

Effective Implementation date: Spring 2018, 201830

**Course Prefix and Number:** ANT 225

**Course Title:** Anthropology of Religion: SS3

**Course Credits:** 3

**Course Description:** Explores the culturally universal phenomenon of religion including cross-cultural varieties of beliefs in the supernatural and the religious rituals people employ to interpret and control their worlds. This is a statewide Guaranteed Transfer course in the GT-SS3 category.

**Guaranteed Transfer (GT) Pathways Course Statement:**

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education has approved ANT225 for inclusion in the Guaranteed Transfer (GT) Pathways program in the GT-SS3 category. For transferring students, successful completion with a minimum C– grade guarantees transfer and application of credit in this GT Pathways category. For more information on the GT Pathways program, go to

<https://highered.colorado.gov/academics/transfers/gtpathways/curriculum.html>.

**GT-SS3: HUMAN BEHAVIOR, CULTURE OR SOCIAL FRAMEWORKS CONTENT CRITERIA**

Students should be able to:

- a. Develop knowledge of human behavior, including learning, cognition, and human development **or** cultural or social frameworks/theories that explore and compare issues and characteristics of individuals, groups, communities, or cultures.
- b. Use tools, approaches, and skills from the Social & Behavioral Sciences to analyze and interpret issues.
- c. Understand diverse perspectives and groups.

**GT-SS3 COMPETENCIES & STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**Competency: Critical Thinking:**

Students should be able to:

- 1. Explain an Issue**
  - a. Use information to describe a problem or issue and/or articulate a question related to the topic.
  
- 2. Utilize Context**
  - a. Evaluate the relevance of context when presenting a position.
  - b. Identify assumptions.
  - c. Analyze one’s own and others’ assumptions.
  
- 1. Understand Implications and Make Conclusions**
  - a. Establish a conclusion that is tied to the range of information presented.
  - b. Reflect on implications and consequences of stated conclusion.

**Competency: Diversity & Global Learning:**

Students should be able to:

- 1. Build Self-Awareness**
  - a. Demonstrate how their own attitudes, behaviors, or beliefs compare or relate to those of other individuals, groups, communities, or cultures.
  
- 2. Examine Perspectives**
  - a. Examine diverse perspectives when investigating social and behavioral topics within natural or human systems.
  
- 3. Address Diversity**
  - a. Make connections between the world-views, power structures, and experiences of individuals, groups, communities, or cultures, in historical or contemporary contexts.

**REQUIRED COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Assess religion academically, exploring fundamental principles of and questions about the nature and function of religion.
2. Discuss religion as a human activity with goals, questions, and mysteries it attempts to address.
3. Compare religions in a cross-cultural context.
4. Examine the social and cultural impact religion has on cultures.
5. Evaluate how cultural context shapes the emergence and development of religious traditions and movements.
6. Apply anthropological theory to the analysis of the influence of religion and spiritual beliefs on cultural and social changes.
7. Discover how social bonds are reinforced through ritual acts.
8. Interpret the role of religion in the maintenance of political organization and social stratification.

**REQUIRED TOPICAL OUTLINE**

- I. Anthropological approaches to studying religion
- II. Mythic systems
  - a. Role of myths in religion
  - b. Cross-cultural themes
- III. Supernatural power in a cultural context
  - a. Animism and animatism
  - b. Gods
  - c. Spirits and otherworldly beings
  - d. Ghosts, vampires, zombies, etc.
- IV. Death and the afterlife
  - a. Death ritual
  - b. Afterlife beliefs (souls, karma, reincarnation, etc.)
- V. Ritual
  - a. Cultural roles
  - b. Types of ritual
  - c. Symbolism in ritual

- VI. Religious practitioners
  - a. Priests vs. Shamans
  - b. Prophets, oracles, diviners, and others
- VII. Magic and witchcraft
  - a. Distinction between magic, witchcraft, religion
  - b. Social roles
- VIII. Religious movements and social change
  - a. Revitalization and revivalistic movements
  - b. Fundamentalism
  - c. Cults
  - d. Religion in the modern world