Traditional Religions

Miss 5103/Soc 5103

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Jan. 24
Jan. 29
Jan. 31
Feb. 5
Feb. 7
Feb. 12
Feb. 14
Feb. 19
Feb. 21
Feb. 26
Feb. 28
March 5
March 7
March 12
March 14
March 26
March 28
April 2
April 4
April 9
April 11
April 16
April 18
April 23
April 25
April 30
May 2
May 7
May 9
May 15

Requirements

1. **Regular attendance.** An important component of this course is what goes on in the classroom: lectures, presentations, interaction and discussions. Therefore, unexcused absences will reduce the final course grade.

2. **All of the textbooks will have to be read in their entirety.** At exam times you will be asked if you have completed the readings assigned in preparation for that particular exam.

3. **Three written papers on assigned topics related to the course content.** These should be typed, double-spaced with a bibliography of sources consulted. Quotes and other material needing documentation do not require full foot- or endnotes. Rather, this can be done in the style of sociological and anthropological theses, e.g.: (Kiev: 134). In this case Kiev is the name of the author being cited and 134 is the page on which the citation is found.
   - A really impressive paper would be one based on an interview with someone involved in a tribal or traditional religion. Such a paper, while primarily field research, should also have a minimum foundation of some library research.
   - A suggested bibliography of sources available in the university library is

Worldview, "Flaw of the Excluded Middle"
Mysterium tremendum/ des Ganz Andre/
Majestas
Religious myths, rituals, and ceremonies
Animism and animatism
Sorcery, diviners and magicians
Magic, amulets and charms
Review day
EXAM
Sorcery
Totemism and the manitou
Individualistic cults
Shamanistic cults
Communal cults
Ecclesiastical cults
EXAM over pages 85-164 of Howells & Report
#17
Spirit possession and glossolalia
Voodoo
Idols and images
Syncretism
Prophetic and nativistic movements
Cargo cults
Review day
EXAM
Folk churches
Neopaganism in America (In "gods" we trust)
Death, ghosts and ancestor worship
Magical treatment of illness
Folk psychiatry
Film
Review and catchup
(Wednesday) Final exam 8-9:50
4. **Written video reflections.** Whenever videos are shown in class, you must write a minimum one-page analysis/reflection paper on it to be turned in by the next class period.

5. **Read Paul Hiebert's article, "The Flaw of the Excluded Middle."** It can be found in the 1982 bound copy of *Missiology* or in the third edition of *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*. Turn in a one-page reaction/summary.

**Grading**

The letter grade for the course will generally be assigned according to the standard breakdown (A=90% or above, B=80% of above, etc.). The following percentages will be used to compute the course grade:

- 4 exams @100 points 400 CP10, CP19, CX1, CX4, CX5, CX6
- 3 Papers @100 points 300 CP1, CP2, CP10, CX4, CX5, CX6
- Review of Hiebert's article 10 CP19, CX5, CX6
- Video Reviews (each) 10 CP19, CX4, CX5, CX6
- Attendance 100 CP10, CP10, CX1, CX4, CX5, CX6

*Assignments which come in late will be subject to a reduction in grade.*

**Bibliography**

This bibliography is by no means exhaustive. It is simply a sampling of what is available in the library.

**Periodicals**


Taber, Floyd W. "How Real are Dreams," Practical Anthropology. 1972: I08-I09.

In microform:
"Elements of a strategy for the evangelization of Rastafarians with special reference to Jamaica," an MA thesis by Laurie Lind

Books

Beals, Ralph L. and Harry Hoijer. An Introduction to Anthropology. pages 434-470.
Bessy, Maurice. A Pictorial History of Magic and the Supernatural.
De Waal Malefijt, Annemarie. Religion and Culture.
Durkheim, Emile. Elementary Forms of Religious Life.
Diederich, Bernard and Al Burt. Papa Doc and the Tonton Macoutes. pages 345-357.
Frazier, James George. The New Golden Bough. (Found in "reference" section)
Haviland, William A. Anthropology. pages 535-560.
Hiebert, Paul G. Cultural Anthropology. pages 371-396.
Keesing, Roger M. Cultural Anthropology. pages 385-405.
Leach, Maria, ed. Funk and Wagnall's Standard Dictionary of Folklore, Mythology and Legend, 1972. (Located in "Reference" section)
Leslie, Charles, ed. Anthropology of Folk Religion.
Lessa, W. A. and E.Z. Vogt, editors, Reader in Comparative Religions.
Lowie, Robert. Primitive Religion.
Melton, J. Gordon. Magic, Witchcraft and Paganism in America. ("Reference" section)
Nevius, John L. Demon Possession.
Taylor, Robert B. Cultural Ways. pages 229-246.

Check also the 20-volume series Peoples of the Earth located in the "reference" section.

How do I go about learning their language?

The gospel can never become contextualized until it is expressed in a people's native (or heart)
### Other SNU missions course materials and syllabi

- Cultural Anthropology
- Introduction to Missions
- Linguistics
- Missions Strategies
- Modern Missionary Movement (History of Missions)
- Nazarene Missions
- Church Growth and Christian Missions
- Theology of Missions
- World Religions