

Spring 2014: ANTH/RELS 122, Magic, Science & Religion

Instructor:	Lee Gilmore
Online Meetings:	VIA WEBEX EVERY OTHER FRIDAY @ 12 noon -1:30 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SEE COURSE SCHEDULE FOR SPECIFIC DATES• also available for one-on-one conferences by appointment• see <i>Assignments: Attendance & Participation</i> for more details
Virtual Classroom:	https://sjsu.instructure.com
Instructor Email:	lee.gilmore@sjsu.edu
Instructor Website:	http://www.sjsu.edu/people/lee.gilmore
Instructor Skype, Facebook, & Twitter	IN ADDITION TO EMAIL & CANVAS MESSAGING, YOU CAN ALSO FIND ME AT: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• https://www.facebook.com/pages/ProfGilmore/115968481846995• https://twitter.com/qibitum• skype: qibitum
Prerequisites:	Completion of Core GE Requirements; WST passed; 100W completed or concurrent enrollment; upper division standing (60 units)

SJSU Catalogue Description

Exploring the ways in which people have attempted to gain mastery over the natural and supernatural worlds beginning with prehistoric times and concluding with modern day society and the contemporary world.

Area V: Culture, Civilization, and Global Understanding — Student Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1. Compare systematically the ideas, values, images, cultural artifacts, economic structures, technological developments, and/or attitudes of people from more than one culture outside the U.S.**

Through interactive discussions and written assignments, students will examine some of the ideas, values, images, cultural artifacts, and cosmologies from the following cultural/religious traditions: traditional Hmong culture (a Southeast Asian ethnic minority); traditional Ojibwa worldviews (Native American); Ndembu ritual (indigenous Central African); Haitian Vodou (an African-diasporic religion); Evangelical Christianity (North American); and Western scientific empiricism. Students will then systematically compare these diverse cultures—including their ideas, values, images, cultural artifacts, economic structures, technological developments, and attitudes—in order to discern the consequences of diverse worldviews.

- 2. Identify the historical context of ideas and cultural traditions outside the U.S. and how they have influenced American culture.**

We will examine and interrogate the pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial historical contexts of the above named traditions and worldviews. We will also examine the influence of traditional indigenous cosmologies on the broader American cultures, as well as how these worldviews challenge the dominant Western scientific/empirical worldview. Students will demonstrate in writing their ability to think accurately & critically about these issues.

- 3. Explain how a culture outside the U.S. has changed in response to internal and external pressures.**

Finally, we will examine—in historical contexts—some of the various consequences of competing cosmologies based on magic, science, and/or religion. This will include investigating and interrogating specific problems of culture change and acculturation in societies outside (or immigrating to) the U.S., as well as how the ideologies of 'magic,' 'science,' and 'religion' can all be observed in both traditional and Euro-American worldviews and cosmologies.

Extended Course Description

This course will examine the worldviews of diverse religious cultures in historical context. The focus of our course will be on the importance of dynamic cosmologies, worldviews and shifting paradigms. Competition between worldviews—and the consequences of these conflicts—is an underlying theme that runs throughout the term. Among others, some questions we will consider are:

- What do we mean by worldview, cosmology & paradigm? How is knowledge both constructed & fluid?
- What do we mean by magic, science and religion & what are the similarities & differences between them?
- Are magic, science & religion used for the same purposes? Are they contradictory or complementary? Are the boundaries between them clear?
- How is ritual used in magic, science & religion to reinforce worldviews & affect outcomes?
- How have both traditional peoples & 'modern' Western (Euro-American) peoples attempted to understand and gain mastery over the human, natural and/or supernatural worlds?
- How have colonized & indigenous peoples resisted adopting Western worldviews?
- What happens when religious cosmologies and scientific paradigms conflict in diverse understandings of the universe, nature, society, and the role of the individual?

