

San José State University, Humanities Department, Religious Studies Program

**Fall 2014: HUM/RELS 155, Pagan Traditions**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Lee Gilmore
<b>Online Office Hours:</b>	<b>VIA WEBEX EVERY THURS @ 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>SEE COURSE SCHEDULE FOR SPECIFIC DATES</b></li><li>• also available for one-on-one conferences by appointment</li><li>• see <i>Assignments: Online Meetings &amp; General Participation</i> for more details</li></ul>
<b>Virtual Classroom:</b>	<a href="https://sjsu.instructure.com">https://sjsu.instructure.com</a>
<b>Instructor Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:lee.gilmore@sjsu.edu">lee.gilmore@sjsu.edu</a>
<b>Instructor Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.sjsu.edu/people/lee.gilmore">http://www.sjsu.edu/people/lee.gilmore</a>
<b>Instructor Skype, Facebook, &amp; Twitter</b>	<b>IN ADDITION TO EMAIL &amp; CANVAS MESSAGING, YOU CAN ALSO FIND ME AT:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="https://www.facebook.com/pages/ProfGilmore/115968481846995">https://www.facebook.com/pages/ProfGilmore/115968481846995</a></li><li>• <a href="https://twitter.com/qibitum">https://twitter.com/qibitum</a></li><li>• skype: qibitum</li></ul>
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Upper division standing, or instructor consent.

**Catalog Description**

Thematic and historical examination of localized religious traditions; e.g., Shamanic, Animistic, Polytheistic, Pantheistic. These traditions will be studied through their arts, music, myths, life patterns, cosmologies and contact between indigenous and universalizing religions.

**Extended Course Description & Learning Objectives**

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

- ⊙ Examine indigenous & Pagan religious traditions in diverse cultural & historical contexts, including:
  - ⊙ the practices & perspectives associated with shamanism, animism, polytheism & pantheism
  - ⊙ the history, development & practices of Wicca & other Contemporary Pagan religions in the U.S.
- ⊙ Examine the relationship between indigenous & Pagan religions, including:
  - ⊙ the integral role of myth, ritual, performance, & the creative arts in religion
  - ⊙ the intersections of religion & ecology
  - ⊙ the formation of new & alternative religious movements
  - ⊙ questions of syncretism & cultural appropriation in religions
  - ⊙ questions of authenticity & “otherness” in religions & cultures
- ⊙ Describe & analyze what Pagan religions can teach us about the study of religion & the nature of religions in general

***Readings & Other Required Media***

**Required Textbook**

Magliocco, Sabina. *Witching Culture: Folklore and Neo-Paganism in America*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004. ISBN-13 978-0812218794. (AVAILABLE FROM SJSU LIBRARY AS E-BOOK, but I recommend you purchase or rent a paper copy)

**Other Required Readings & Videos**

AVAILABLE VIA THE COURSE SITE: See *Course Schedule* below (& *Modules* on Canvas) for details.

## **Basic Policies & Requirements**

### **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 three times 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**

### **Dropping and Adding**

You are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. For *Fall 2014* session, the deadlines can be found at: <http://www.sjsu.edu/registrar/calendar/2144/index.html>.

### **Late Policy**

You are expected to complete ALL assignments 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 own calendar. 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. I also reserve the right to refuse to accept a late assignment, at my own discretion.

### **Response Time Policy**

In return, you can expect me to respond to your work promptly, unless prevented by unforeseen events. **The 10am deadlines are set around my schedule, as that is when I wish to start working on those assignments. However, I recommend you complete all assignments well ahead of the deadline, on whatever timeline works best with your schedule.** Most quizzes are automatically graded & any needed adjustments will usually be made within 24 hours. Feedback on discussion posts will be completed within 72 hours (usually less). The final essay will be graded within one week. You can generally expect a response to your emails & messages within 24 hours (but don't expect replies in the middle of the night).

