

SHAMANS AND SHAMANISMS

REL3938/ ANT3930

MWF:

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Objectives of Course: This course examines the varieties of religious experience that have come under the rubric of 'shamanism' and 'shaman'. The course will include contemporary 'shamanisms' among indigenous peoples of South America, outer Asia, and North America; urbanized, non-indigenous movements, especially core shamanism and the neo-shamanic movements; and prophet movements of the Americas directly connected to shamanic cosmologies.

Part I presents an overview of **shamanic spiritualities** found throughout the world, the processes of becoming a shaman, altered states of consciousness and shamanic transformations, the relations of shamans to the cosmos, the historical development of shamanic consciousness, historical consciousness and spiritual agency of shamans.

The next three units focus on:

II. **South American shamanisms;**

III. **Shamanisms of Outer Asia;**

IV. **Native North American shamanisms;**

While there is overlap among all of these units, there are clear features that distinguish one from the other, in regard to knowledge and powers, relations among human and other-than-human beings (spirits and deities, especially), and shamans' relations to history, historical consciousness, and the colonial state.

Each unit will be amply illustrated and discussed through readings, audio-visual material, including from the Professor's own research and experiences. In addition, the course's Canvas website has a Module section on Resources that contains several bibliographies and a selection of other relevant readings.

Course Readings: The most important books from which the readings for the course will be drawn, are:

Davi Kopenawa & Bruce Albert. *The Falling Sky. Words of a Yanomami Shaman*. 2013. Harvard University Press. Kindle book. \$23.99 [Required] Chapters have been copied and posted in the Modules tab. The author's Notes - very important and valuable - can be found on the Amazon page for the book at the end.

Manduhai Buyandelger. *Tragic Spirits: Shamanism, Memory, and Gender in Contemporary Mongolia*. 2013. University of Chicago Press| Kindle eBook. \$19.25 [Required]

Ake Hultkrantz, *Shamanic Healing and Ritual Drama*. Crossroad Publishing Company, 1997.[Required; used copies for purchase on Amazon]

Piers Vitebsky. *Shamanism*. 2001. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. 2001.[Required; pdfs in Modules]

Ana Mariella Bacigalupo, *Thunder Shaman. Making History with Mapuche Spirits in Chile and Patagonia* 2016. University of Texas (Austin). [Required; Kindle e-book].

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES, READINGS, FILMS AND EXAMS:

01/11: course presentation and introduction to the readings;

UNIT I: "THE WORLD'S OLDEST SPIRITUAL TRADITION"

01/13: "Shamans" are spiritual practitioners

Readings: York, "Shamanism – Traditional" & "Urban Shamanism", in *Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature* (hereafter *ERN*), v.2, pp. 1532-37 [pdf in Modules]; Graham Harvey, "Introduction" [pdf in Modules]

01/15 Parameters (cont.)

Readings: Vitebsky, Introduction and "The Shamanic Worldview", pp. 6-26; *Shamanism* [pdf in Modules]

01/18: MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY - NO CLASS

01/20: Diversity and Comparisons

Readings: Vitebsky, "Regional Traditions" pp. 26-51 [pdf in Modules]

01/22: Becoming A Shaman.

Readings: Vitebsky, *Shamanism*, pp. 52-95; [pdf in Modules]

01/25: The Shamans' Performance

Readings: Vitebsky, *Shamanism*, pp. 96-127 [pdf in Modules]

01/27: The problematic of studying shamanism

Reading: Vitebsky, *Shamanism*, pp. 128-160;

UNIT II: SOUTH AMERICAN SHAMANISMS 1 - THE YANOMAMI

01/29: Introduction

Reading: Hutukara, "The Yanomami in Brazil" (pdf in Modules);

01/31: Becoming Other – Acquiring The Shaman's Gaze

Reading: Kopenawa & Albert, Chs. 1 & 2;

02/01: Becoming Other – Acquiring The Shaman's Gaze

Reading: Kopenawa & Albert, Chs. 3 & 4;

Film: https://www.4shared.com/music/Lq2sFLWDBa/Xapori_Levi_Mateu.html

02/03: Becoming Other – Acquiring The Shaman's Gaze

Reading: Kopenawa & Albert, Chs. 5 & 6;

02/05: Becoming Other – Acquiring The Shaman's Gaze

Reading: Kopenawa & Albert, Chs. 7 & 8;

02/08: Becoming Other – Shamans' Performance

Reading: "Performance and the Cultural Construction of Reality", Edward L. Schieffelin [pdf on website];

Video: "Xapiri" - B. Albert, 2012 · Experimental film/Documentary · 54 mins <https://archive.org/details/xapiri>

02/10: **MODULE SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION**

UNIT III: ASIAN SHAMANISMS

02/12: Introduction to Diversity of Asian Shamanisms

02/15: Shamans' Historical Consciousness, Gender, and Agency

Reading: Buyandelger, Introduction;

(recommended) "Buryat Shamanism (Mongolia)" [pdf in Modules]

Video (on Siberian, Mongolian specialists) : "Seven Years with Siberian Shamans", Costanze Allone <https://vimeo.com/187215594>;

02/17: Shamans' Historical Consciousness, Gender and Agency

Reading: Buyandelger, ONE. Mobile Histories;

