COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course focuses on one of the more unique aspects of human culture, which is religion and supernatural belief. As approached from the perspective of anthropology, the study of religion is both comparative and wide-ranging. The study of religion has played a central role in the theoretical development of anthropology. In this course students will study that role as well as a wide variety of anthropological topics dealing with religion such as myth, ritual, magic, shamanism, and witchcraft. By comparing what is "religious" in many cultures, we will develop a better understanding of the relationship between human beings and religion.

COURSE GOAL
To enrich the awareness and understanding of human behavior from an anthropological perspective by studying what human beings consider religious and to familiarize with the rich variety of beliefs and rituals that anthropologists study as religion.

Required Readings:


Course Schedule:
(page no. refer to the textbook by Moro and Myers)

Week 1: Introduction: The Anthropology of Religion pp.1-34, 251-257

Week 2: Introduction: The Supernatural

Week 3: 3 Components of Religion: Myth pp.47-62

Week 4: 3 Components of Religion: Ritual pp.87-100, 109-116, 127-139

9/18 PAPER TOPIC DUE

Week 5: 3 Components of Religion: Ethics pp. 76-80

Week 6: Symbolism pp.72-75, 81-90

Week 7: Religious Specialists pp.144-181

Week 8: Ethno-medicine & Religious Healing pp.212-250
Week 9: Religious Use of Drugs pp.189-211

10/21 MIDTERM EXAM


Week 11: Ghosts, Souls and Ancestors pp. 309-318, 332-350

Week 12: Old and New Religions pp. 351-390, 396-406

11/6 PAPERS DUE

Week 13: Religion as Global Culture pp.429-474

Week 14: Class Discussion of Dharma and Ecology of Hindu Communities

Week 15: Pre-finals week

12/13 EXAM 10:30am–12:30pm (as on http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/schedule/fall/final.html)

Students should complete the reading assignments listed for each day prior to that day's class.

**Grading Procedure:**
Grades in this course will be based on two major exams, one research paper, quizzes on readings and class participation. Students will be notified in class of any changes in the course schedule.

Exam I = 100 pts
Final Exam = 100 pts
Research Paper = 100 pts
Quizzes = 50 pts
Class Participation = 50 pts

**Final Grade Determination**
100-90% of pt total = A
89-80% of pt total = B
79-70% of pt total = C
69-60% of pt total = D
59% and below = F

**Attendance Policy:**
Attendance is mandatory. Students with five unexcused absences will have their final grade lowered one letter grade.
Other Information:
Professor's Office: Chilton Hall 308 K
Telephone: 940-369-6980
Email: pankaj.jain@unt.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11:00am-12:15pm or by appointment

TA: Wesley Murack (WesleyMurack@my.unt.edu)
Office Hours: 2 – 3pm Tuesdays and Thursdays

Anthropology does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's disability as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. The program provides academic adjustments and aids to individuals with disabilities in its program and activities.

Laptop computers used in class may only be used for work pertaining to the class content.

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAPER
Requirements: Length should be 6 typed pages, double spaced, 1" margins. At least 8 sources must be used and should be accurately referenced in the text of the paper. Include articles from at least two scholarly journals. Encyclopedias are not acceptable references.

Due Dates: 9/18 Topic Approval, 11/6 Paper Due

TOPIC: Analyze a topic in the anthropological study of religion that is of interest to you. The topic must be approved by the instructor, but you may choose whatever in the field appeals to you. You may study the religion of a single culture in depth, or you may look at some aspect of religion cross-culturally. For example, you might want to explore "Religious Symbolism of the Nuer of Africa" or "Funeral Rituals in MesoAmerica" or "Cult Movements in 20th Century American" or "A Comparison of Witchcraft in Three Cultures" or “The Internet and the Spread of Islam."

Write a paper in which you: a) introduce your topic and the thesis you wish to defend, b) present data from your research that defends that thesis and c) draw conclusions regarding your thesis that are based on the data you presented.