## **Plagiarism Policy**

Plagiarism means COPYING WORDS FROM ANY SOURCE WITHOUT PLACING THOSE WORDS IN QUOTE MARKS & PROVIDING A CORRECT CITATION. This includes submitting 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 words as your own is a *serious* academic offense and WILL RESULT IN A FAILING GRADE FOR THAT ASSIGNMENT. It may also 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. Also see Plagiarism Policy & Resources page on Canvas.**

## **Other Assignment Policies**

- UPLOAD ALL WORK THROUGH CANVAS. I DO NOT ACCEPT ASSIGNMENTS VIA EMAIL.
- READ: *Criteria and Guidelines for Written Assignments* (on Canvas)
- READ: *Professor's Pet Peeves* (on Canvas)
- READ: *About Mandatory Online Meetings* (on Canvas)
- READ: *Discussion Forum Etiquette Guidelines* (on Canvas)

## **Be a Participant, Not a Spectator**

This course is an opportunity for you to learn about *some of the diverse histories & contexts Pagan & indigenous religious traditions*. **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		

### **Total Assignment Points Possible**

- 100 = Online Meetings (14 @ up to 5 points each) + General Participation (up to 30 points)
- 300 = Discussion Posts (6 @ up to 50 points each)
- 400 = Quizzes (16 @ up to 25 points each)
- 200 = Final Essay

## Assignments

### Online Meetings + General Participation

Participation in **WEEKLY ONLINE MEETINGS (held via WebEx) is required**. It is strongly recommended that you arrange your schedule so that you can attend & participate in real time. TO ATTEND IN PERSON every week (preferred) please log-in via the email invite you will receive. **However, 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 ultimately earn. After viewing these either in real time 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.

Participation in each session will be worth **up to 5 points** toward your grade (for a total of up to 70 points):

- 3 points for attending or watching
- 1 point for participating in the live meeting
- 1 point for leaving a comment after the meeting (to be completed by the following Monday)

The remaining 30 possible points for the General Participation portion of your grade will be based on the following:

- 1) Introducing yourself within the first two weeks in the INTRODUCTIONS Discussion Forum;
- 2) Following & participating in the ProfGilmore facebook page &/or twitter feed. **If you don't use facebook or twitter already, create a twitter account for the purposes of this course.** You automatically get 5 points just for "liking" the FB page or "following" my twitter, & up to another 5 for participating there during the semester;
- 3) Participation & interaction during online meetings;
- 4) Engaged & timely participation in our written discussion forums;
- 5) Substantive interaction with me in other ways, such as email, Canvas messaging, or Skype.

### Discussion Posts + Quizzes

The backbone of our course is built around quizzes & discussion posts 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.* There will not be a time limit, but there will be a deadline. 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 2 POINTS of extra credit for completing the Discussion Posts at least 48 HOURS ahead of the deadline, and 1 POINT of extra credit for completing them at least 24 HOURS ahead of the deadline.

### Final Essay

In this essay, you will draw on your cumulative understanding of the readings & discussions this term in order to analyze the relationship between indigenous & Pagan religions and demonstrate your ability to think critically about how better understanding these religions changes how we think about religions in general.

- The final essay should be 5-7 pages (1500-2000 words) long & will be DUE BY WED DEC 10 @ 10:00 am
- (See Assignments: Final Essay in Canvas for more details.)

### Extra Credit Opportunity: Spiral Dance &/or Book Review (up to 30 points possible - PICK JUST ONE)

We have the good fortune that one of the Pagan communities & rituals described in our main textbook was founded in nearby San Francisco. On **Saturday, November 1, the Reclaiming Community will hold its 35th Annual Spiral Dance Ritual. More info here, including ticket prices: <http://reclaimingspiraldance.org>**. If you choose, you may attend this event and write a brief paper (2-4 page) about it for extra credit. YOUR WRITE UP SHOULD BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN WED NOV 27. (NOTE: If you do decide to attend, you should READ Magliocco pp. 81-83 & 122-26 first, which provides a brief history of Reclaiming & describes this specific ritual. You should also WATCH the Reclaiming Spiral Dance video (See Course Schedule).

Alternately, you may read one of the books from the Recommended Reading List (see "Page" posted on Canvas) & write a 3-5 page review about it for extra credit. LIKE THE OTHER OPTION, THESE MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN WED NOV 26.

