts.

Disabilities:

This course is designed to accommodate many disabilities. For example, there are no timed exams and all quizzes are open-book. Nonetheless, students with disabilities are encouraged to meet with me during office hours early in the quarter to discuss your DRC authorized accommodation needs for this course.

Course Schedule

Week 1		
Week 2	Mon 8/26	Intro Session
	Weds 8/28	Class rescheduled. Date TBA
Week 3	Mon 9/2	Labor Day – no classes
	Weds 9/4	HLH Preface 1 + 2 (Blackboard quiz)
Week 4	Mon 9/9	HLH Introduction (+ Bb quiz)
	Weds 9/11	HLH Ch. 1 (+ Bb quiz)
Week 5	Mon 9/16	HLH Ch. 2 (+ Bb quiz)
	Weds 9/18	HLH Ch. 3 (+ Bb quiz)
Week 6	Mon 9/23	HLH Ch. 4 (+ Bb quiz)
	Weds 9/25	HLH Ch. 5 (+ Bb quiz)
Week 7	Mon 9/30	HLH Ch. 6 (+ Bb quiz)
	Weds 10/2	HLH Ch. 7 (+ Bb quiz)
Week 8	Mon 10/7	HLH Ch. 8 (+ Bb quiz)
	Weds 10/9	HLH Ch. 9 + Epilogue + Afterword (+ Bb quiz)
Week 9	Mon 10/14	Paper due ; MWR Ch. 11: Betwixt and Between (+ Bb quiz)
	Weds 10/16	Ayahuasca article on Blackboard (+ Bb quiz)
Week 10	Mon 10/21	MWR Ch. 13 – Return to Wirikuta (+ Bb quiz)
	Weds 10/23	MWR Ch. 27 – Curanderismo (+ Bb quiz)
Week 11	Mon 10/28	MWR Ch. 8 – Virgen de Guadalupe (+ Bb quiz)
	Weds 10/30	MWR Ch. 39 – Days of the Dead (+ Bb quiz)
Week 12	Mon 11/4	MWR Ch. 15 – Henna & Tattoo (+ Bb quiz)
	Weds 11/6	MWR Ch. 43 – The Veil (+ Bb quiz) + documentary
Week 13	Mon 11/11	MWR Ch. 36 – Vodou (+ Bb quiz)
	Weds 11/13	MWR Ch. 35 – Baseball Magic (+ Bb quiz)
Week 14	Mon 11/18	Class cancelled (Anthropology conference) – Assignment TBA
	Weds 11/20	Class cancelled (Anthropology conference) – Assignment TBA
Week 15	Mon 11/25	MWR Ch. 31 – Our Families are Killing Us (+ Bb quiz)
	Weds 11/27	MWR Ch. 21 – Trance + Ch. 24 – The Sound (+ Bb quiz)
Week 16	Mon 12/2	MWR Ch. 25 – The Rave (+ Bb quiz)
	Weds 12/4	MWR Ch. 30 – Burning Man (+ Bb quiz)

On shaded dates we will not meet at our usual class time. Please refer to Blackboard for updates.