

Anthropology& 234: Religion and Culture (Hybrid)

MEETING TIME AND LOCATION: MTWTh, 9:30 am – 10:20 am, Room D101

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Stephanie Brommer

Office:	D200D
Office Hours:	Appointment available upon request
Email:	stephanie.brommer@bellevuecollege.edu

Welcome to ANTH& 234! Anthropologists have long studied, interpreted, explained, and explored religion and religious diversity by looking at symbols, rituals, myths, belief systems and practices around the world. The topics of religion and the supernatural are deeply personal and also relevant in global conversations, but they are often hot-button topics. To achieve an anthropological perspective, we must be open-minded, respectfully speak and listen, and understand diverse perspectives.

Course Overview

This course presents a global introduction to the religions of the world from a broad comparative perspective. Students examine the development and aspects of various religions (indigenous, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, and others). The relationship between religion and the social and cultural context are explored, especially in relation to nationalism, politics, and globalization. (From the course catalog)

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Evaluate religion using academic methods, such as those used in anthropology, comparative religion, and/or religious studies.
- Describe and compare the doctrine, institutional structures, and ethical systems of a sample of the religions (e.g., indigenous religions, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism, and/or others) while emphasizing the development of World Religions and their subdivisions.
- Analyze the various media (e.g., texts, music, ritual, symbolism, architecture, etc.) through which religious knowledge and belief are expressed.
- Explore the interplay between religious belief systems and religious practice.
- Evaluate relationships between religion and the social/cultural context, especially in relation to nationalism, politics, and globalization.

General Education Ratings

Connections – Historical and Intellectual Perspectives	3
Communication – Reading	3

Required Textbook

Anthropology and Religion
By Robert L. Winzeler
AltaMira Press
ISBN: 9780759121904

Evaluation

Your final grade in this class will be based on **five** Components:

- Attendance and Participation = 100 pts
- Online Activities 1/wk: (10x20 pts) = 200 pts
- Exams 2/qtr: (2x100 pts) = 200 pts
- Religion Fieldwork Project: 150 pts
- Religion Fieldwork Poster Presentation: 100 pts

Attendance and Participation (100 points)

You are expected to attend class daily and log on to Canvas at least twice for your weekly Online Activity. These points will not appear in the grade book until the end of the quarter.

Online Activities (10x20pts = 200 points)

In a hybrid class, you are expected to participate online in Canvas. There will be one online activity per week. Online activities can include discussions, journal entries, research, group work, or other activities. The activity will be posted by 12:01 am on Mondays and, unless otherwise noted, will be due by 11:59 pm on Sundays.

For online discussions, there are 3 steps:

1. Discussion question will be posted by 12:01 am on Monday and also given in class. When there is an article that is the focus of the discussion, read it first and think about the material. If there online research is required, read the guidelines that will lay out the lines of research required.
2. Each student is to post an initial commentary (i.e., your informed analysis about the question provided). This step must occur BEFORE 11:59 pm on Wednesday. Each initial commentary should be well written, proofread for grammatical and spelling errors, and substantive in content. About 200-300 words is an estimate of what is expected for an initial commentary.
3. Each student will comment on the initial posting of 2 other students. The response step of the discussion will begin at 12:01 am on Thursday. Points will not be given if you comment on others' posts before this time or after the discussion has closed on Sunday at 11:59 pm. Each response posting should be about 75 words. Responses such as "I agree" or "Terrific job" do not count for credit.

All postings should be thoughtful, informed, respectful, substantive, and constructive.

If you use any source at all, you must cite it. NO Wikipedia.

IF YOU MISS A DISCUSSION, YOU CANNOT MAKE IT UP SINCE THE MOMENT WILL HAVE PASSED. THE DISCUSSION CLOSSES AT THE END OF THE WEEK ON SUNDAY at 11:59 PM.

Assignments

There are **three** assignments in this course.

- 1) **Two Exams (2x100pts = 200 points).** There are two exams, each covering five chapters of the text and concepts from class. The exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false, or short definitions of key terms.
- 2) **Religion Fieldwork Project (150 points).** You will select a religion that is different than your own. Contact the spiritual leader and ask if you can interview him/her and attend a service. Your purpose is to learn about a religion. Be respectful and ask thoughtful questions. Who can become leaders and what is required? What are the rituals? What are the symbols and their meanings? What are central beliefs and messages? How do they teach these beliefs and messages? Discuss various media (e.g., texts, music, ritual, symbolism, architecture, etc.) through which religious knowledge and belief are expressed. When you attend the service, note rituals, symbols, dress of leaders and congregants, gender and ethnic makeup, etc. Research the demographics of this religion and whether it is growing or declining and where, as well as any political, social, or economic issues facing this religion. Supplement or support your interview with research. The project must be double-spaced and 8-10 pages long (not including cover page, bibliography, and fieldnotes) with at least five references.
- 3) **Poster Presentation (100 points).** On Dec. 8, during the designated final exam period, you will present and display a Poster Presentation about your fieldwork project. You may focus on one aspect of your project or summarize it, using visual aids on your poster.

