

HPRS4005

Anthropology of Religion

Prof Bettina Schmidt

Module Information for the Academic year 2019/2020

Block 3

Lampeter campus

CONTENT OF THE MODULE

The module provides an introduction to anthropology of religion. We will explore various themes in anthropology of religion as well as discuss selected scholars. This module will incorporate lectures, seminars as well as discussion sessions and video viewings.

Credits: 20

Lecturer: Prof Bettina Schmidt, Arts Building A45, b.schmidt@uwtsd.ac.uk

AIM(S)

- To familiarise students with anthropology of religion
- To introduce students to themes and approaches of anthropology of religion

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the successful completion of this module, the student should be able to:

- Identify and discuss key themes of anthropology of religion
- Demonstrate knowledge of the main debates in anthropology of religion
- Discuss the main features of the anthropological method in studying religions

ASSESSMENT

Portfolio consisting of three parts (100%):

1. A **short assessment** in form of a blog (25%) about a textbook of anthropology of religion (e.g., Fiona Bowie, Brian Morris or Stein) to be submitted via **Turnitin on 29 November 2019 (app. 2 pages long)**.
2. **Select one of the founding fathers or mothers of anthropology of religion and prepare a poster presentations**, to be submitted via **Turnitin on 9 December 2019 and presented in class on 10 December 2019 (up to 10 minutes long)**.

The Poster presentation of your selected scholar will make 25% of the overall mark. Please include also a bibliography of used material.

3. A **critical assessment** (essay) of 2000 words (50%) of a selected topic that reflects an important debate in anthropology of religion (e.g., rite of passage, ritual, religion and identity, religion and materiality) – to be submitted via **Turnitin on 19 December 2019**.

All three parts are contributing towards ONE research project that looks at different aspects within anthropology of religion.

Please be aware that it is Faculty policy to submit all assignments via Turnitin.

With regard to word count, please notice the Academic Regulation:

If the specified word limit for an assessment has been exceeded, the following penalties apply: The penalty cannot take the work into the fail category.

- a. Up to 10% above the word limit – No deduction off final mark
- b. Between 10% and 25% above the word limit – Deduction of 5 marks off final mark (or reduce the mark to the capped mark, whichever is greater)
- c. Between 25% and 50% above the word limit – Deduction of 10 marks off final mark (or reduce the mark to the capped mark, whichever is greater)
- d. 50% or more over length – Maximum mark of capped mark

Likewise, a failure to meet the maximum word limit may result in lower marks based on the quality of the work because they may not have included the necessary information required for the assessment and met the stated learning outcomes.

Also ensure that you download all submitted work, and marker's comments, from Moodle before June 15 2020. All such material will not be available to you after you graduate or progress to the next level of study.

Syllabus: [the order of topics might change]

Block 3, room Tucker 1

Date	Title	Readings or other information
<u>Week 0</u>	Preparation: Introduction to anthropology of religion	Bowie, F., <i>The Anthropology of Religion</i> (2nd ed.) (Oxford: Blackwell 2006).

	Read one of the textbooks for anthropology of religion available in the library.	Eller, J., <i>Introducing Anthropology of Religion</i>. (New York: Routledge, 2007) Morris, B., <i>Anthropological Studies of Religion: An Introductory Text</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987). Stein, R. L. & P.L. Stein, <i>The Anthropology of Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft</i>. Fourth edition. (London: Routledge, 2017)
<u>Week 1</u>		
Mo	Welcome Quiz about reading during preparation week What is anthropology of religion?	Quiz about reading during preparation week
Tue	Everyday spirituality? What is religion?	Workshop: how to write the blog about the textbook? <u>Homework:</u> find a definition of religion relevant for anthropology of religion
Thu	Definitions of religion	Discussion about definitions (homework from Tuesday)
Fri	Free to work on assignment Submission of blog via TurnItIn	Time to write the first assignment Individual tutorials available
<u>Week 2</u>		
Mo	Doing Fieldwork in religious communities	Reading: Graham Harvey, on guesthood <u>Groupwork:</u> Discussion of the reading <u>Homework for tomorrow:</u> take a photo that represents a spiritual or religious item or event and upload it on Moodle
Tue	Material and visual dimension of religion	Discussion of photos (homework from Monday)

		Workshop: How to prepare a presentation
Thu	Time for to work on your presentation	No class
Fri	Themes of anthropology of religion: Rite of passage	Feedback about first assignment
Week 3		
Mo	Themes of anthropology of religion: Ritual Submission PPTX handout/ poster / video via TurnItIn	
Tue	PPTX presentations, Poster Presentations / video presentation	
Thu	History of anthropology of religion: Tylor and Frazer	Reading: Graham Harvey on shamans and animists <u>Groupwork:</u> Discussion of reading
Fri	History of anthropology of religion: Famous scholars in anthropology of religion: Edward E. Evans-Pritchard and Clifford Geertz	Reading: Fiona Bowie, chapter 1 from her introduction <u>Groupwork:</u> Discussion of reading Workshop on essay writing (with discussion of outline) Feedback about second assignment
Week 4		
Mo	Themes of anthropology: Migration	Reading: Paul C. Johnson, article on diaspora and religion <u>Groupwork:</u> Discussion of reading

Tue	Themes of anthropology of religion: religion and identity	Reading: Abby Day, article on religion and youth <u>Groupwork</u> : Discussion of reading
Thu	Themes of anthropology of religion: religion in the 21 st century	Submission of essay via TurnItIn (feedback will be given via TurnItIn next week)
Fri	Closing discussion	

Reading list

Essential

Bowie, F., <i>The Anthropology of Religion</i> (2nd ed.) (Oxford: Blackwell 2006).
Stein, R. L. & P.L. Stein, <i>The Anthropology of Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft</i> . Fourth edition. (London: Routledge, 2017)

Recommended

Asad, T., <i>Genealogies of Religion: Discipline and Reasons of Power in Christianity and Islam</i> (Baltimore: Hopkins, 1993), esp. pp. 1-54.
Connolly, P. (ed.), <i>Approaches to the Study of Religion</i> (London: Cassell, 1999).
Evans-Pritchard, E. E. <i>Witchcraft, Oracles and Magic among the Azande</i> . Abridged edition. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1976 [1937]).
Geertz, C., <i>Interpretation of Cultures</i> (New York: Basic Books, 1973).
Morris, B., <i>Anthropological Studies of Religion: An Introductory Text</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987).