

## Term Information

Effective Term Autumn 2015  
*Previous Value* Autumn 2014

## Course Change Information

### What change is being proposed? (If more than one, what changes are being proposed?)

We are requesting GE status in the Diversity (Global Studies) category.

### What is the rationale for the proposed change(s)?

This course meets the rationale and learning outcomes for the GE category or categories we are requesting, as outlined in the Curriculum and Assessment handbook.

### What are the programmatic implications of the proposed change(s)?

(e.g. program requirements to be added or removed, changes to be made in available resources, effect on other programs that use the course)?

N/A

Is approval of the request contingent upon the approval of other course or curricular program request? No

Is this a request to withdraw the course? No

## General Information

Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area Anthropology  
Fiscal Unit/Academic Org Anthropology - D0711  
College/Academic Group Arts and Sciences  
Level/Career Graduate, Undergraduate  
Course Number/Catalog 5625  
Course Title Anthropology of Religion  
Transcript Abbreviation Anth of Religion  
Course Description World views of tribal and peasant cultures with an emphasis on religion; integration of religion with other aspects of culture.  
Semester Credit Hours/Units Fixed: 3

## Offering Information

Length Of Course 14 Week, 7 Week  
Flexibly Scheduled Course Never  
Does any section of this course have a distance education component? No  
Grading Basis Letter Grade  
Repeatable No  
Course Components Lecture  
Grade Roster Component Lecture  
Credit Available by Exam No  
Admission Condition Course No  
Off Campus Never  
Campus of Offering Columbus, Lima, Mansfield, Marion, Newark

## Prerequisites and Exclusions

### Prerequisites/Corequisites

#### *Previous Value*

*Prereq: 2202 (202) or equiv, or permission of instructor.*

### Exclusions

Not open to students with credit for 620.11.

## Cross-Listings

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## Subject/CIP Code

Subject/CIP Code	45.0204
Subsidy Level	Doctoral Course
Intended Rank	Junior, Senior, Masters, Doctoral

## Requirement/Elective Designation

### General Education course:

Global Studies (International Issues successors)

The course is an elective (for this or other units) or is a service course for other units

#### *Previous Value*

*The course is an elective (for this or other units) or is a service course for other units*

## Course Details

### Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes

- This course will explore how anthropologists study religion as well as the diversity of religious traditions in the world.
- Students will explore religious practices, ritual life and symbols using materials from the Electronic Human Relations Area Files (E-HRAF) that are available through our library.
- Students will critically evaluate varied belief systems including shamanism, voodoo, polytheism, monotheism, and atheism.
- *Goals NA*

#### *Previous Value*

### Content Topic List

- Ritual
- Buddhism
- Shamanism
- Islam
- Christianity
- Neo paganism
- Hinduism
- Symbolism
- Culture
- Mythology
- Worldview

**Attachments**

- Dr Larsen letter 10 07 14.doc: Chair's Letter  
*(Cover Letter. Owner: Freeman,Elizabeth A.)*
- 5625 Syllabus.docx: 5625 Syllabus  
*(Syllabus. Owner: Freeman,Elizabeth A.)*
- 5625 GE Rationale.doc: 5625 GE Rationale  
*(GEC Model Curriculum Compliance Stmt. Owner: Freeman,Elizabeth A.)*
- 5625 Assessment Plan.docx: 5625 GE Assessment Plan  
*(GEC Course Assessment Plan. Owner: Freeman,Elizabeth A.)*

**Comments**

- Edit syllabus *(by McGraw,William Scott on 10/13/2014 04:28 PM)*

**Workflow Information**

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Freeman,Elizabeth A.	10/08/2014 03:25 PM	Submitted for Approval
Revision Requested	McGraw,William Scott	10/13/2014 04:28 PM	Unit Approval
Submitted	Freeman,Elizabeth A.	10/22/2014 05:06 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	McGraw,William Scott	10/23/2014 08:52 AM	Unit Approval
Approved	Haddad,Deborah Moore	10/23/2014 12:21 PM	College Approval
Pending Approval	Nolen,Dawn Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal Hanlin,Deborah Kay Jenkins,Mary Ellen Bigler Hogle,Danielle Nicole	10/23/2014 12:21 PM	ASCCAO Approval



