

REL 4936/SECT 1764/ANG 6729/ T 10, R 10-11/AND013/CAP 40/GR 4

SHAMANS, SORCERERS, PRIESTS AND PROPHETS

Prof. Robin M. Wright (Off. Hrs: T 11-2, R 11-3; Anderson 107C; office phone: 392-1625; www.robinmwright.com)

Fall Semester 2010

Objectives of Course: This course proposes to examine the varieties of religious experience that come under the rubric of shamanism and shaman. Originally a Tungus (Siberian tribal people) word, shaman has been extended to include the most diverse group of specialists from midwives to prophets. The Introduction to this course (Part I) seeks to provide the student with the parameters of shamanic spiritualities, apprenticeship, relations to cosmology and actual practices. It seeks to present the principal kinds of shamans known, their similarities and differences in powers and attributes, and hypothesizes on the temporal and spiritual relations amongst them.

The following four units (Parts II-V) focus on the main shamanic functions: II. Healing ; III. assault sorcery; IV. priests; V. prophets. Each will be illustrated and discussed through readings, audio-visual material, and the Professor's own research experiences of over 35 years. Slides, films, tape recordings, CDs from that work will be used during class. In UNIT VI, "New Age shamans", the course considers several of the contemporary developments of indigenous shamanism by non-indigenous groups: the neo-shamanic movement, its roots in Western nature mysticism, and the effects of globalization on shamanic revitalization movements.

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

Adoption No. **117195** Submitted by **ROBIN WRIGHT** / phone: **3921625** / e-mail: baniwa05@ufl.edu
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Fall 2010 COURSE:	SECTION:	TITLE:	INSTRUCTOR:
REL 4936	1764	SHAMANS,PRIESTS,PROPH	Wright,Robin
REL 5937	1768	SHAMANS,PRIESTS,PROPH	Wright,Robin
ANG 6930	6729	SHAMANS/PRIESTS/PROPH	Wright,Robin
ANT 3930	7010	SHAMANS/PRIESTS/PROPH	Wright,Robin

Enrollment data for section(s) total enrollment: 0 total enrollment cap: 40 Contact person enrollment estimate: 40

Student Contact E-mail: rowright@ufl.edu

All students registered for the section(s) indicated above are required or recommended to have the following texts.

NB: A new text has been added to the list of required books:

Title: The World We Used to Live in. Remembering the Powers of the Medicine Men.

Author: Vine Deloria Jr.

Publisher: Fulcrum Publishing; Golden, Colorado, 2006

Paperback, ISBN: 13: 978-1-55591-564-3.

Available at Amazon.com new (16.95) or used (12.95).

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| Text No. 1 | Title: IN DARKNESS & SECRECY
Author: WHITEHEAD &
WRIGHT
Edition: 1
Cover: P | Publisher: DUKE

ISBN:
This text is
required. |
| Text No. 2 | Title: SHAMANISM: THE NEURAL ECOLOGY OF CONSCIOUSNESS
Author: MICHAEL WINKELMAN
Edition: 2000
Cover: P | Publisher: PRAEGER
ISBN:
This text is
recommended. |
| Text No. 3 | Title: SHAMANISM
Author: PIERS VITEBSKY

Edition: 1995
Cover: P | Publisher: UNIV OF
OKLAHOM
ISBN:
This text is
required. |
| Text No. 4 | Title: SHAMANS THROUGH TIME
Author: JEREMY NARBY &
HUXLEY
Edition: 2001
Cover: P | Publisher: PENGUIN

ISBN:
This text is
required. |
| Text No. 5 | Title: THE SHAMAN AND THE JAGUAR
Author: GERARDO REICHEL-
DOLMATOFF
Edition: 1975
Cover: P | Publisher: TEMPLE U

ISBN:
This text is
recommended. |
| Text No. 6 | Title: SHAMANISM, HISTORY AND THE STATE
Author: CAROLINE HUMPHREY
AND N THOMAS
Edition: 1994
Cover: P | Publisher: UNIVERSITY OF
M
ISBN:
This text is
recommended. |
| Text No. 7 | Title: THE WAY OF THE SHAMAN | |

Author: MICHAEL HARNER
 Edition: 1980
 Cover: P

Publisher: HARPER
 ISBN:
 This text is
 required.

Text No. 8 Title: THE WORLD OF SHAMANISM
 Author: ROGER WALSH
 Edition: 2007

Publisher: LLEWELLYN
 ISBN: This text is
 required.

Cover: P

Other, published and unpublished articles and papers will be made available to the students during the course. These may be found in the course folder in the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Religion (Anderson 107)

Course Requirements:

1. Six (6) short (3-5 pp.) reflection papers on each of the major units of the course. The six papers count for 90% of the final grade. Class participation and pop quizzes: 10% . Assistance to the Professor (making Xeroxes, tracking research items in the library, and other research tasks, or setting up a webpage for the course) will be greatly appreciated and will be considered as 'class participation' in the course.
2. Students are expected to attend all classes and complete assigned readings prior to each class meeting. Class participation does count in final grade evaluation. **Continued absence will not be tolerated**; following the third absence, 3 grade points will be taken off the final grade for each day of absence. **More than 6 absences will lead to administrative withdrawal from the course**;
3. Pop-quizzes will be administered whenever the Professor considers them necessary.

Schedule of Classes, Readings, Films and Exams:

08/24: course presentation and introduction to the readings;

08/26: **UNIT I: PARAMETERS OF SHAMANISM**

Roger Walsh, Parts I and II, pp. 3-48; York, "Shamanism – Traditional" in Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature (hereafter ERN), v.2, pp. 1532-34; Vitebsky, pp. 8-25; G. Reichel-Dolmatoff, in Narby, pp.216-222

08/31: Apprenticeship

Walsh, Part III, pp. 49-86; Pp. 81-89; 97-102.

