This course presents a comparative perspective on religion as a system of spiritual beliefs and practices to be found in all cultures. Particular attention will be given to the way in which a culture’s religion is related to its environment, subsistence activities, and social organization. Many theories have been offered to explain the origin and nature of religion and the most important of these will be presented.

**Required Reading – Books**

Lamb, Ramdar (ed.)

Grigg, R.

Bowen, John R.

**Required Reading Will – ARTICLES**


Raven, Peter H. “Plants in Peril” What Should We Do?” Text of Raven’s address At the Millenium Symposium of the XVI International Botanical Congress, 1999, St. Louis, Missouri


Wallace, Anthony “Revitalization Movements” Some Theoretical Considerations In Their Comparative study.” American Anthropologist, 58: 264-281.” 128-142

**Recommended Reading**

Aberle, David
1966 The Peyote Religion Among the Navaho, Chicago: Aldine.

Durkheim, Emile

Hertz, R.

Lehman, Arthur E., and James E. Myers

Lienhardt, Godfrey

Swanson, Guy E.

Weber, Max

**COURSE OUTLINE**

1. The Anthropological Approach to Religion: Description (ethnography) and the Explanation (theory)
2. Religion as a cultural universal
3. Religion as would view
4. The spiritual realm: beings, forces and inward states
5. Religion and the environment: sacred things and sacred places
6. Sacred people: Shamans, Priests and Prophets
7. Religion in hunting and gathering, horticultural, and pastoral societies
8. Religion and complex societies
9. Religion and healing
10. Religion and social change
11. Religion and contemporary events
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You are EXPECTED to attend class regularly. Missing class due to work is counted as an unexcused absence.

Final grades are based on regular attendance, responsible class participation, and test performance. Class participation does count as an important factor.

1st exam = 33% (Week of February 6th)
2nd exam = 33% (Week of March 27th)
Final exam = 33% (May 3, Tuesday – 8:00-11:00am)

All exams combine objective and essay questions. Exams will be based on lectures and assigned reading, and will be corrected and returned to you at the earliest date. We will review the mid-term exam in class. Do not copy the exam; whatever areas you found difficult, make a note of it while the exam is being reviewed in class. At the end of the class the exam will be collected and will not be returned to you before the final exam.

THERE WILL BE NO MAKE EXAMS except under extraordinary circumstances. Students who absolutely must miss an exam need to notify the instructor PRIOR to the time the exam is scheduled. Call 953-5738 to leave a message. If you miss an exam, you will be asked to go to the Office of the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies with appropriate documentation (letter from your doctor, obituary of close family member, etc.)

Numerical scores and the corresponding letter and verbal equivalents are:

100-95 = A - superior
94-89 = B+ - very good
88-83 = B - good
64 & below = F – failure
82-77 = C+ - fair
76-71 = C - acceptable
70-65 = D - barely acceptable, passing

Dates to Remember
Last day to withdraw with grade of “W” – Tuesday, February 21
Spring Break Holiday-Monday, March 6 – Friday, March 10. Classes resume Tuesday, March 14.
Classes End – April 24
Final Exam – Tuesday, May 3 8:00-11:00am