**Department of Anthropology**

4034 Smith Laboratory  
174 West 18th Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43210-1106

Phone (614) 292-4149  
Fax (614) 292-4155  
<http://anthropology.ohio-state.edu>

7 October 2014

Dear Curriculum Panel Members,

I am pleased to submit this curricular bundle for your review. This bundle includes a number of new courses, courses for General Education consideration, and several course changes. These submissions reflect the evolving profile of our teaching mission and what we have to offer our students and the institution generally. The Department of Anthropology has taken on one of its biggest curriculum revisions, involving both undergraduate majors (Anthropological Sciences, Anthropology) and graduate program, in its recent history. I am excited to endorse all of these submissions, and look forward to implementing the revisions to the Anthropology curriculum.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Clark S. Larsen".

Clark Spencer Larsen  
Distinguished Professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Chair

**Anth 5625: Anthropology of Religion**  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:45-2:05**  
**Smith Lab 1048**

Jeffrey H. Cohen  
[cohen.319@osu.edu](mailto:cohen.319@osu.edu)  
247-7872

*Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11:00-12:00, 2:15-2:45 and by appointment*

**There are no prerequisites for this class**

In this course we explore how religion is defined and studied by anthropologists. Our discussion focus on different approaches anthropologists use to study religious practices. The assignments in this class ask you to explore religious practices, ritual life and symbols using materials from the Electronic Human Relations Area Files (E-HRAF) that are available through our library. By the end of the course you should have the tools to effectively study religious practices from an anthropological perspective. Please be aware, we look at many different belief systems and ritual practices, it is imperative that you keep an open mind.

## **GE LEARNING OUTCOMES WILL BE ADDED IF APPROVED**

### **Readings:**

Rebecca L. Stein and P.L. Stein. *The Anthropology of Religion, Magic and Witchcraft*, third edition. 2010. Pearson books.

Additional readings (noted on the syllabus) available on Carmen.

### **Graduate Students**

Catherine Bell. *Ritual: Perspectives and Dimensions*. Revised Edition. Oxford University Press.

Daniel Pals. *Eight Theories of Religion*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. 2006. Oxford University Press.

Stanley Tambiah. *Magic, Science and Religion and the Scope of Rationality*. 2007. Cambridge University Press.

Additional readings available on Carmen.

**While** I lecture in this class we also spend time discussing topics. It is critical that you are prepared, that readings are complete and that you keep up with assignments. Your failure to complete your work or to come to class unprepared for discussion can have a negative impact on your final grade.

**Class attendance** is your responsibility and a necessary part of your education. The only valid reasons for missing class are illness, personal/family emergencies, religious holidays or University-sanctioned activities. You should recognize that absenteeism, even due to valid reasons can negatively impact your performance in class and your final grade.

### **Assignments:**

1. There are 3 quizzes (Oct. 9, Nov. 13 and Dec. 9). The quizzes include multiple choice and short answer responses.
2. There are 4 papers for the class with themes linked to our readings. Each paper is built around a specific question concerning the religious life and beliefs of a group you have selected using the E-HRAF. Directions for each assignment are available on Carmen.

**Misconduct:** Academic Integrity (Academic Misconduct) -- Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University's Code of Student Conduct, and that all students complete all academic and scholarly

assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University's Code of Student Conduct and this syllabus may constitute "Academic Misconduct" (see The Ohio State University's Code of Student Conduct Section 3335-23-04). If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

Other sources of information on academic misconduct (integrity) to which you can refer include:

- The Committee on Academic Misconduct web pages ([COAM Home](#))
- *Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity* ([Ten Suggestions](#))
- *Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity* ([www.northwestern.edu/uacc/8cards.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/uacc/8cards.html))

**ADA:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Please contact the Office for Disability Services at 614-292-3307 in room 150 Pomerene Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

### **Graduate students**

Please note the additional readings that are listed on the far right column of the syllabus.