This course should be of interest to students of science (both theoretical and applied), technology and industry as well as philosophy, anthropology, social and behavioral sciences, and the humanities and the arts.

Readings & Other Required Media

Required Textbook

AVAILABLE FROM SPARTAN BOOKSTORE & ON RESERVE IN SJSU LIBRARY

Fadiman, Anne. *The Spirit Catches You & You Fall Down*. New York: Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, 2012

Other Required Readings & Videos

AVAILABLE VIA THE CANVAS SITE: See *Course Schedule* below for details.

Online Learning Requirements

- In order to participate in & pass this class, you will need to ensure that you will have access to an internet-enabled computer a minimum of 5-12 hours per week. You are expected log in to our course a (bare) minimum of once per week & logging in every day is highly recommended. You will use this time to:
 - Complete the readings made available online
 - Complete required quizzes & participate in discussion forums
 - Write required essays
 - Watch required videos
 - Attend online meetings

Some specific websites &/or software that you will be required to access include:

- Canvas (login w/student ID: sjsu.instructure.com)
- WebEx (login via invites instructor will send)
- Facebook &/or Twitter (see below)
- YouTube (youtube.com) & other streaming videos via SJSU Library

System Requirements

It is strongly recommended that your computer be running the most recent available operating system & other software, including:

- up-to-date browser (Internet Explorer, Safari, Chrome or Firefox) w/JavaScript, Cookies & ActiveX (PC) or Plug-ins (Mac) enabled
- up-to-date Java (minimum Java 6.0 or higher)
- up-to-date Adobe Flash (minimum Flash 9.0 or higher)
- See Canvas Technical Requirements:
 - <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/docs/Canvas%20Technical%20Requirements.pdf>
- See WebEx System Requirements:
 - <https://support.webex.com/MyAccountWeb/systemRequirement.do?root=Tools&parent=System>

Basic Policies & Requirements

Homework Policies

You are expected to complete weekly assignments & submit all papers by the posted deadlines. Late work may be accepted, BUT points will be deducted for each day (including weekends) that it is late. **Put all deadlines & due dates in your calendar.** I also reserve the right to refuse to accept a late paper, at my own discretion. *WARNING: do not abuse this policy.* One late paper in the case of an emergency may be understandable, but if you make a regular habit of submitting late papers it will *dramatically* reduce your final grade. Once the assignment is worth only half the points initially available (i.e. a failing grade), it will no longer be accepted.

- All assignments should be TYPED, DOUBLE-SPACED, USING 12-POINT TYPE, WITH 1-INCH MARGINS & saved/submitted as .doc, .docx, or .pdf files.
- UPLOAD ALL WORK THROUGH CANVAS. I DO NOT ACCEPT ASSIGNMENTS VIA EMAIL.
- **ALSO, READ: Criteria and Guidelines for Written Assignments & Professor's Pet Peeves (on Canvas Site)**

About Plagiarism

Plagiarism means COPYING MATERIAL FROM ANY SOURCE WITHOUT GIVING FULL BIBLIOGRAPHIC CITATION, handing in work in which ANY unacknowledged material appears, and handing in material written by a person other than the student. **ANY attempt to pass off someone else's writing as your own is a serious academic offense and may result in a failing grade for the course or even expulsion from SJSU.** *The major essays/papers for this course will ALL be checked for plagiarism via turnitin.com (as well as by the professor's own experienced and unerring eagle eyes).* ALL incidents of plagiarism will be reported. **If you get stuck working on any of your written assignments for this class, please ask me for help before resorting to plagiarism.**

Dropping and Adding

You are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. For *Spring 2014* session, the deadlines can be found at: <http://www.sjsu.edu/registrar/calendar/2142>.

Be a Participant, Not a Spectator

This course is an opportunity for you to learn about the construction of culture and consciousness through the vehicles we call magic, science, and religion. **Active and engaged participation in our class is required & your grade will be a direct reflection of how much effort you put into this course.** While emergencies and illnesses may at times be unavoidable, I guarantee that you will not do well in this class if you miss (or are consistently late with) multiple assignments & discussion sessions or if you are distracted or multitasking during course meetings, videos & other tasks.

