

# North Hennepin Community College

## ANTH 1140: Anthropology of Religion

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: \*.\*

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci, Goal 07 - Human Diversity

This course involves the study and comparison of religious institutions from a wide variety of cultures. We will consider the wonderful array of beliefs and practices of humanity. We will consider religion, magic, and witchcraft, and how these cultural constructions shed light on the societies in which they were created. Through seminar-style discussions of a variety of essays on religion and some videos, students will engage with the material on a deeper level than they normally would in a lecture format. Throughout the course, students will learn about the development of a wide variety of religious group identities, and their changing meanings across a wide range of cultures, and periods of history. They will learn about the dynamics of social stratification that religious groups experience today. Students will study the diversity of religion, and the racism and bigotry that often plagues peoples ideas and behavior towards other religious groups. This material will bring to light the institutional exclusion and discrimination that certain groups have endured. Through the consideration and discussion of numerous religious groups of America and beyond, students will learn the role(s) that these groups have played in our culture, and contributions they have made. Through presenting their two research projects to the class, students will exercise communication skills that involve great tact in discussing religious practices in a neutral and objective manner. We will practice those skills every class, in our seminar discussions of the reading. These discussions will get directly at the disparate explanatory systems offered by world religions, compare them, and critique the various views. In these ways, students will be using the method and data that anthropologists employ in the investigation of religion.

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 01/13/2014 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. The development of and the changing meanings of religious group identities in the United States', and the world's, history and culture.
2. The individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between religious groups in contemporary society.
3. Describe and discuss the experience and contributions (political, social, economic, etc.) of the many religious groups that shape American, and indeed world, society and culture, in particular those groups that have suffered discrimination and exclusion.
4. Develop communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great religious diversity
5. Employ the methods and data that anthropologists use to investigate the religious aspect of the human condition.
6. Examine religion across a range of historical periods and cultures.
7. Discuss and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories (religions).

## **D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)**

1. Understand the development of and the changing meanings of religious group identities in the United States', and indeed the world's, history and culture (NHCC ELOs 1, 3; MnTC Goal Area 7: competency a).
2. Analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry in the context of religion (NHCC ELOs 2, 3; MnTC Goal Area 7: competency c).
3. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great religious diversity (NHCC ELOs 2, 3; MnTC Goal Area 7: competency e).
4. Employ the methods and data that anthropologists use to investigate the religious aspect of the human condition (NHCC ELOs 1, 2, 4; MnTC Goal Area 5: competency a).
5. Examine religion across a range of historical periods and cultures (NHCC ELOs 1,2; MnTC Goal Area 7: competency b, MnTC Goal Area 5: competency b).
6. Discuss and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories (religions) (NHCC ELOs 1, 2, 4; MnTC Goal Area 7: competency c, MnTC Goal Area 5: competency c)

## **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

### Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
3. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.

### Goal 07 - Human Diversity

1. Understand the development of and the changing meanings of group identities in the United States' history and culture.
2. Analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry.
3. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great population diversity.

## **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

## **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

1. Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World; Through study in the sciences, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, histories, languages, the arts, technology and professions.
2. Intellectual and Practical Skills; Including: Inquiry and analysis; Critical and creative thinking; Written and oral communication; Quantitative literacy; Information literacy; Teamwork and problem solving.
3. Personal and Social Responsibility and Engagement; Including: Civic knowledge and involvement; campus, local and global; Intercultural knowledge and competence; Ethical reasoning and action; Foundations and skills for lifelong learning.
4. Integrative and Applied Learning; Including: Synthesis and advanced accomplishment across general education, liberal studies, specialized studies and activities in the broader campus community.