Late work submission

Written assignments that are submitted after day they are due will be subject to a 10% reduction in points for every day they are late, including weekends, non-instruction days, and holidays. **After one week, late assignments will not be accepted and a 0 will be awarded.**

Grading Scale

Your final grade will be based upon the accumulation of points using the table below.

Grade	Point Value	Grade	Point Value	Grade	Point Value	Grade	Point Value
A	750 – 697	B	651 – 622	C	576 – 547	D	494 - 450
A-	696 – 675	B-	621 – 600	C-	546 – 525	F	449 and below
B+	674 – 652	C+	599 – 577	D+	524 –495		

The link to the College Grading Policy is located on page 10 of the Course Catalog: [Grading Policy](#).

JUST BECAUSE THIS SYLLABUS DOESN'T EXPLICITLY SAY YOU CAN'T DO SOMETHING... IT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN DO IT.

Schedule

This class is designed in weekly sessions. Textbook chapters are assigned for each week (see schedule below). There may be additional articles or videos assigned for discussions.

In addition to your weekly online activity (details and due dates above), there will be two exams, a final project, and a poster presentation. There is no final exam in this course, but your poster presentation will be due at 9:30 am on Dec. 8.

DEADLINES ARE NOT FLEXIBLE.

Class Schedule

Date	Text Readings	Topic	Assignments
Week 1 – Sept. 21-27	Text, Chapter 1	How does Anthropology look at Religion and the Supernatural	Online Activity
Week 2 – Sept. 28-Oct. 4	Text, Chapter 2	Western Notions of Religion	Online Activity
Week 3 – Oct. 5-11	Text, Chapters 3 and 4	Religion in Evolutionary Perspective	Online Activity
Week 4 – Oct. 12-18	Text, Chapter 5	Symbols	Online Activity
Week 5 – Oct. 19-25 [No class Oct. 20]	Text, Chapter 6	Myths	Online Activity -- Oct. 21, Exam on Chapters 1-5
Week 6 – Oct. 26-Nov. 1	Text, Chapter 7	Rituals	Online Activity
Week 7 – Nov. 2-8	Text, Chapter 8	Witchcraft and Sorcery	Online Activity

Date	Text Readings	Topic	Assignments
Week 8 – Nov. 9-15 [No class Nov. 11]	Text, Chapter 9	Spirits	Online Activity
Week 9 – Nov. 16-22	Text, Chapter 10	Religious Movements	Online Activity
Week 10 - Nov. 23-29 [No class Nov. 26]	Text, Chapter 11	World Religions from Anthropological Perspective	Nov. 24, Exam on Chapters 6-10
Week 11 - Nov. 30-Dec. 6	Text, Chapter 12	Religious Change in the Modern World	Online Activity -- DUE by beginning of class Monday, Nov. 30: Religion Fieldwork Project
Week 12 - Dec. 7-10		Class ONLY at 9:30-11:20 am on Tuesday, Dec. 8	DUE by beginning of class: Poster Presentation

Student Responsibilities

To make the most out of the educational opportunities in this hybrid class, you need to take an active and energetic role in your own learning process. Success can best be achieved by completing the following student responsibilities.

- Complete weekly reading assignments before coming to class or posting on weekly discussion.
- Participate actively in class and in each discussion activity. No makeup discussions are available. In this sense absences in the online portion of the class will have a negative impact on your grade.
- Complete assignments.
- No late work will be accepted after the end of the course unless arrangements with the professor have been made.
- Contact your professor if you have any questions.

HELP WITH CANVAS: The following is helpful for [Students](#).

Explore the LMC! The Library Media Center is at your fingertips! I *strongly* encourage you to visit the LMC at least this quarter, but you can also access it via the web. Talk to a Reference Librarian at the Library (D-126), by calling (425) 564-6161, or by email: reference@bellevuecollege.edu.