THE ONLINE/REMOTE ONLY NATURE OF THIS COURSE means that it is incumbent upon you to be proactive about participating. This means that you will need to stay on top of course content, keep track of deadlines & regularly check both the Canvas site & email.

Finally, you should also approach this subject matter with an open and curious mind. My job is not to dispute your own religious, cultural, or other commitments, but rather to train you to **think critically about religions, cultures & worldviews (including your own, as well as others')**. In turn, *I agree to give you my complete attention during our time together, and to provide every resource I have available to help you do well in this course.*

BOTTOM LINE: IT IS UP TO YOU TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR EDUCATION, AND HENCE YOUR TIME IN THIS COURSE.

Grading Policies

Final Grade Scale (100% = 1000 points)

A+	1000-970	B+	899-870	C+	799-770	D+	699-670	F	less than 600
A	969-930	B	869-830	C	769-730	D	669-630		
A-	929-900	B-	829-800	C-	729-700	D-	629-600		

Assignments

Total Assignment Points Possible

- 100 Attendance (8 Online Meetings @ up to 10 points each) & Participation (up to 20 points)
- 350 Discussion Posts (14 @ up to 25 points each)
- 325 Quizzes (13 @ up to 25 points each)
- 100 Midterm Essay
- 125 Final Essay

Online Meetings & Participation

Participation in **EIGHT (8) ONLINE MEETINGS (held roughly every other week via WebEx) is required.** Attendance & participation at each session will be worth **up to 10 points** toward your grade. (See Course Schedule for specific dates/times.)

All WebEx meetings will be recorded, so that if you absolutely CANNOT attend a meeting in person, you may WATCH any WebEx meetings that you are unable to attend in person. However, the more you participate & interact, the more you will get out of the experience, and the more credit you will earn.

After viewing these either in person or by watching the recordings, **you must submit a short 2-4 sentence statement** (via Canvas) after the meeting about what was the most interesting (or helpful) thing you heard in that session.

The remaining 20 possible points for this portion of your grade will be based on my assessment of your overall participation. I will be specifically looking for: **1)** Engaged & timely participation in our written discussion forums, including evidence that you are keeping up with our weekly reading schedule & thinking critically about the material; **2)** Timely completion of all essays & research papers; **3)** Participation on the ProfGilmore facebook page &/or twitter feed (you automatically get 5 points just for following one of these); **4)** Substantive interaction with me in other ways, such as email or skype.

Discussion Posts + Quizzes

Almost every week, you will need to complete discussion posts &/or quizzes based on our readings. **These will BE DUE by the dates/times specified below in the Course Schedule.**

- The Quizzes are intended to draw your attention to & get you thinking critically about key ideas from each of the readings & videos. Try not to think of these as "tests," but rather as study guides. Some questions will be simple multiple choice, matching, true/false, or fill-in the blank, while others will take the form of short essay questions.
- The Discussion Posts will require you to respond in writing to short prompts posted in each discussion forum. Like the Quizzes, these are intended to get you thinking critically about the ideas in the readings.
- NOTE: You can earn TWO POINTS of extra credit for completing the Discussion Posts at least 48 HOURS ahead of the deadline, and ONE POINT of extra credit for completing them at least 24 HOURS ahead of the deadline.

