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ANTY 336.01: Myth, Ritual and Religion

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ANTY 336: Myth, Ritual and Religion

Course Information

Autumn 2015

G.G. Weix

Social Sciences 252

Office: SS 223

TR 11:10-12:30 p.m.

Phone: 243-6319

GG.Weix@mso.umt.edu

Readings

Bessac, Suzanne. 2008 (1988) Embroidered Hmong Story Cloths. 2nd edition.

Bowen, John 2013. Religions in Practice: approach to anthropology of religion. 6th edition.

Strunk and White. Elements of Style. 2nd or 3rd edition.

Learning Objectives

1. To compare world religions and indigenous cosmologies across small scale and state societies.
2. To analyze myth, ritual and religious practices in terms of health, well-being, illness and death.
3. To master aspects of writing at the intermediate level for composition and editing.

Policies

Consult the 2015-2016 Academic Catalog and Student **Conduct Code** http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php in all course matters. Attendance is required to pass the course. Students are allowed up to three (3) unexcused absences; any more will affect the final grade.

Grades are based on performance in class in four, equally weighted areas: *informal writing, formal writing*, revision and editing, and a final exam*. The final grade is based on the following scale: A 90-100%, B 80-89%, C 70-79%, D 60-69%. Below 60% F. +/- is at instructor's discretion.

*Formal writing assignments are typed, double-spaced, and proofread with 1-inch margins. Citation follows a style guide, e.g. <http://aaanet.org/publications/styleguide/pdf> . Formal assignments include an introduction, body and conclusion, development of an argument, and appropriate use of evidence to support the author's views, as well as to refute contrary views, and express a purpose, audience, and genre. **The instructor will provide summary feedback on informal and formal writing, based on four criteria: clarity and critical insight, development of ideas,**

identification of purpose, audience, and genre, and use of evidence and citation. Revisions must reflect response to feedback. At least one writing assignment will be revised and resubmitted for a final grade.

University policy states that it is the responsibility of students with documented disabilities to contact instructors *during the first week of the semester* to discuss appropriate accommodations to ensure equity in grading, classroom experiences, and outside assignments. The instructor will work with the student and the staff of the Disability Services for Students (DSS) to arrange accommodations. Students should contact DSS (243.2373, Lommasson Center 154) for more information.

SYLLABUS

This syllabus provides a general plan for the course. If deviations are necessary they will be announced. Cell phones should be turned off for the duration of class. Please conduct class related email communication through a UM account. A web-based supplement for this class is available on Moodle: <http://umonline.umt.edu/> with support <http://umonline.umt.edu/techsupport/helpdesk.aspx>. Students should read Elements of Style immediately, and consult throughout the semester.

Week One: Introduction: What is myth?

- Sept. 1 Introduction *READ: Bowen, Chapter 1*
- Sept. 3 Concepts: culture, society, religion *Bessac, preface, Chapter 1*

Week Two: World religions and historical change

- Sept. 8 World religions *READ: Bowen, Chapter 2*
- Sept. 10 Case study: Hmong in the U.S. *Bessac. Chapter 2*

Week Three: States and small scale societies

- Sept. 15 Domains and boundaries *READ: Bowen, Chapter 3*
- Sept. 17 State religion and indigenous cosmologies *Bessac, Chapter 3*

“The Look of Silence” at the Roxy Theatre Sept. 18-24

Week Four: Ritual

- Sept. 22 Rituals of transition and initiation *READ: Bowen Chapter 4*

Sept. 24 Collective rituals *Bessac, Chapter 4*

Week Five: Health, Illness and Healing

Sept. 29 Health and healing *READ: Bowen Chapter 5*

Oct. 1 Magic and science *Bessac, Chapter 5*

First Formal Writing Assignment Due: October 2

Week Six: Sorcery and Witchcraft

Oct. 6 Sorcery and witchcraft *READ: Bowen, Chapter 6*

Oct. 8 Modern case studies *Bessac, Chapter 6*

Week Seven: Sacrifice. Violence and Conflict

Oct. 13 Sacrifice and violence *READ: Bowen, Chapter 7*

Oct. 15 Conflict and community

Week Eight: Imagery and Faith

Oct. 20 Relics and images *READ: Bowen, Chapter 8*

Oct. 22 Fetish and Gender

Week Nine: Trance and Shamans

Oct. 27 Trance *READ: Bowen, Chapter 9*

Oct. 29 Shamans

Week Ten: Boundaries and Taboo

Nov. 3 Taboo *READ: Bowen, Chapter 10*

Nov. 5 Orthodoxy

Week Eleven: Speech, Scripture and Charisma

Nov. 10 Scripture and testament

READ: Bowen, Chapter 11

Nov. 12 Charisma and conversion

Second Formal Writing Assignment Due: November 13

Week Twelve: Cults and Revitalization movements

Nov. 17 Revitalization movements

READ: Bowen, Chapter 12

Nov. 19 Cults

Week Thirteen: Divination, Revelation and Prophecy

Nov. 24 Divination, revelation and prophecy

READ: Bowen, Chapter 13 and 14

Nov. 26 Holiday no class

Revision of a formal writing assignment due: November 30

Week Fourteen: Secularism

Dec. 1 Virtual religion

READ: Bowen, Chapter 15 and 16

Dec. 3 Secularism

Week Fifteen: Review and Conclusion

Dec. 8 Post test and Review

Dec. 10 Conclusion and course evaluation

Final Exam: 10:10-12:10 P.M. December 17

Pre-test ANTY 336W Name and Student
ID: _____

Goals and Expectations for the course

Background and pre-requisite coursework

Writing goals, expectations and current method of writing, editing, revision

Briefly define the following terms and offer a synonym:

ancestor _____

animism _____

belief _____

cult _____

divination _____

magic _____

myth _____

offering _____

pilgrimage _____

ritual _____

sacred _____

sacrifice _____

shaman _____

taboo _____

trance _____

witchcraft _____