- **Main Library Media Center:** <http://bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/>
- **For the LMC online catalog:** <http://bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/catalogs.html>
- **For article databases:** <http://bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/periodicals.html>

For all of your written work: Submit proofread work **only**. If you need help with your writing, please make use of the following student support services:

- Academic Success Center: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/academicsuccess/>
- Academic Tutoring Center: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/tutoring/>
 - TRiO Student Support Services: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/TRiO/>
 - Writing Lab @ BCC: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/writinglab/>

Software

Word Processor: Microsoft Word is the only word processor supported at the college. You must use Microsoft Word to prepare any documents to be submitted. Documents submitted in any other format will not be accepted. I may ask for a resubmission in word doc format.

Web browser

You must use a Web browser supported by Canvas. Information about supported browsers is posted on the Distance Education Website (www.bellevuecollege.edu/distance/). If you are having problems, your first step should be to try a different browser.

Academic Calendar

The Bellevue College Academic Calendar is separated into two calendars. They provide information about holidays, closures and important enrollment dates such as the finals schedule.

- [Enrollment Calendar](#) On this calendar you will find admissions and registration dates and important dates for withdrawing and receiving tuition refunds.
- [College Calendar](#) This calendar gives you the year at a glance and includes college holidays, scheduled closures, quarter end and start dates, and final exam dates.

Snow Days or other non-schedule class cancellations

The possibility is always there that class will be cancelled unexpectedly. In the case that class is cancelled, I will post my information on Canvas. This will include lecture material, assignments, and handouts. It is your responsibility to check this in a timely manner and before the next class session. Material provided in this way will be covered as a review in class but will not be lectured on in detail.

Safe Zone

Affirmation of Inclusion

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination. We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

This class is designed to explore and discuss controversial issues. Sometimes these issues evoke emotional or personal responses. It is important for students to be able to speak their minds without worrying about ridicule, demeaning remarks, or hurtful statements. Any occurrences of such comments will be dealt with immediately.

Religious Holidays

Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or any other assignments as a consequence of their religious observance should be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious holidays on which they will be absent, preferably at the beginning of the term. Students who are absent on days of examinations or class assignments should be offered an opportunity to make up the work without penalty (if they have previously arranged to be absent), unless it can be demonstrated that a makeup opportunity would constitute an unreasonable burden on a member of the faculty. Should disagreement arise over what constitutes an unreasonable burden or any element of this policy, parties involved should consult the department chair, or Dean.

College Anti-Discrimination Statement (Title IX)

Bellevue College does not discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity; color; creed; national origin; sex; marital status; sexual orientation; age; religion; genetic information; the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability; gender identity or veteran status in educational programs and activities which it operates.

For further information and contacts, please consult [College Anti-Discrimination Statements](#).

Academic Integrity

Cheating and plagiarism will not be accepted. Proper citation of ideas, concepts and quotes that are not your own is required. Cheating and plagiarism will result in a zero score on that assignment and will be reported to BC administration. ***All assignments submitted to the Assignments section in Canvas will also be checked by Turnitin, a plagiarism detection service.***

Student Code of Conduct and Academic Integrity

Any act of academic dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source), and fabrication and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to, talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Success for investigation. Specific student rights, responsibilities, and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct at: [Student Code](#)

Preventing Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty occurring when students use information or material from outside sources and do not properly cite those sources. This is grounds for disciplinary action. It is your responsibility to understand plagiarism and its consequences. Plagiarism occurs if:

- a. You do not cite quotations and/or attribute borrowed ideas.

- b. You fail to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks.
- c. You do not write summaries and paraphrases in your own words and/or don't document your source.
- d. You turn in work created by another person.
- e. You submit or use your own prior work for a current or past course, or work from one current course in another course *without express permission* from your professors. This may also be considered academic dishonesty.
- f. Consequences: If it is determined that you have plagiarized or engaged in other forms of academic dishonesty, you will likely fail the assignment and possibly the course, despite points earned through other work. Acts of academic dishonesty are reviewed for disciplinary action.

Information about Bellevue College's copyright guidelines can be found at: [College Copyright Policy](#)
This link provides a good, short summary of how to avoid plagiarism: [Avoiding Plagiarism](#)

This 22-minute video also provides a good overview of how to avoid trouble when using sources: From the college home page select SERVICES, then LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER, then DATABASES, then FILMS ON DEMAND. At their site, search by title for **PLAGIARISM 2.0: ETHICS IN THE DIGITAL AGE**.

Important Campus Information

Bellevue College E-mail and access to MyBC

All students registered for classes at Bellevue College are entitled to a network and e-mail account. Your student network account can be used to access your student e-mail, log in to computers in labs and classrooms, connect to the BC wireless network and log in to MyBC. To create your account, go to: [Create Email](#)

BC offers a wide variety of computer and learning labs to enhance learning and student success. Find current campus locations for all student labs by visiting the [Technology Help Desk](#)

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact us as soon as possible.