Midterm & Final Essays

The midterm & final essays will demonstrate your ability to identify & think critically about the consequences of competing cosmologies. They will integrate the breadth of material studied in this course in order to:

- Compare the narratives, rituals, cosmologies, & worldviews of diverse cultures & religions.
- Identify the historical contexts of worldviews & cultural traditions outside the U.S. & describe their influence on American culture.
- Explain how cultures outside the U.S. have changed in response to internal and external pressures.
- The midterm essay should be 4-6 pages long (1200-1500 words) & will be **DUE BY TUE APR 1 @ 10:00 am**
- The final essay should be 5-7 pages (1500-2000 words) long & will be **DUE BY FRI MAY 16 @ 10:00 am**
- More specific directions will be posted to Canvas

**ANTH/ RELS 122: Magic, Science, & Religion
Spring 2014: Course Schedule**

*This schedule is subject to change with fair notice.
Any changes will be announced and posted to the course site.
All times are Pacific Time.*

WEEK/ MODULE	DATES	SCHEDULE: TOPICS, READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, DEADLINES
INTRODUCTION TO THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY OF MAGIC, SCIENCE & RELIGION		
1	THUR JAN 23 - MON JAN 27	<p>READ: <i>Syllabus</i> WATCH: <i>Quick Intro to World Religions</i> WATCH: <i>Religious Truth Claims & Pluralism</i> <i>(Online Lectures, access via Canvas/YouTube)</i></p> <p>FRI JAN 24: ONLINE MEETING (1) @ 12:00 noon-1:30 pm MON JAN 27: Discussion Post (1) DUE by 10:00 am</p>
2	TUE JAN 28 - MON FEB 3	<p>READ: <i>Geertz, "Religion" & Geertz's, Definition of Religion</i> READ: <i>Miner, "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema"</i> WATCH: <i>Introduction to the Anthropology of Religion</i></p> <p>MON FEB 3: Quiz (1) DUE by 10:00 am MON FEB 3: Discussion Post (2) DUE by 10:00 am</p>
3	TUE FEB 4 - MON FEB 10	<p>READ: <i>Malinowski, "Rational Mastery by Man of His Surroundings"</i> READ: <i>Gmelch, "Baseball Magic"</i></p> <p>FRI FEB 7: ONLINE MEETING (2) @ 12:00 noon-1:30 pm MON FEB 10: Quiz (2) DUE by 10:00 am MON FEB 10: Discussion Post (3) DUE by 10:00 am</p>
EXPLORING SCIENCE, MAGIC, CONSCIOUSNESS, & RELIGION		
4	TUE FEB 11 - MON FEB 17	<p>READ: <i>Evolution Resources from the National Academies of Science</i> WATCH: <i>Carl Sagan's Cosmos, Episode #13</i> <i>(Online Video, access via Canvas/YouTube)</i></p> <p>FRI FEB 14: IN PERSON OFFICE HOURS (IN SAN JOSE): TIME/PLACE TBD MON FEB 17: Quiz (3) DUE by 10:00 am MON FEB 17: Discussion Post (4) DUE by 10:00 am</p>
5	TUE FEB 18 - MON FEB 24	<p>READ: <i>Nickels, "Introduction" to Thomas Kuhn</i> WATCH: <i>Scientific Paradigms (Online Lecture, access via Canvas/YouTube)</i></p> <p>FRI FEB 21: ONLINE MEETING (3) @ 12:00 noon-1:30 pm</p> <p>MON FEB 24: Quiz (4) by 10:00 am MON FEB 24: Discussion Post (5) by 10:00 am</p>

