

# AN300 01W: Religion and Ritual

Fall Term, 2001: Monday, Wednesday 2:00 – 3:20 am, JH 307

Instructor: Eriberto P. Lozada Jr.

Office: Anthropology Program, JH 249A

Office Hours: M, W, R, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm, and by appointment

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This **writing-intensive** seminar is an exploration of the theoretical perspectives and methodology of a subfield of anthropology, religion and ritual. What is religion, and how do social scientists study it? What are the social and cultural implications of religious beliefs and practices? Is religion a fundamental characteristic of what it is to be human? These are the questions we will be focusing on throughout the course.

Our emphasis will be on the relationship between religion and culture and the impact of religious practices on society, using case studies from different religious traditions, both world religions and local popular religious practices. Students will be expected to do some fieldwork, either for a small project or the major research paper. Although there is no pre-requisite, students will be expected to have some familiarity with social science or study of religion theory.

## Course Readings

Taylor, Lawrence 1995. *Occasions of Faith: An Anthropology of Irish Catholics*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. ISBN: 0812215206

Myerhoff, Barbara 1980. *Number Our Days*. New York: Simon and Schuster. ISBN: 0671254308

Obeyesekere, Gananath 1984. *Medusa's Hair: An Essay on Personal Symbols and Religious Experience*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 0226616010

Starrett, Gregory 1998. *Putting Islam to Work: Education, Politics, and the Transformation of Faith*. Berkeley: University of California Press. ISBN: 0520209273

McCarthy Brown, Karen 2001. *Mama Lola: A Vodou Priestess in Brooklyn*. Berkeley: University of California Press. ISBN: 0520224752

(optional) Morris, Brian 1987. *Anthropological Studies of Religion: An Introductory Text*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 052133991X

In addition to the above books, various articles will be required. These articles will be available on Blackboard.

## Course Requirements

**Class Participation:** This course is a seminar – I will **not lecture** extensively. Students are expected to attend all classes, do the readings prior to class, and **discuss the implications of the issues** in the classroom. Student participation is crucial to the success of this seminar, and is a key part of the learning process in this class. Seminar participation is worth **15%** of the final grade. Students must also choose one of the days to serve as discussion leader or critiquer (5% of the grade); I will explain in class how to do this.

Instructor: Lozada

*Response papers:* Each student will write five (5) response papers throughout the term, no more than two pages and double-spaced. **Response papers are worth 10%** of the final grade. I will say more about response papers in class, but in general they are individually ungraded and require only timely submission for full credit. **LATE RESPONSE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

*Fieldwork Project:* (10%) The fieldwork project requires the use of participant-observation and other anthropological methodologies in the analysis of a particular religious event or practice. If fieldwork will be used for your research paper, then this project should be incorporated into your wider research. I will have a handout later on in this term that further explains this exercise, but there will be a written component.

*Research Paper:* What makes this course a writing-intensive seminar is the research paper. Writing is a process, a process whose mechanics will be emphasized through submission of different parts of the research project throughout the term. I will distribute handouts and examples for each step in the process during the semester. In summary, there are five parts that will be graded at each step: proposal (5%), outline (10%), first draft (15%), comments (5%; your comments on a classmate's first draft), and the final draft (20%). Each part must be completed prior to submission of the next part – as you can see from the weighting, I take outlines and first drafts very seriously. Deadlines for each part are listed in the schedule; I would recommend that students meet with me individually or email me to discuss each part before submission.

#### Summary of Course Requirements

Seminar Participation	15%
Discussion Leading or Reading Critique	5%
Response Papers	10%
Fieldwork Project	10%
Research Paper	(Total, 60%)
Proposal	5%
Outline	10%
First Draft	15%
Comments	5%
Final Draft	25%

It is the policy and practice of Butler University to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Written notification from Student Disability Services is required. If you are eligible to receive an accommodation and would like to request it for this course, please discuss it with me and allow two weeks notice. Otherwise, it is not guaranteed that the accommodation can be received on a timely basis. If you have questions about Student Disability Services, you may wish to contact Michele Atterson, JH 136, ext. 9308.

**Schedule of Class Meetings (subject to change)**

		<b>Introduction to Religion and Ritual</b>
22 August Wednesday	Introduction to the Course	
27 August Monday	General Anthropological Theories about Religion Reading: Encyclopedia of Religion article Geertz article	
29 August Wednesday	Weber and Durkheim on Religion and Society Reading: Weber article Durkheim article	
5 September Wednesday	Victor Turner and the Ritual Process Reading: Turner article Myerhoff book, p. 1-39 Discussion Leader: Sara Fetter Reader Critiquer Ginny Wehrli	
10 September Monday	Reading: Myerhoff book, p. 40-112 Discussion Leader: Ann Strunc	
12 September Wednesday	Reading: Myerhoff book, p. 113-194 Discussion Leader: Kelly Fust	
17 September Monday	Reading: Myerhoff book, p. 195-281	
19 September Wednesday	Ritual Specialists Assignment: Response paper due Reading: Turner article Obeyesekere book, p. 1-51 Discussion Leader: Lindsay Wegg Reader Critiquer Erica Downs	
24 September Monday	Assignment: Response paper due Reading: Obeyesekere book, p. 53-122	
26 September Wednesday	Reading: Obeyesekere book, p. 123-192 Discussion Leader Bonnie Cate Reader Critiquer Janai Downs	

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1 October Monday	Assignment: Proposal Due Reading: Sallnow article Taylor book, p. 1-34 Discussion Leader Brian Anderson Reader Critiquer Liz Wanic
3 October Wednesday	Reading: Taylor book, p. 34-101 Discussion Leader: Liz Grzych
8 October Monday	Assignment: Response paper due Reading: Taylor book, p. 102-166 Discussion Leader: Melanie Sherwinski Reader Critiquer: Jessie Sutton
10 October Wednesday	Reading: Taylor book, p. 167-216 Discussion Leader: Erin Riley
15 October Monday	Assignment: Outline Due Reading: Taylor book, p. 217-248 Discussion Leader: Maggie Bradburn
17 October Wednesday	Reading: Kertzer article Starrett book, p. 3-22 Discussion Leader: Jeff Payne
22 October Monday	Assignment: Fieldwork Project Due Reading: Starrett book, p. 23-86 Discussion Leader: Bridget Parkerson
24 October Wednesday	Assignment: Response paper due Reading: Starrett book, p. 89-153 Discussion Leader: Doug Reinbold
29 October Monday	Reading: Starrett book, p. 154-188 Discussion Leader: Alison VanderWege
31 October Wednesday	Reading: Starrett book, p. 191-248 Discussion Leader: Jackie Hawk
5 November Monday	Reading: Evans-Pritchard article McCarthy Brown, p. 1-20 Discussion Leader: Abbie Pickens

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7 November Wednesday	Reading: McCarthy Brown, p. 21-78 Discussion Leader: Matt Guebard
12 November Monday	Assignment: First Draft Due Reading: McCarthy Brown, p. 80-91 Discussion Leader
14 November Wednesday	Reading: McCarthy Brown, p. 93-154 Discussion Leader: Theresa DePaul
26 November Monday	Assignment: Comments Due Reading: McCarthy Brown, p. 156-201 Discussion Leader
28 November Wednesday	No Class Meeting: Prof. Lozada attending American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting
3 December Monday	Assignment: Response paper due Reading: McCarthy Brown, p. 204-257 Discussion Leader
5 December Wednesday	Reading: McCarthy Brown, p. 260-309 Discussion Leader
10 Dec Monday	Assignment: Final Draft Due Reading: McCarthy Brown, p. 312-381 Discussion Leader

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