Graduate students must complete all assignments – though in consultation assignments can be tailored to a specific graduate project.

In addition, each graduate student is assigned a chapter from Pals to present to the class. Presentations take the form of a 20 minute lecture/presentation on the assigned chapter with 10 minutes for discussion and questions for the exam. The presentation must be approved by Dr. Cohen by the Monday before it is delivered. Materials (an outline or the PowerPoint that is associated with the presentation) should be loaded to Carmen by the Tuesday before class. The student must provide three discussion questions to accompany her/his lecture that are associated with the chapter and are the basis for a class discussion.

### **Honor students**

Honor students must complete all assignments associated with the class. In addition, honor students must complete a portfolio that combines all assignments together to create a formal presentation on the group they have chosen. The presentation must link the group studied to a minimum of three themes that we have discussed and cite the relevant readings (including materials from outside of the course syllabus). All materials referenced for the portfolio must be referenced. You can use any reference style you like, I use the American Anthropological Association's formatting and information is included on Carmen. The portfolio is due Thursday, 12/4 by no later than 5:00 PM and must be uploaded to Carmen.

<b>Grades and assignments</b>	
3 Quizzes (50 points each)	150 points
4 Assignments-concepts of religion (10 points each)	40 points
Paper 1 My group is. . . (9/11)	
Paper 2 Ritual symbols (9/25)	
Paper 3 Ritual Specialist (10/23)	
Paper 4 Ritual process (11/20)	
Participation, In class responses	10 points
Total 200 points	
180 and above (A- to A), 160-179 (B- to B+), 140-159 (C- to C+), 120-139 (D- to D+), 119 and below (F)	

<b>Tentative schedule</b>				
	Topic	Readings <i>Suggested Readings</i>	Assignments	Graduate Student Readings & presentations
8/28	Class dynamics, HRAF			
9/2-4	History, models and more on HRAF	Stein ch 1 <i>Bell Ch 1 &amp; 2</i>		Bell Ch 1 & 2
9/9-11	Biology and Religion	Sosis 2004	Paper 1: My group	Tambiah
9/16-18	Mythology, Gods and Spirits	Stein ch 2 & 9 <i>Bell Ch 3</i>		<i>Pals Ch 1</i> Bell Ch 3
9/23-25	Symbols and the supernatural	Stein ch 3, Ortner 1973	Paper 2: Ritual Symbols	<i>Pals Ch 2</i>
9/30-10/2	Magic and witchcraft	Stein ch 7, 8 & 10		<i>Pals Ch 3</i>
10/7-9			Oct. 9, Quiz #1	Exam 1
10/14-16	Religion and culture	Geertz 1973		<i>Pals Ch 8</i>
10/21-23	Altered states	Stein ch 5	Paper 3: Religious Specialists	Bell 4-5
10/28-30	Religious Specialists	Stein ch 6		<i>Pals Ch 6</i>
11/4-6	Ritual and the ritual process	Stein ch 4, Turner 1964		<i>Pals Ch 7</i>
11/13			Nov. 13, Quiz #2	Exam #2
11/18-20	New meaning	Stein ch 11	Paper 4: Ritual process	<i>Pals Ch 4</i>
11/25	Ritual life and power	Start Glassie		Bell 6, 7 & 8
12/2-4	Ritual life and health	Finish Glassie	Honor portfolio's due	<i>8 theories Ch 5</i>
12/9			Dec 9, Quiz #3	

## **Rationale for Anthropology of Religion (ANTHROP 5625) as a Diversity GE course.**

### **Why does this course qualify for GE status in Diversity: International Issues?**

ANTH5625 is a comprehensive introduction to the anthropological study of Religion with no prerequisites. The course explores how Anthropologists study religion, human beliefs and ritual life and ask how religion, beliefs and ritual guide social and cultural behavior. The class uses examples from around the world and across the US to engage students and understand the cultural role and social value of religion. The structure of the course challenges students to develop critical tools for research and use their skills to explore the cultural meaning and role of religion globally through assignments and exams. The class supports students from across the university who may have little appreciation of religious diversity, how it is study and why it matters. This class builds a foundation for the student to understand and examine religious diversity and meets the Diversity: Global Studies learning objectives.

