

9-2002

# ANTH 326.01: Religious Belief Systems

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## Recommended Citation

Sattler, Richard A., "ANTH 326.01: Religious Belief Systems" (2002). *Syllabi*. Paper 1296.  
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**ANTHROPOLOGY 326:  
RELIGIOUS BELIEF SYSTEMS  
FALL 2002**

**T/R \* 11:10am-12:30n \* University Hall 210**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Richard A. Sattler

**PHONE:** 243-5833

**E-MAIL:** [rsattler@selway.umt.edu](mailto:rsattler@selway.umt.edu)

**OFFICE:** SS 232

**OFFICE HOURS:** T 1:30-2:30pm

R 10:00-11:00am

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides an in-depth introduction to anthropological approaches to the study of religion. We will trace the history of anthropological approaches, as well as examining contemporary issues and topics. We will examine the nature of religious practice with an emphasis on religious explanation, the nature of ritual, altered states, spiritual manipulation and divination. We will also examine the interconnections of religion with the rest of society, the nature and significance of religious change, and the impact of colonialism. Examples will be drawn from both Western and non-Western traditions, though primarily the latter.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. Students will gain an appreciation of the diversity and richness of human religions and belief systems.
2. Students will acquire an understanding of the ways in which anthropologists study and explain religions and current issues and approaches to the topic.
3. Students will increase their knowledge of the nature of religious belief systems and their relationships to the rest of society and culture.
4. Students will gain a familiarity with the literature and current research on the topic.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Course Evaluation:**

**Examinations** - There will be a mid-term and a final exam. Both exams will consist of short answer questions and essay questions and each will be worth 100 points. The final exam will not be comprehensive. Each examination is worth 1/4 of your grade.

**Research Papers** - Each student must write an eight to ten (8-10) page research paper using at least six (6) sources other than the course texts on a topic of their choice relating to the subject of the class. You must submit your topic for approval by the instructor by the end of the **third week of class (September 19)**. Papers will be evaluated on content, originality, organization, and style. All papers must be typed, double-spaced, on one side of the page. All papers are due on **Thursday, December 5**. The paper is worth 1/4 of your grade. If you need assistance in starting your paper, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. See "Guide to Writing Assignments" below for details.

**Discussion:** - Discussion questions will be given out each week and a portion of class time will be set aside for class discussion. All students are expected to read all assigned materials and generally be ready to discuss them in class. Discussion counts for 1/4 of your grade

**Graduate Students:** Graduate students are required to write a fifteen to twenty (15-20) page research paper with at least 10 sources on a topic of their choice relating to the subject of the class. Those in the Anthropology Department must also attend a weekly discussion session to be arranged. Graduate students will be graded on individual academic performance.

**Extra Credit:** Students wishing to earn extra credit may write a 2-4 page critical review of one of the recommended books listed below. Other books may be considered with the consent of the instructor. Reviews are worth up to 10 points and only two (2) reviews can be accepted per student.. See instructor for details. See "Guide to Writing Assignments" below for details.



**ANTH 326: RELIGIOUS BELIEF SYSTEMS**

**WEEK 9 RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE: ALTERED STATES**

**READINGS:** Klass & Weisgrau, Pt 3.  
Powers, Ch. .

**WEEK 10 EXTENDING THE POWER: HEALING, MAGIC, AND DIVINATION**

**READINGS:** Klass & Weisgrau, Pt 3.  
Powers, Ch. .

**Nov. 5** *ELECTION DAY HOLIDAY*

**WEEK 11 EXTENDING THE POWER: WITCHCRAFT AND SORCERY**

**READINGS:** Powers, Ch. .

**WEEK 12 RELIGION AND THE STATE**

**READINGS:** Klass & Weisgrau, Pt 4.  
Earhart, Ch. .

**Nov 28-30** *THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY*

**WEEK 13 GREAT TRADITIONS AND LITTLE TRADITIONS**

**READINGS:** Klass & Weisgrau, Pt 4.  
Earhart, Ch. .

**WEEK 14 RELIGIOUS CONTINUITY & CHANGE**

**READINGS:** Klass & Weisgrau, Pt 5.  
Earhart, Ch. .

**Dec 5** *PAPERS DUE*

**WEEK 15 RELIGION & COLONIALISM**

**READINGS:** Klass & Weisgrau, Pt 1.

**Dec 17 (Tue) - 10:10pm** *FINAL EXAM*