6	TUE FEB 25 - MON MAR 3	<p>READ: <i>Hallowell, "Ojibwa Ontology, Behavior & Worldview"</i></p> <p>MON MAR 3: Quiz (5) DUE by 10:00 am MON MAR 3: Discussion Post (6) DUE by 10:00 am</p>
7	TUE MAR 4 - MON MAR 10	<p>READ: <i>Turner, "The Reality of the Spirits"</i></p> <p>FRI MAR 7: ONLINE MEETING (4) @ 12:00 noon-1:30 pm MON MAR 10: Quiz (6) DUE by 10:00 am MON MAR 10: Discussion Post (7) DUE by 10:00 am</p>
8	TUE MAR 11 - MON MAR 17	<p>READ: <i>Brown, EXCERPT FROM Mama Lola</i> WATCH: <i>Legacy of the Spirits</i> <i>(Online Video, access via Canvas & log in to SJSU Library)</i></p> <p>MON MAR 17: Quiz (7) DUE by 10:00 am MON MAR 17: Discussion Post (8) DUE by 10:00 am</p>
9	TUE MAR 18 - FRI MAR 21	<p>READ: <i>Luhrmann, EXCERPT FROM When God Talks Back</i> LISTEN: <i>Interview with Tanya Luhrmann/NPR Fresh Air (Nov 2012)</i></p> <p>FRI MAR 21: Quiz (8) DUE by 10:00 am FRI MAR 21: Discussion Post (9) DUE by 10:00 am FRI MAR 21: ONLINE MEETING (5) @ 12:00 noon-1:30 pm</p>
10	MON MAR 24 - MON MAR 31	<p>NO SCHOOL: SPRING BREAK + CESAR CHAVEZ DAY</p>
11	TUE APR 1- MON APR 7	<p>READ: <i>Davis-Floyd, EXCERPT FROM Birth as an American Rite of Passage</i></p> <p>TUE APR 1: MIDTERM ESSAY DUE by 10:00 am MON APR 7: Quiz (9) DUE by 10:00 am MON APR 7: Discussion Post (10) DUE by 10:00 am</p>
THE SPIRIT CATCHES YOU		
12	TUE APR 8- MON APR 14	<p>READ: <i>Fadiman, The Spirit Catches You, Chaps. 1-5</i> WATCH: <i>The Split Horn: Life of a Hmong Shaman in America</i> <i>(Online Video, access via Canvas & log in to SJSU Library)</i></p> <p>FRI APR 11: ONLINE MEETING (6) @ 12:00 noon-1:30 pm MON APR 14: Quiz (10) DUE by 10:00 am MON APR 14: Discussion Post (11) DUE by 10:00 am</p>

13	TUE APR 15 - MON APR 21	READ: <i>Fadiman, The Spirit Catches You, Chaps. 6-10</i> MON APR 21: Quiz (11) DUE by 10:00 am MON APR 21: Discussion Post (12) DUE by 10:00 am
14	TUE APR 22- MON APR 28	READ: <i>Fadiman, The Spirit Catches You, Chaps. 11-15</i> FRI APR 25: ONLINE MEETING (7) @ 12:00 noon-1:30 pm MON APR 28: Quiz (12) DUE by 10:00 am MON APR 28: Discussion Post (13) DUE by 10:00 am
15	TUE APR 29- MON MAY 5	READ: <i>Fadiman, The Spirit Catches You, Chaps. 16-Afterword</i> MON MAY 5: Quiz (13) DUE by 10:00 am MON MAY 5: Discussion Post (14) DUE by 10:00 am
16	TUE MAY 6 - FRI MAY 9	NO NEW READING THIS WEEK FRI MAY 9: ONLINE MEETING (8) @ 12:00 noon-1:30 pm
17	MON MAY 12- FRI MAY 16	FRI MAY 16: FINAL ESSAY DUE by 10:00 am

University Policies

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to be familiar with the University's Academic Integrity Policy. Please review this at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct>. "Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University & the University's integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical development."

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. "If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors."

Campus Policy in Compliance with American Disabilities Act:

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

Special accommodations for exams require ample notice to the testing office & must be submitted to instructor well in advance of exam date.

Student Technology Resources:

Computer labs for student use are available in the new Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall & on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional labs may be available in your dept./college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, screens and monitors.

Learning Assistance Resource Center:

The Learning Assistance Resource Center is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation & basic skills development. The Learning Assistance Resource Center is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center.

SJSU Writing Center:

The SJSU Writing Center is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers.

SJSU Policy Concerning the Definition of the Credit Hour:

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/ studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.