- 1. Students understand some of the political, economic, cultural, physical, social, and philosophical aspects of one or more of the world's nations, peoples and cultures outside the U.S.*
- 2. Students recognize the role of national and international diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values as global citizens.*

The class is organized around anthropological approaches to religion, examples of religious diversity and the qualities and factors that characterize most religions around the world. Weekly themes are organized around

- Anthropology and the study of religion.
- Biology and religion
- Mythology, gods and spirits
- Symbols and the supernatural
- Religion and culture
- Ritual and the ritual process
- Ritual life and power
- Ritual life and health
- New directions in religious practices

The topics covered allow students to develop a critical framework to understand the cultural importance of religion. Through the class students will meet the goals of the Diversity; Global Studies GE course as they systematically analyze and interpret the role and meaning of religious practices in assignments. The assignments ask each student to select an ethnic minority population using on-line resources available through the OSU library and to explore that group's religious traditions, leaders, symbols and rituals.

### **Learning outcomes:**

ANTH5625 explore how anthropologists study religion as well as the diversity of religious traditions in the world. Each week includes a discussion of religious diversity and uses resources from anthropology to explore religion and diversity around specific themes.

### **Meeting Diversity: Global Studies, GE Learning Outcomes:**

Lectures in weeks 1-3 focus on the development of the study of religion in anthropology. Lectures in weeks 4-16 focus on specific issues in religion, how they are studied by anthropologists and what we can learn about diversity.



Readings and lectures facilitate learning and for students to better understand the cultural role and meaning of religious practices around the world. Discussions are an opportunity for students to develop their skills as independent, critical thinkers. Debates around religious rituals, beliefs and practices as well as the role of religious leaders in diverse social settings are a place where students begin to build their knowledge base and understanding.

## **GE ASSESSMENT The Anthropology of Religion (ANTHROP 5625) as Diversity GE course**

Assessment of GE learning outcomes is fully integrated with assessment of objectives and expected learning outcomes of the course itself. The instructor uses the responses of students to these questions as well as the assignments to evaluate whether students have gained mastery and meet the learning outcomes for the Diversity: Global Studies GE. The instructor will revisit the themes and use in-class discussion to further develop student skills. The instructor can also meet with students during office hours and use the time to review, train students in a one-on-one setting and build toward mastery.

Success (mastery) is indicated by the ability of the student to effectively define and describe the central themes of the class including how anthropologists study religion and why religions are unique to social groups around the world.

The instructor assesses students in ANTHROP 5625 through written assignments as well as questions on the course's three exams. The assignments ask students to select an ethnic minority population using the e-HRAF (access through the OSU library) and 1) summarize the group; 2) describe ritual symbols; 3) describe a religious leader/specialist; and 4) describe the ritual process. In these assignments, students analyze and interpret religious diversity in human society.

The assignments and responses are uploaded to CARMEN and allow the instructor to evaluate learning and comprehension throughout the semester.

Questions for the three exams are specifically focused on questions of Diversity Global Studies GE related themes. These questions will form a pre and post-test. The pre-test will establish knowledge of the subject before any materials are covered, while the post-test will note how students have engaged with course materials.

Religions are

- a. defined by biology and reflect natural differences in human populations.
- b. diverse and reflect can reflect local differences but are not biological.
- c. biological and cultural and are not hierarchically ranked.
- d. Hierarchically ranked depending upon how god is conceptualized.

According to lecture, which of these themes is NOT associated with the study of religion in anthropology?

- a. Religions are unique to social groups.
- b. Religions celebrate our dedication to consumerism.
- c. Religions can be understood in terms of the ways in which they help us cope with the unknown.
- d. Religious rituals celebrate belonging and group identity.