

# SYLLABUS

COURSE # AND TITLE: ANTH 220, Anthropology of Religion  
# OF CREDITS: 3

## CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

An introduction to religion as a universal human characteristic. Particular focus will be on the religions and religious behaviors of non-western societies.

Semester Offered: Spring Odd

Prerequisites: APRD 80+ or RDNG 113; APEN 84+ or ENGL 111

### **Common Student Learning Outcomes**

*Upon successful completion of San Juan College programs and degrees, the student will...*

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <i>Learn</i>       | <i>Students will actively and independently acquire, apply and adapt skills and knowledge to develop expertise and a broader understanding of the world as lifelong learners.</i> |
| <i>Think</i>       | <i>Students will think analytically and creatively to explore ideas, make connections, draw conclusions, and solve problems.</i>  |
| <i>Communicate</i> | <i>Students will exchange ideas and information with clarity and originality in multiple contexts.</i>  |
| <i>Integrate</i>   | <i>Students will demonstrate proficiency in the use of technologies in the broadest sense related to their field of study.</i>  |
| <i>Act</i>         | <i>Students will act purposefully, reflectively, and respectfully in diverse and complex environments.</i>  |

## GENERAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the basic vocabulary used by anthropologists to describe and discuss the belief systems of various cultures.
2. Understand and appreciate the range of variation within belief systems of peoples around the world, particularly those of non-western cultures.
3. Apply anthropology's holistic approach to cross-cultural research on the belief systems of various cultures.
4. Recognize how the field of anthropology has changed over time and how those changes have affected the way that religion has been studied cross-culturally since its inception as a formal discipline.

## SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to ...

1. Use anthropological terminology accurately and appropriately in journals, discussions, examinations, and written work

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2. Apply the holistic approach of anthropology to academic research on the belief system(s) of one or more cultures
3. Describe the belief system(s) of at least one culture in depth, either as part of an oral discussion or presentation or in written formats, such as a research paper.
4. Conduct small scale anthropological fieldwork related to the rituals or belief systems of a cultural group, use appropriate anthropological methods (such as participant-observation), maintain field notes and journals related to the field activity, and produce an ethnographic report that demonstrates
  - a. understanding of appropriate fieldwork methodology
  - b. ability to describe the culture from the insider's (or emic) point of view
  - c. appropriate use of anthropological terminology and concepts
  - d. use of an holistic approach in fieldwork and writings
5. Appropriately use the research of earlier anthropologists as a basis for one's own work on the belief systems of various cultures and identify (e.g., through identification and use of appropriate sources) the contributions and limitations of that work in the context of current approaches to the discipline (e.g., through analysis and critique of the work being cited).
6. Compare the belief systems of several cultures along a variety of dimensions, with emphasis on the belief systems of non-western cultures.

Syllabus developed by Dr. Karen Benally Date: 9 January 2005

Syllabus reviewed by  Date: 2-15-05

**A current syllabus must be on file in the dean's office for every course being taught during a given semester.**