

**College of San Mateo
Official Course Outline**

1. **COURSE ID:** ANTH 180 **TITLE:** Magic, Science and Religion
Units: 3.0 units **Hours/Semester:** 48.0-54.0 Lecture hours; and 96.0-108.0 Homework hours
Method of Grading: Grade Option (Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass)
Recommended Preparation:

2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**
Degree Credit
Transfer credit: CSU; UC
AA/AS Degree Requirements:
 CSM - GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: E5b. Social Science
 CSM - GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: E5c. Humanities
CSU GE:
 CSU GE Area C: ARTS AND HUMANITIES: C2 - Humanities (Literature, Philosophy, Languages Other than English)
 CSU GE Area D: SOCIAL SCIENCES: DSI - Social Institutions
IGETC:
 IGETC Area 4: SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES: Social and Behavioral Sciences

3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**
Catalog Description:
 Cross-cultural study of religion, magic and science as psychological projections of societies and as cultural phenomena reflecting political and economic systems, subsistence strategies, and gender structure.

4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**
 Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:
 1. analyze his/her own ethnocentric biases in the areas of religion and develop a culturally realistic point of view in this area;
 2. analyze and describe his/her own religious identification through critical thinking and analysis;
 3. describe beliefs and practices of societies concerning what Western scholars classify variously as magic, religion or science;
 4. analyze and describe beliefs about the value of the world and its peoples, theories of causation, shamanistic practices, and ceremonial cycles;
 5. non-ethnocentrically assess beliefs and practices alien to his/her own beliefs and practices;
 6. objectively evaluate evidence and interpretations of phenomena related to these beliefs and practices in the context of culture and environment.

5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**
 Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:
 1. analyze his/her own ethnocentric biases in the areas of religion and develop a culturally realistic point of view in this area;
 2. analyze and describe his/her own religious identification through critical thinking and analysis;
 3. describe beliefs and practices of societies concerning what Western scholars classify variously as magic, religion or science;
 4. analyze and describe beliefs about the value of the world and its peoples, theories of causation, shamanistic practices, and ceremonial cycles;
 5. non-ethnocentrically assess beliefs and practices alien to his/her own beliefs and practices;
 6. objectively evaluate evidence and interpretations of phenomena related to these beliefs and practices in the context of culture and environment.

6. **COURSE CONTENT:**
Lecture Content:
 The emphases in this course will vary from instructor to instructor, but the following topics would be included, not necessarily in the order given:
 1. The Anthropological Study of Religion.
 2. Myth, Ritual, Symbolism, and Taboo.
 3. Shamans, Priests, and Prophets.

4. Witchcraft, Sorcery, and Other "Forces."
5. Ethnomedicine: Religion and Healing.
6. Ghosts, Souls, and Ancestors.
7. Old and New Religions
8. Science, Magic, Myth, and Religion.

7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Discussion
- C. Other (Specify): Lecture and discussion. Group work; oral presentations on readings and research. Written reports, either individual or group, on readings or research. Written reports, either individual or group, on readings or research. Field work on selected topics.

8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

Writing Assignments:

In class essays synthesizing readings, films and lectures.

Reading Assignments:

Weekly readings from the assigned texts

Other Outside Assignments:

Museum and cultural event reports

9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Four or five examinations, a mixture of objective and essay questions based on lectures and readings, designed so as to demonstrate the ability to synthesize a body of data and to use principles of critical thinking in assessing that data. Also, reports, both oral and written, could figure in the evaluation as additional tools in determining the critical thinking ability of the student.

10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):

Possible textbooks include:

- A. William W. Zellner, William M. Kephart. *Extraordinary Groups: An Examination of Unconventional Groups*, 8th ed. W. H. Freeman, 2007
- B. Stein, Rebecca & Stein, Philip. *Anthropology of Religion, Magic, Witchcraft*, 4th ed. Routledge, 2017
- C. Marvin Harris. *Cows, Pigs, Wars and Witches*, ed. Vintage, 1989

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Course Originator: Michele Titus