SHAMANISMS AND NATURE RELIGIONS

Wright, Robin, Professor of Religion, Anthropology, Latin American Studies, Native American Studies; Mysteries of the Jaguar Shamans. 2013 (Spring) University of Nebraska Press.

Contact E-mail: clas-fwd-baniwa05@ufl.edu; rowrightrobin@yahoo.com
Research sites: www.robinmwright.com; www.arnna.net/forum; www.florida.academia.edu/RobinWright
Spring 2013  ANT 4930  SECTS. 1342 M 5-6  MAT 113  W 6  MAT 113  
REL 4936   SECTS. 6049 M5-6  MAT 113  W 6  MAT 113  
REL 5937  SECTS. 1135 M5-6  MAT 113  W 6  MAT 113  
ANG6930  SECTS. 135C M5-6  MAT 113  

**Required or recommended texts:**

1. Title: ALEJANDRO TSAKIMP  Cover: paperback book  
   Author: STEVE RUBINSTEIN  Edition: 2010  Copyright: UNP  
   Publisher: UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PRESS  
   This text is required

2. Title: MYSTERIES OF THE JAGUAR SHAMANS  Cover: paperback book. Author:  
   ROBIN M WRIGHT  Edition: 2013  Copyright: UNP  Publisher: UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PRESS  
   This text is required  The book will be released during Spring semester. We will read the galley forms of the book uploaded on the course's Sakai site.

3. Title: THE WORLD WE USED TO LIVE IN  Cover: paperback book. Author:  
   VINE DELORIA JR  Edition: 2006  Copyright: Publisher: FULCRUM  
   This text is required

   Author: MICHAEL TAUSSIG Edition: 1991  Copyright: UC  Publisher: UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS  
   This text is required

5. Title: CHOSEN BY THE SPIRITS: FOLLOWING YOUR SHAMANIC CALLING  Cover: paperback book  
   Author: SARANGEREL Edition: 2001 Copyright: INNERTRADIPublisher: DESTINY  
   This text is required

6. Title: ANIMAL AND SHAMAN: ANCIENT RELIGIONS OF CENTRAL ASIA  
   Cover: paperback book  Author: JULIAN BALDICK Edition: 2000 Copyright: IBTAURUS Publisher: I.B. TAURUS  
   This text is required

THE COURSE WEBSITE ON SAKAI E-LEARNING CONTAINS COPIES OF OTHER READINGS, IN THE “RESOURCES” SECTION. (learn more about how Sakai websites
work at: https://lss.at.ufl.edu/ THE WEBSITE www.newstudiesonshamanism.com CONTAINS DOZENS OF ARCHIVES AND FILES FROM PREVIOUS COURSES ON SHAMANISM. RECOMMENDED FOR NAVIGATING.

**Complementary Bibliography (Important Resources):**

* Rebecca Stone. *The jaguar within. Shamanic trance in ancient Central and South American art.*. 2011 University of Texas: Austin


Other Resources include video clips, several outstanding films, powerpoints, and experiential practices designed to deepen our understanding of shamans and nature religions.

**I. INTRODUCTION:** Overview of Syllabus and Objectives of the Course; mechanics of course; resources and bibliographies

   **Readings:** P. Vitebsky, J. Overing (1991); all entries of *Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature* on “Shamans” (2005); Stone. *The jaguar within.* (selections)

**II. SHAMANS AND NATURE RELIGIONS IN THE AMAZON RAINFOREST**

   **Readings:**

   - Rubinstein, *Alejandro Tsakimp* (read entire book);
   - Taussig, *Shamanism, Colonialism, and the Wild Man* (read selected chapters);
   - Wright, *Mysteries of the Jaguar Shamans* (selected chapters);
   - Whitehead & Wright, *In Darkness and Secrecy* (selected chapters).

   **Supplementary:**

- Stone. *The Jaguar Within* (selected chapters);

### III. SHAMANS AND NATURE RELIGIONS IN THE SIBERIAN TUNDRA

**Readings:**


- Baldick, Julian. *Animal and Shaman: Ancient Religions of Central Asia*. 2012 (read entire book);

- Larry Peters, various articles will be posted on Sakai, on Mongolia shamans, Siberian shamans, all in *Shamanism Annual*, periodical of the Foundation for Shamanic Studies. See his website. [http://www.lpshaman.com/images.html](http://www.lpshaman.com/images.html)

### IV. SHAMANS IN NON-TRIBAL SETTINGS (NEOSHAMANISM, CORE SHAMANISM), TRANSFORMING THE SHAMAN, REVITALIZING, CONTINUITY OF KNOWLEDGE, PROTECTION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS, SHAMANS AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENTS, SHAMANS AND THE MOTHER GODDESS

**Readings:**

- Sarangerel, *Chosen By The Spirits: Following Your Shamanic Calling.* (Kindlebook; read all);

- Vine DeLoria, *The World We Used to Live In* (selected chapters);

- [http://www.shamanism.org/articles/article13.html](http://www.shamanism.org/articles/article13.html) (read all articles);

- Vitebsky, Piers. (Vitebsky has also collaborated with a number of documentary films, including: "Siberia: after the shaman"; "Arctic aviators" and "Flightpaths to the gods")."From Cosmology to Environmentalism: Shamanism as Local Knowledge in a Global Setting. "CHAPTER 17 In: Harvey, Graham, ed. *Shamanism: A Reader*. London: Routledge. 2003
Supplementary:


Course Requirements

The course requirements are:
1) Do Readings on time, according to course schedule; any changes in the readings will be announced in advance on the course Sakai e-learning website;
2) A mid-term take-home exam, worth 35% of the final grade;
3) A final paper, 10 pp., worth 35% of the final grade; suggested topics to be discussed shortly after the mid-terms have been returned;
4. Discussion sessions are important for clarifying issues, and generating ideas related to both the readings and audio-visual presentations. Each student or pair of students will be responsible for organizing a seminar or part of a seminar on issues emergent from the readings or lectures. These student-run seminars (worth 30% of final grade) will all be scheduled for the second half of the semester, post midterm.

Course Regulations:

1. Plagiarism or cheating: Students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Students caught plagiarizing or cheating will automatically receive a grade of zero on the assignment in question and will fail the course. In addition, they will be reported to the appropriate university authorities. Please keep in mind that plagiarism does not consist only in copying verbatim someone else’s material and presenting it as if it were yours. It also includes taking ideas (even paraphrased!) from an author without according him/her proper recognition (through a footnote, for instance). Other forms of cheating (particularly downloading material from the Internet and presenting as if it were yours) will also be subject to the same action. See
http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honestybrochure.htmhttp://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.htm for more information on UF policies.

2. **Incompletes are strongly discouraged** and will be given only when students who have finished most of the assignments satisfactorily cannot complete the final requirements due to unforeseen events. If this is the case, students must arrange for the incomplete **before** the end of the semester.

3. **Make-up exams and quizzes** will be given only under very special circumstances, such as a medical emergency. In that case, students must bring a doctor’s note.

4. Students engaging in **disruptive behavior** will be asked to leave the classroom. Please turn phones and pagers off during class.

5. **Students with Disabilities.** Students requesting classroom accommodation or special consideration must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation or special consideration.

6. **Attendance will be taken every class and discussion session; more than three unjustified absences will result in points taken off final grade. All absences should be justified with appropriate documentation.** Consistent, late arrivals to class or consistent, early departures from class will also mean point reduction.