02/19: Shamans' Historical Consciousness, Gender and Agency

Reading: Buyandelger, TWO. Technologies of Forgetting;

02/22: Shamans' Historical Consciousness, Gender and Agency

Reading: Buyandelger, THREE, Genealogies of Misfortune;

02/24: Shamans' Historical Consciousness, Gender and Agency

Reading: Buyandelger, FOUR. Thriving and Silenced Stories;

02/26: Shamans' Historical Consciousness, Gender and Agency

Reading: Buyandelger, FIVE. Ironies...;

03/01: Shamans' Historical Consciousness, Gender and Agency

Reading: Buyandelger, SIX. Persuasion and Power;

03/03: Shamans' Historical Consciousness, Gender and Agency

Reading: Buyandelger, SEVEN. Incomplete Lives;

03/05: **MODULE SUMMARY & DISCUSSION**

UNIT IV: SOUTH AMERICAN SHAMANISMS 2 - THE MAPUCHE

03/08: Shamans, Memory, and the State

Readings: Bacigalupo, Ana Mariella. *Thunder Shaman* CH 1, "MAKING HISTORY IN FRANCISCA KOLIPÍ'S BIBLE"

03/10: Shamans, Memory, and the State

Readings: Bacigalupo CH 2, "MOBILE NARRATIVES THAT OBLITERATE THE DEVIL'S "CIVILIZED HISTORY""

03/12: Shamans, Memory, and the State

Readings: Bacigalupo, CH 3, "MULTITEMPORAL VISIONS AND BAD BLOOD"

03/15: Shamans, Memory, and the State

Readings: Bacigalupo, CH 4, "EMBODIED HISTORY: RITUALLY RESHAPING THE PAST AND THE FUTURE"

03/17: Shamans, Memory, and the State

Readings: Bacigalupo, CH 5, "SHAMANIZING DOCUMENTS AND BIBLES"

03/19: Shamans, Memory, and the State

Readings: Bacigalupo CH 6, "THE TIME OF WARRING THUNDER, THE SAVAGE STATE, AND CIVILIZED SHAMANS"

03/22 **MODULE SUMMARY & DISCUSSION**

UNIT V: NATIVE NORTH AMERICAN MEDICINE POWERS

03/24: Health and Medicine in Native North American Traditions

Reading: Hultkrantz, Ch. 1;

Video: [The World We Used To Live In](#) Vine Deloria, The World We Used to Live in

03/26: Health and Medicine in Native North American Traditions

Readings: Hultkrantz, Ch. 2; Deloria, Vine, "Powers Conferred on the Medicine Man", *The World We Used to Live in* [pdf in Modules]

03/29: Health and Medicine in Native North American Traditions

Readings: Hultkrantz, Ch. 3; C. Levi-Strauss, "The Sorcerer and his Magic" [pdf in Modules];

03/31: Health and Medicine in Native North American Traditions

Reading: Hultkrantz, Ch. 4;

04/02: Health and Medicine in Native North American Traditions

Video: Lakota Healing : [Art In Motion presents Lakota Medicine Man Pete Catches: "Walks With Fi](#)

Reading: Hultkrantz, Ch. 5;

04/05: Health and Medicine in Native North American Traditions

Reading: Hultkrantz, Ch. 6;

04/07: Health and Medicine in Native North American Traditions

Reading: Hultkrantz, Ch. 7;

Video: "To Find Your Life - Huichol, Wirikuta, Mexico, Medicine Man" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66OYQtzILRc&list=PLdWoX02S0acct7cAvLmv1tf5wcxkTyAAx&ab_channel=BillReal

04/09: Health and Medicine in Native North American Traditions

04/12: Health and Medicine in Native North American Traditions

Readings: Hultkrantz, Ch. 8 & Conclusions;

Video: [for Library EZ Proxy: turn on Cisco VPN and enter your UF ID and password information] Native American Healing in the 21st Century <https://ufl.kanopy.com/video/native-american-healing-21st-century>

04/14: **MODULE SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION**

04/16: COURSE SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

04/19 - 04/21: INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATIONS AND READING

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Besides the general Introduction, there are four (4) Units in the course. Each of the Units is worth 20 points. Each student will write a paper (5-7 pp.) about a topic that emerges from the material and that interests you. Suggestions for topics will be posted in the Assignments tab at the beginning of each Module (Total for 4 Units = 80 points). Select a topic early in the Unit to be thinking about it as we read the principal works;
- Class participation. Note that at the conclusion of each Module, an entire class is set aside for Summary and Discussion of the material. You should come prepared for these Discussions. Questions will be posted beforehand to generate Discussion. (20 points)

Your grade will be based on the sum total of the above assignments.

Grade Scale:

A: 94 - 100; A-: 90 - 93; B+: 87 - 89; B: 83 - 86; B-: 80 - 82; C+: 77 - 79; C: 73 - 76; C-: 70 - 72; D+: 67 - 69; D: 63 - 66; D-: 60 - 62; E: below 60

Note: A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For UF's policies on grade points and grading, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

REGULATIONS OF THE COURSE:

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.htm><http://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. Students engaging in disruptive behavior will be asked to leave the classroom. **Please turn phones and pagers off during class. Texting and all non-class related use of laptops, iPads, etc. are not allowed and will be penalized if done repeatedly.**
 4. 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.
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