Minnesota State University Moorhead

ANTH 316: Magic, Witchcraft and Belief

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites:
ANTH 110 - Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 08 - Global Perspective

Introduction to the study of religion in cross cultural perspective. The origins of supernatural beliefs will be studied. Functional and non-functional explanations of religious beliefs will be examined. The relationship between culture change and religious movements will be explored. MnTC Goal 8.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 05/01/2012 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Description of the Anthropological Perspective in the study of religion.
2. Major topics in the Anthropology of Religion:
   A. Mythology
   B. Religious Symbols
   C. Rituals
   D. Altered States of Consciousness
   E. Religious Specialists
   F. Magic and Divination
   G. Souls, Ghosts, and Death
   H. Gods and Spirits
   I. Witchcraft
   J. Religious Change

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Know how anthropologists study religions.
2. Know and understand the major components of indigenous religions.
3. Understand the connections between religion and other aspects of culture.
4. Understand the underlying functions of indigenous religions.

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

Goal 08 - Global Perspective

1. Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.
3. Analyze specific international problems, illustrating the cultural, economic, and political differences that affect their solution.
4. Understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted