

ANTH& 234
Comparative Religion
Fall 2008

Course Syllabus Revised 9/23/08

Sections: 5165 A and INTST 5555 A
5 Credit Hours

TIME: MW 3:00 – 5:10 p.m.

ROOM: D101

INSTRUCTOR: MARY NORTON, M.A.

mnorton@bcc.ctc.edu

Office Location: D200D

Office Phone: 425-564-4189

Office Hours: Monday, 5:15 – 6:00 p.m.

Text Required:

Scupin, R. (2008). *Religion and Culture: An Anthropological Focus*. 6th ed. Pearson: NJ.

Supplemental (but not required): *World's Religions*, by Huston Smith.

Course Description

Introduces the world's major religions. Students examine Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism in historical and cultural context. Ethnographic examples show the relationships between these major traditions and "folk" beliefs and practices. Same as INTST 234 (prev INTST 203). Either ANTH& 234 (prev ANTH 203) or INTST 234 (prev INTST 234) may be taken for credit, not both.

Learning and Assessment

Students are responsible for their own learning, and for improving their learning and self-assessment skills. Instructor feedback will focus on the strengths and weaknesses of student's work and on helping students with self-assessment and setting improvement goals for themselves. Defining, achieving, and valuing excellence is a major goal in this class.

Learning Assessment Tools

<i>Assignment/activity</i>	<i>Point value</i>
2 Quizzes @ 50 points each: (may include, but not limited to: fill in the blank, short essay answer and multiple choice)	100
6 Video Discussion Guides @ 10 points each:	60
Class Participation/Attendance/Discussion	40
Learning Team Group Presentation	100
2 Exams @ 100 points each (may include, but not limited to: multiple choice, true/false and matching questions) Final exam is not cumulative (it only covers material since the 1 st exam).	200
Total	500

Bellevue College Grade Palette

Letter	Decimal	Percentage Scale
A	4.0	96-100%
A -	3.7	90-95%
B+	3.3	87-89%
B	3.0	83-86%
B -	2.7	80-82%
C+	2.3	75-79%
C	2.0	65-74%
C -	1.7	60-64%
D+	1.3	56-59%
D	1.0	50-55%
F	0	< 50%
W	0	Official Withdrawal
HW	0	Hardship Withdrawal
I	0	Incomplete

Grade Policy

A” grades indicate “outstanding” achievement:

- A 4.0 points per credit hour
- A- 3.7 points per credit hour

The “A” student

- demonstrates consistent mastery of learning outcomes for the course;
- demonstrates ability to interpret, integrate, and apply learning outcomes beyond the context of the course through application of critical and creative thinking skills;
- completes work assignments that consistently exceed requirements and that interpret and apply objectives in new, unique, or creative ways;
- demonstrates consistent leadership in class participation activities.

“B” grades indicate “high” achievement:

- B+ 3.3 points per credit hour
- B 3.0 points per credit hour
- B- 2.7 points per credit hour

The “B” student

- demonstrates a high level of competence in learning outcomes for the course;
- demonstrates ability to interpret, integrate, and apply learning outcomes within the context of the course through application of critical and creative thinking skills;
- completes work assignments that consistently meet most requirements;
- contributes regularly to class participation activities.

“C” grades indicate “satisfactory” achievement:

- C+ 2.3 points per credit hour
- C 2.0 points per credit hour
- C- 1.7 points per credit hour

The “C” student

- demonstrates a satisfactory level of competence in learning outcomes for the course;
- demonstrates competent ability to interpret, integrate, and apply learning outcomes within the context of the course;
- completes work assignments that satisfy minimum requirements for the course;
- satisfies minimum requirements for class participation activities.

“D” grades indicate “poor” achievement:

- D+ 1.3 points per credit hour
- D 1.0 point per credit hour

The “D” student

- demonstrates minimum competence in some learning outcomes for the course;
- completes work assignments that usually meet minimum requirements;
- contributes inconsistently or infrequently to class participation activities.

“F” grades indicate “unsatisfactory” achievement:

- F 0 points per credit hour

The “F” student

- cannot demonstrate competence in many or fundamental learning outcomes;
- submits work assignments that frequently do not meet minimum requirements, or does not complete the assigned work;
- does not satisfy minimum requirements for attendance or contribution to class activities.

Students should be aware that the instructor determines whether the class will be evaluated using the “F” grade.

Official grade policy is given in the BCC Student Handbook, in print or online at <http://bellevuecollege.edu/catalog/enroll/grades.asp>. Grades **A** through **D** are passing grades in the course. The grade **W** is an official withdrawal from the course and is only given by the college, not by the instructor. If you withdraw from the course by the 10th day of the quarter there will be no indication on your transcript. If you officially withdraw after the 10th day but before the end of the 7th week, you will receive a **W** on your transcript. To officially withdraw, you must contact the Registration Office and withdraw from the course via any approved media (see the BCC course catalog, in print or at <http://www.bcc.ctc.edu/enrollment/registration/withdrawing/>).

A Hardship Withdrawal (**HW**) after the official withdrawal period is over can be given by the instructor at the discretion of the instructor in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances.

An Incomplete (**I**) grade can be given, at the instructor's discretion, to students who have achieved a grade of **C-** or better **through the 10th week** of the class but cannot complete the final exam due to extenuating circumstances. The student must demonstrate why the I grade is appropriate. Granting of the incomplete is purely the prerogative of the instructor. An **I** will be posted to the transcript when submitted by the instructor with a contractual form which specifically indicates the work the student must complete to make up the deficiency and the date by which the deficiency must be resolved. The work for the course must be made up before the end of the next quarter. If the student fails to complete the designated assignment, an **F** grade will be posted.

Withdrawal from Class

College policy states that students must **formally** withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter. If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be given for course. Withdrawal from an online course must be done officially through BCC Registration (<http://www.bcc.ctc.edu/enrollment/registration/withdrawing/>). If you simply stop appearing in class, you will still be officially registered in the class. That usually results in receiving a final grade of F in the course.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

You have the right to expect that your instructor will:

- provide a comprehensive syllabus and course calendar
- display all due dates for readings, activities, exercises, and exams
- grade or otherwise respond to all submitted materials within four days
- inform you of your current grade upon request
- answer all appropriate questions in a timely manner
- behave professionally, respecting you as an individual of intelligence and sensitivity
- be available on campus and online for advising

As students, you have the responsibility to:

- behave to all others in the class in a professional manner, being careful avoid personal attacks, harsh criticisms, and objectionable language
- keep up with the course work and submit your work in on time
- support your group members to establish a genuine learning community

Some Words on the Law, Ethics and Classroom Courtesy

Plagiarism

Plagiarism may be defined as *copying something that someone else has written, or using someone else's idea, without permission and without citing the source*. The source may be either a published article, book, Web site, **or the work of another student**. All assignments submitted must be the student's own work. Whenever you have occasion to use someone else's words, even if only a single phrase, you must

indicate this fact by quotation marks and by a citation. If you paraphrase a source, you must cite the source and page number directly after the paraphrase. Somewhere in your document (be it commentary, discussion, or an exam), usually at the bottom, you must fully document **all** the sources, giving the author's full name, the publication date, the title of the article or book, the title of the publication if it is an article, the publisher, and the full URL to the Web site if that is where you got the information. If you borrow without acknowledging a source you are plagiarizing. Please do not try to pass off someone else's work as your own!

Avoiding Plagiarism

Simple: If in doubt, cite the source (including page number where you can).

Plagiarism can be easily checked through Turnitin.com and all suspect coursework will be submitted for evaluation. Check out the [Turnitin](#). Especially, view their definition of plagiarism and information on how to avoid it at [Turnitin Resources](#). Here are a few more links, provided by BCC faculty, to help you understand what plagiarism is and [how to avoid it](#).

Penalty for Plagiarism

Students who are found to have plagiarized will receive *F* in the course, or a lesser penalty, at the instructor's discretion. Don't let something like this damage your academic career. If in doubt, cite; if still in doubt, ask.

Classroom Courtesy and Scientific Approach

To develop a learning community, we all need to be courteous and respectful of each other's work. Abrasive, abusive, sarcastic or intimidating behavior directed to anyone in the class, including the instructor, will not be tolerated.

That does not mean that you should avoid questioning and challenging each other, but I expect you to limit the subject of your agreements and disagreements to assigned subjects and to support your opinions with liberal citations from the texts and any other recommended course materials. I also expect your discussion to be courteous and constructive in tone.

If any of you feel intimidated by someone else's communications, private or public, please report it to me. I will isolate or expel anyone who persistently indulges in intimidating behavior of any kind. Anyone who has a problem with the pedagogy of this course should contact me privately -- do not attempt to create dissension in the classroom.

If you believe you may become upset by the subjects of the class please consider carefully whether you want to continue this course. Your purpose here is to learn and discuss what **anthropologists** think about humankind and cultural variation.

How to Succeed in Class:

You are required to review this syllabus and the attached Social Science Division Policy Statement. Enrollment in the course constitutes an agreement to abide by the policies set forth in these items.

1. ATTEND class. Students who come to class get a better comprehension of anthropology, a better education and better grades. There will be material covered in class that is not available elsewhere so attendance at every class is important.

2. NOTE-TAKING is an important part of college learning. Taking effective notes from lecture will enhance your understanding of the subject. Notes will highlight what the instructor has emphasized. Take notes that you can understand and use, and that are in your own words. Review your notes right after class and before the next class meeting to reinforce learning.

- 3. READ** all assigned material including the textbook. Material that is not covered in class, but is found in the reading assignments, is fair game for testing. You are responsible for your own reading and comprehension of material. Most important: read to learn!
- 4. PARTICIPATE** during discussions of course material. Be prepared for every class by reading the assignments *ahead of time*. This preparation will help you to more fully comprehend material presented in class. Constructive participation is expected and it is to your advantage. Offer to answer questions or contribute insights of your own. If you need suggestions on how to more fully participate, I will be glad to assist.
- 5. KEEP APACE OF READING ASSIGNMENTS:** This is a college course and the reading load is fast-paced. Do not get behind as this will impair your ability to fully understand the material, to participate in class, and to do well on tests. A standard ratio of 1 to 2 is usual for college courses, meaning that for every hour in class, you can expect to prepare 2 hours outside of class. *Figure in extra study time for tests*. It is helpful to make up a schedule for all of your classes so that you know on a weekly basis how heavy your workload will be.
- 6. STUDY FOR TESTS:** Students who have used study guides in the past have done significantly better than those who have not. Additionally, you may use the outline of chapter contents at the beginning of each chapter, the key concepts, and the chapter summary as guides for understanding text material. Create a learning environment at home or school where you will not be distracted, so that you can enhance your comprehension. Prepare for exams by reading textbook chapters ahead of time and reviewing class notes. Test yourself on key concepts and terminology.
- 7. APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR:** Obtain a copy of the BCC Student Handbook to familiarize yourself with policies and behaviors that are appropriate to the college environment. Lewd, abusive, disruptive, or harassing behavior will not be tolerated. Turn off all electronic devices before entering the classroom. Arrive on time when class begins. If you must leave early, let the instructor know ahead of time so that you are not disruptive to the class. The handbook is available from the Student Union Building or Student Services Building.
- 8. ABSENCE:** If you know you will be absent for in-class assignments or tests, let the instructor know well in advance. If you suddenly become ill or cannot make it to class for other reasons, call the instructor (425-564-4189) and leave a message with a phone number where you can be reached. Consideration for make-up assignments will be given only if you have informed the instructor *ahead of time* and if your request is accompanied by the proper documentation.
- 9. COMPREHENSION:** If you are not understanding course material, come and see me right away. I want you to do well in this course, but I cannot help you if I don't know you need help or want help. Student success is important, but you must be serious and actively participate in your own learning.
- 10. TUTORING:** If you are struggling with this class or any other class, there is help available on campus and on-line. You may contact the tutoring service on campus. One internet source that offers study tips (and from which some of the above information is derived) is <http://www.ablongman.com/textbooktips>.
- 11. ACCOMMODATION:** "If you need course adaptations or special accommodations because of a disability, or if you have medical information that needs to be shared with me in the event that the building needs to be evacuated, please contact me during the first week of the quarter. If you require accommodations due to a diagnosed disability, please contact the Disability Support Services office in B132. Phone: 425-564-2498 (Voice) TTY: 425-564-4110. Please let me know if I may assist you in any way; I'll be glad to help you.
- 12. COUNSELING:** If you are struggling with personal issues and need crisis intervention, please call 206-461-3222 immediately.

Class Supplies

- Course textbook
- Stapler and scissors
- Standard English Dictionary
- BCC email account
- Student handbook/class schedule/catalog

Note: Having adequate and appropriate supplies will enhance your opportunities for success. Students who are ill prepared for the standards and pace of this course will have difficulties focusing on content and assignment quality.

Classroom Protocol

- Assignments must be turned in on the assigned day! If your assignment is late, consider having a class-mate turn it in for you
- The student is responsible for collecting any missed assignments, handouts or any other classroom materials due to an absence
- Disagreements over scores must be resolved one week after the score was submitted
- Students should maintain backup copies of all submitted works
- All submitted works must be fully complete and ready to turn in (no partial works allowed for submission)
- The instructor reserves the right to modify the course schedule
- Turn off cell phones, pagers or other electronic communication devices before entering the classroom
- Disorderly, abusive, or bothersome conduct will not be tolerated in the classroom
- Moreover, disorderly or abusive behavior which interferes with the rights of others or which obstructs or disrupts teaching will result in immediate disciplinary action
- See the latest edition of the Student Handbook for additional information regarding student rights and responsibilities

E-Mail Protocol (for electronic assignment submission)

Please send only your word document and/or attachments. Do not send any assignment written as a standard e-mail document. Make sure your name also appears on the attachment itself.

Neither the institution nor the instructors are responsible for any Internet Service Providers' [ISP], (AOL, MSN, Earthlink, etc.) technological failures or mishaps.

Policies of the Social Science Division

For general Social Science Division policies and rules regarding such matters as grading, withdrawals, and incompletes click on <http://www.bcc.ctc.edu/socsci/policies.asp>.

Finally, in this is a course YOU WILL GET OUT WHAT YOU PUT IN. If you are self-motivated and put in a good effort EACH WEEK, you will learn a lot and end up with a good grade. It will be necessary to put in a steady effort. Stay on schedule. I do not accept late work. If you have any problems regarding the course please feel free to contact me in person during office hours, by phone or via email.

Other Anthropology Courses at BCC

- **Anthropology 100: Survey of Anthropology:** introduces the four subdisciplines of anthropology including cultural anthropology, linguistic anthropology, physical anthropology and archaeology.

- **Anthropology 106: Great Discoveries in Archaeology:** explores some of the most well-known archaeological discoveries from the distant and recent past.
- **Anthropology 180: *Anthropology of American Life*:** examines American culture from a social science perspective.
- **Anthropology 204: *Archaeology*:** highlights the study of the material remains of our past through scientific methods of archaeology.
- **Anthropology 205: *Physical Anthropology*:** an anthropological view of human biological variation.
- **Anthropology 206: *Cultural Anthropology*:** explores other cultures including social organization, technology and religion.
- **Anthropology 207: *Forensic Science*:** procedures of forensic anthropologists for human remains of medicolegal interest.
- **Anthropology 208: *Language, Culture, & Society*:** the study of language and its relationship to culture and society.
- **Anthropology 210: *Indians of North America*:** introduces and analyzes native contact with non-Indians.
- **Anthropology 234: *Comparative Religion*:** introduces world's major religions.
- **Special Topics & Individual Studies** options are also available.
- **Coming Soon: *Anthropology of Food, Humans: the Sexual Primates*, and *Cross-cultural Medicine*.**

I look forward to working with you this quarter.

~ *Mary*