## HUM/RELS 155: Pagan Traditions Fall 2014: Course Schedule

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

WEEK/ MODULE	DATES	SCHEDULE: TOPICS, READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, DEADLINES
<b>INTRODUCTION TO RELIGIOUS STUDIES</b>		
1	MON AUG 25- FRI AUG 29	<p><b>READ:</b> <i>This Syllabus &amp; all content from Front Page</i> (Canvas)  <b>READ:</b> <i>Some Definitions of &amp; Statements About Religion</i> (Canvas Page)  <b>WATCH:</b> <i>Quick Intro to World Religions</i>  <b>WATCH:</b> <i>Religious Truth Claims &amp; Pluralism</i>                      (Online Lectures, access via Canvas/YouTube)</p> <p><b>THUR AUG 28: ONLINE MEETING (1) @ 4:00 - 5:00 pm</b></p> <p><b>ALSO DO THIS WEEK: Introduction Post (DUE by MON SEPT 8 @ 10am)</b>                      (see General Participation)</p>
2	TUE SEPT 2- FRI SEPT 5  LABOR DAY: MON SEPT 1	<p><b>READ:</b> <i>Myhre, "What is Religion?"</i> (pdf on Canvas site)  <b>READ:</b> <i>Majeed, "How is Religion Studied?"</i> (pdf on Canvas site)</p> <p><b>TUE SEPT 2: Quiz (1) DUE by 10:00 am</b>  <b>TUE SEPT 2: Discussion Post (1) DUE by 10:00 am</b>  <b>THUR SEPT 4: ONLINE MEETING (2) @ 4:00 - 5:00 pm</b></p>
<b>INDIGENOUS RELIGIONS</b>		
3	MON SEPT 8- FRI SEPT 12	<p><b>READ:</b> <i>Harvey, "Introduction"</i> (in SJSU e-book, <i>Indigenous Religions</i>; pp. 1-13)</p> <p><b>MON SEPT 8: Quiz (2) DUE by 10:00 am</b>  <b>THUR SEP 11: ONLINE MEETING (3) @ 4:00 - 5:00 pm</b></p>
4	MON SEPT 15- FRI SEPT 19	<p><b>READ:</b> <i>Gill, "A Place to Begin,"</i> FROM <i>Native American Religions: An Introduction</i>                      (pdf on Canvas site)</p> <p><b>MON SEPT 15: Quiz (3) DUE by 10:00 am</b>  <b>TUE SEPT 16: Discussion Post (2) DUE by 10:00 am</b>  <b>THUR SEP 18: ONLINE MEETING (4) @ 4:00 - 5:00 pm</b></p>
5	MON SEPT 22- FRI SEPT 26	<p><b>READ:</b> <i>Vitebsky, "Shamanism"</i> (in SJSU e-book, <i>Indigenous Religions</i>; pp. 55-67)  <b>WATCH:</b> <i>In Pursuit of the Siberian Shaman</i> (Online Video, access via Canvas                      &amp; log in to SJSU Library)</p> <p><b>MON SEPT 22: Quiz (4) DUE by 10:00 am</b>  <b>TUE SEPT 23: Quiz (5) DUE by 10:00 am (on Siberian Shaman)</b>  <b>THUR SEPT 25: ONLINE MEETING (5) @ 4:00 - 5:00 pm</b></p>
6	MON SEPT 29- FRI OCT 3	<p><b>READ:</b> <i>Hallowell, "Ojibwa Ontology, Behavior &amp; Worldview"</i> (pdf on Canvas site)</p> <p><b>MON SEPT 29: Quiz (6) DUE by 10:00 am</b>  <b>THUR OCT 2: ONLINE MEETING (6) @ 4:00 - 5:00 pm</b></p>

