

Course Expectations Letter

Subject: ANTH 125 Religion, Magic, Witchcraft, and the Supernatural

E-Mail Contact Information:

Professor Pfeiffer: jpfeiffer@riohondo.edu

Catalog Course Description:

This course is designed for students interested in learning about the diverse religious beliefs and practices around the world. An introduction to the anthropological study of religion will include an overview of the various forms of religious belief systems, the variety of gods and other supernatural forces, the use of myths, rituals, and ceremonies in religious practice, and the types of shamans, priests, and other religious specialists found in religious systems. The religious use of drugs will be explored along with traditional healing practices and folk medicine remedies used in many Western cultures. A survey of witchcraft, sorcery, the occult, demons, exorcism rites, sacrificial practices, and magic will be included. In addition, concepts relating to death and the afterlife will be explored such as souls, ghosts, reincarnation, zombies, and others.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

1. Analyze the relationship between religion and culture.
2. Define religion and belief systems within the concept of culture.
3. Explain the significance of the history of religions in anthropology.
4. Apply theories of religions to case studies of the past and present.
5. Discuss the role of myth and ritual in cultures.
6. Distinguish between the concepts of mana, animism, and animatism.
7. Describe the role of religious specialists such as shamans and priests.
8. Explain the role of drugs and trances in communication with the supernatural.
9. Evaluate the role of witchcraft and paganism in human history.

By logging into Canvas you affirm that you are the student who enrolled in the course(s) and are the person who will complete the assigned work. Furthermore, you agree to follow the regulations regarding academic integrity, personal identification and the use of student information as described in [BP 5500 \(Standards of Conduct\)](#) and [AP 5520 \(Student Conduct Procedures\)](#) which are the Rio Hondo College student conduct codes that govern student rights and responsibilities. You acknowledge that failure to abide by the regulations set forth in BP 5500 and AP 5520 may result in disciplinary action, including expulsion from the college.

This is **NOT** a self-paced course. There are firm deadlines in this class. There are assignments due on a regular basis. Please plan your time carefully!

Textbook: Please consult the Bookstore for information at (562) 463-7345 or go to [Rio Hondo College Online Bookstore](#)

This course will include regular instructor student contact. Methods of regular instructor student contact include:

Weekly Emails, Discussion Board postings, Office hour visits if needed or phone calls, or through the announcements at Canvas

The instructor may drop you for non-participation.

There will be a one to three business day delay after an add code is used before a student may be able to log on to Canvas.

For students new to online classes, it is highly recommended that you take the Online Orientation through our Online Education website. This will help explain what online classes are like and familiarize you with how the class is laid out. The orientations can be found at: <http://www.riohondo.edu/canvas-orientation//>

Email Responses: Instructors will make every attempt to respond to students in a timely fashion. Responses can take up to 48 hours before a response is received, excluding weekends and holidays.

Disability: A Student with a verified disability may be entitled to appropriate academic accommodations. Please contact your instructor and/or the [Disabled Students & Programs](#) office at 562-908-3420 for more information.

Modifications and Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to modify the content of the course or any course procedure. It is the responsibility of the student to keep apprised of all changes. If the student wishes to drop the class he/she is responsible for initiating the drop. Do not take it for granted that you will be dropped. If you stop working and do not drop the course, you may get an undesirable grade.