If you are a person who requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc., please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter.

If you are a student with a documented autism spectrum disorder, there is an additional access program available to you. Contact [Autism Spectrum Navigators](#) Email and phone number is on the web page. ASN is located in the Library Media Center in D125.

The DRC office is located in B132 or you can call our reception desk at 425.564.2498. Deaf students can reach us by Skype: the address is **DRCatBC** (NOTE: There is no @ sign...it is actually

DRCatBC). Please visit our website at [Disability Resource Center](#) for application information into our program and other helpful links.

Accessibility

The online elements of this course are designed to be welcoming to, accessible to, and usable by everyone, including students who are English-language learners, have a variety of learning styles, have disabilities, or are new to online learning. Be sure to let me know immediately if you encounter a required element or resource in the course that is not accessible to you. Also, let me know of changes I can make to the course so that it is more welcoming to, accessible to, or usable by students who take this course in the future.

Public Safety and Emergencies

Public Safety is located in the K building and can be reached at **425-564-2400** (easy to remember because it's the only office on campus open 24 hours a day—2400). Among other things, Public Safety serves as our Parking Permits, Lost and Found, and Emergency Notification center. Please ensure you are signed up to receive alerts through our campus alerting system by registering at [RAVE Alert Registration](#)

If you work late and are uneasy about going to your car, Public Safety will escort you to your vehicle. To coordinate this, please phone ahead and let Public Safety know when and where you will need an escort.

Please familiarize yourself with the emergency postings by the door of every classroom and know where to go in the event of an evacuation. Your instructor will be asked if anyone might still be in the building, so check in before you do anything else. Emergency responders will search for anyone unaccounted for.

If a major emergency occurs, please follow these three rules:

- 1) Take directions from those in charge of the response** -We all need to be working together.
- 2) Do not get in your car and leave campus (unless directed to)** - Doing so will clog streets and prevent emergency vehicles from entering the scene. Instead, follow directions from those in charge.
- 3) In an emergency, call 911 first, then Public Safety.**

Please do not hesitate to call Public Safety if you have safety questions or concerns at any time. You may also visit the [Public Safety](#) web page for answers to your questions.

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION

Email Communication with instructors must be done through student email accounts only. Instructors cannot communicate with students about their course work or grades through student's personal email accounts.

Incomplete - If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").

F Grade - Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

Final Examination Schedule - The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

Withdrawal From Class - College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

Hardship Withdrawal - Instructors may assign the grade of "HW" (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

Distribution of Grades - Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and program assistants or coordinators will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BC Web site.

WHAT COURSES IN ANTHROPOLOGY ARE OFFERED AT BC?

There is a general introductory class (Survey of Anthropology) that highlights all four sub-disciplines of anthropology. BC offers in-depth courses in Anthropology which I encourage you to take: archaeology (Great Discoveries in Archaeology; Archaeology; Ancient North America; Incas & Their Ancestors; Aztecs, Mayas, & Their Ancestors), biological anthropology (Biological Anthropology; Bioanthropology with Lab; Cross-cultural Medicine; Forensic Anthropology), cultural anthropology (Food, Drink, & Culture; American Life & Culture; Cultural Anthropology; Sex, Gender, & Culture; Environment & Culture; REEL Culture; Religion & Culture) and linguistics (Language, Culture, & Society). Check BC's Course Catalogue for a full description of each course. We will also be offering several special topics courses spanning the discipline. There are no prerequisites for any of these courses, and they fulfill degree requirements. Different formats (on campus, online, hybrid) are offered. Stop by and visit the Social Science Advisor, Deanne Eschbach, in Room D110, for info.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN EARNING A CONCENTRATION IN ANTHROPOLOGY, ALONG WITH YOUR DEGREE?

In addition to earning an AAS degree, you can take 20 credits of required courses to earn a concentration in Anthropology. These four courses provide the basic foundation of Anthropology and represent the 4-field approach of American Anthropology. All are offered on campus and on-line.

- ANTH& 204 – Archaeology (5 credits of Social Science)
- ANTH 208 – Language, Culture, & Society (5 credits of Humanities or Social Science)
- ANTH& 206 – Cultural Anthropology (5 credits of Social Science)
- ANTH& 215 – Bioanthropology with Lab (6 credit of Lab Science) **or** ANTH& 205 – Biological Anthropology (5 credit of natural science)