7	MON OCT 6- FRI OCT 10	<p><b>READ:</b> Brown, "Preface to the 2001 Edition" &amp; "Introduction" (in SJSU e-Book, <i>Mama Lola</i>; pp. ix-xvi &amp; pp.1-20)</p> <p><b>WATCH:</b> <i>Legacy of the Spirits</i> (Online Video, access via Canvas &amp; log in to SJSU Library)</p> <p><b>MON OCT 6: Quiz (7) DUE by 10:00 am</b>  <b>TUE OCT 7: Discussion Post (3) DUE by 10:00 am</b>  <b>THUR OCT 9: ONLINE MEETING (7) @ 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm</b></p>
<b>CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN PAGANISM</b>		
8	MON OCT 13- FRI OCT 17	<p><b>READ:</b> Magliocco, "Paganism and Neo-Paganism" (from <i>Encyclopedia of Religious Rites, Rituals &amp; Festivals</i>) (pdf on Canvas)</p> <p><b>MON OCT 13: Quiz (8) DUE by 10:00 am</b>  <b>THUR OCT 16: ONLINE MEETING (8) @ 4:00 - 5:00 pm</b></p>
9	MON OCT 20- FRI OCT 24	<p><b>READ:</b> Magliocco, Introduction: "The Ethnography of Magic &amp; the Magic of Ethnography of Magic" (from <i>Witching Culture</i>)</p> <p><b>MON OCT 20: Quiz (9) DUE by 10:00 am</b>  <b>THUR OCT 23: ONLINE MEETING (9) @ 4:00 - 5:00 pm</b></p>
10	MON OCT 27- FRI OCT 31	<p><b>READ:</b> Magliocco, Ch1: "The Study of Folklore &amp; the Reclamation of Paganism"</p> <p><b>MON OCT 27: Quiz (10) DUE by 10:00 am</b>  <b>TUE OCT 28: Discussion Post (4) DUE by 10:00 am</b>  <b>THUR OCT 30: ONLINE MEETING (10) @ 4:00 - 5:00 pm</b></p> <p><b>SAT 11/1: EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY RECLAIMING SPIRAL DANCE</b></p>
11	MON NOV 3- FRI NOV 7  <i>Daylight Savings Ends SUN NOV 2</i>	<p><b>READ:</b> Magliocco, Ch2: "Boundaries &amp; Borders: Imagining Community"  <b>WATCH:</b> <i>A Very British Witchcraft</i> (Online Video, YouTube)</p> <p><b>MON NOV 3: Quiz (11) DUE by 10:00 am</b>  <b>TUE NOV 4: Quiz (12) DUE by 10:00 am (on <i>British Witchcraft</i>)</b>  <b>THUR NOV 6: ONLINE MEETING (11) @ 4:00 - 5:00 pm</b></p>
12	MON NOV 10- FRI NOV 14  <i>VETERANS DAY TUE 11/11</i>	<p><b>READ:</b> Magliocco, Ch3: "Making Magic: Training the Imagination"  <b>READ:</b> Magliocco, Ch4: "Ritual: Between the Worlds"  <b>WATCH:</b> <i>Reclaiming's Spiral Dance</i> (Online Video, YouTube)</p> <p><b>MON NOV 10: Quiz (13) DUE by 10:00 am</b>  <b>TUE NOV 11: Discussion Post (5) DUE by 10:00 am</b>  <b>THUR NOV 13: ONLINE MEETING (12) @ 4:00 - 5:00 pm</b></p>
13	MON NOV 17- FRI NOV 21  <i>AAR: 11/22-25</i>	<p><b>READ:</b> Magliocco, Ch5: "The Juice of Ritual: Pathways to Ecstasy"</p> <p><b>MON NOV 17: Quiz (14) DUE by 10:00 am</b>  <b>THUR NOV 20: ONLINE MEETING (13) @ 4:00 - 5:00 pm</b></p>

14	MON NOV 24 - FRI NOV 28  HOLIDAY: THU NOV 27 & FRI NOV 28	<b>READ:</b> Magliocco, Ch6: "Creating Oppositional Subculture" <b>WATCH:</b> Oss Oss Wee Oss, Oss Tales, Oss Oss Wee Oss Redux, & About the Oss Tales (Online Videos, access via Canvas & log in to SJSU Library)  <b>MON NOV 24: Quiz (15) DUE by 10:00 am (on Oss Oss)</b> <b>WED NOV 26: Last Chance to Turn in Extra Credit Projects by 10:00am</b>
<b>SYNTHESIS &amp; CONCLUSION</b>		
15	MON DEC 1- FRI DEC 5	<b>READ:</b> Magliocco, Ch7: "The Heart is the Only Nation"  <b>MON DEC 1: Quiz (16) DUE by 10:00 am</b> <b>TUE DEC 2: Discussion Post (6) DUE by 10:00 am</b> <b>THUR DEC 4: ONLINE MEETING (14) @ 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm</b>
16	MON DEC 8 - FRI DEC 12  CLASSES END DEC 10	<b>READ:</b> Gilmore & Magliocco, "Pagans at the Parliament: Interfaith Dialogue between Neo-Pagan and Indigenous Communities" (pdf on Canvas)  <b>MON DEC 10: FINAL ESSAY DUE by 10:00 am</b>

## 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 and 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 the 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 and must be submitted to the instructor well in advance of the exam date.

**Student Technology Resources:** Computer labs for student use are available in the new Academic Success

Center located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Clark Hall and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Student Union. Additional labs that may be available to students in your department/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 and 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.