09/02: Shamanism and Cosmology

Walsh, Part V, pp. 125-178; and Wright (ms.), Chapter 3.

09/07: Walsh, Part VI, pp. 179-236; Overing, "Shaman as 'Maker of Worlds'";

09/09: **Discussion of Readings**

 09/14: **PAPERS ON UNIT I DUE.**

UNIT II: HEALING AND PROTECTING FROM SORCERERS OR SORCERER SPIRITS

Piers Vitebsky, "Shamans and Clients", pp. 96-127; Levi-Strauss, in Narby, pp. 108-111; Kalweit, in Narby, pp. 178-83;

09/21: Knowledge and Power

R. Wright, Chapter 2 (ms.) on "The Life-Narrative of Manuel da Silva, jaguar-shaman; Ch. 5, "*Malikai iminali*", masters of knowledge and power.

J. Langdon, "Dau: Shamanic Power in Siona Religion and Medicine", in Langdon (ed.), Portals of Power, pp. 41-62;

Gerhard Baer, "The One Intoxicated by Tobacco", in Langdon (ed.), Portals of Power, pp. 79-102;

09/23: **[NO CLASS. PROFESSOR ON BUSINESS IN BRAZIL]** The Spirit-helpers and Protection from Sorcery:

John Grim, "Ojibway Shamanism", in Graham Harvey, Reader, pp. 92-102; Wright, "The Open and the Closed body": shamanic protection from sorcery attack" (ms.)

09/28: Films on: Yanomami *xabori* (shamans' powers)

09/30: In-Class Discussion of Unit II.

10/05: **PAPERS ON UNIT II DUE**

UNIT III: ASSAULT SORCERY

Introduction to In Darkness and Secrecy, Whitehead and Wright; M. Brown, "Dark Side of the Shaman", Shamans through Time, Narby & Huxley (eds.), pp. 251-256; M. Harner, "Magic Darts, Bewitching Shamans, and Curing Shamans", in Narby & Huxley, pp. 195-199;

10/07: A. & P. Skafta, "Interview with a Killing Shaman", in Narby & Huxley, pp. 234-237; Wright, Ch. 2, "The Great Suffering in Mandu's Life" (ms.)

10/12: Dark and Light Shamans in Patamuna Society: Poetics of Violence ?

Neil Whitehead, Dark Shamans (chapters to be designated), Duke: 2002.

10/14: (cont.)

Whitehead, Dark Shamans (chapters tbd)

10/19: Comparative Cases

Johannes Wilbert, "The Order of Dark Shamans among the Warao", and Buchillet, "Sorcery Beliefs, Transmission of Shamanic Knowledge,...", in Whitehead & Wright, In Darkness and Secrecy;

10/21 : Comparative Cases & Discussion of Cases

Fernando Santos-Granero, "The Enemy Within"; and Carlos Fausto, "A Blend of Blood and Tobacco". In Whitehead & Wright, In Darkness and Secrecy.

Possible film: "Uma historia de plantas e cura" (on important Baniwa political leader victim of assault sorcery and his struggles to heal)

10/26: **PAPERS ON UNIT III DUE**

UNIT IV: PRIESTS

R. Wright, "Power and Change in Native American Religions" (unpublished ms., 2009); A. Oyuela-Caycedo, "The Rise of Religious Routinization", 2001, in Staller and Currie, pp. 1-18;

10/28: Stephen Hugh-Jones, "Shamans, Prophets, Priests, and Pastors", in Thomas & Humphrey, Shamanism, History and the State, pp. 32-75; Wright, Chapter V, "Owners of Knowledge and Power in Baniwa Society";

11/02: Kogi Priests, and Their Prophecies

G. Reichel-Dolmatoff, "Kogi Priests", in P. Lyon (ed.) Native South America. Ethnology of the Least Known Continent; A. Oyuela-Caycedo, 1998 "Ideology, Temples, and Priests: Change and Continuity in House Societies in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta". In *Recent Advances in the Archaeology of the Northern Andes*. Edited by A. Oyuela Caycedo and J. Scott Raymond, Monograph 39, pp.39-53. The Institute of Archaeology, University of California, Los Angeles.

Showing of film: "Message to the Younger Brother" (and updates), on Kogi priests as caretakers of the universe system.

11/09: "Priests" and "Priestesses" of North America

Vine DeLoria, *The World We Used to Live in*. (chapters to be designated).

11/11: **VETERANS' DAY. NO CLASS.** Continue Readings in DeLoria (to be designated).

11/16: In-Class Discussion of UNIT IV.

11/18: **NO CLASS. AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION MEETINGS IN NEW ORLEANS.**

11/23: **UNIT V: THE PROPHETS**

PAPERS ON UNIT IV DUE.

Wright, "Brief History of Change in Native American Religions" (unpublished ms. In course folder); Wright, "The Wicked and the Wise Men", in Whitehead & Wright, *In Darkness and Secrecy*, pp.82-108; Hill & Wright, "Time, Narrative and Ritual..." in *Rethinking History and Myth*, J. Hill (ed.), pp. 78-105; Wright, "Exemplary Ancestors: Prophets and Warriors in Baniwa History" (ms.); selected chapters from DeLoria, *The World We Used To Live In*; Julie Cruikshank, ON Yukon prophetesses (Xerox in course folder).

11/25: **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY. NO CLASS.**

11/30: In-Class Discussion on Readings and Wrap-up of Unit.

12/02: **PAPERS ON UNIT V DUE.**

UNIT VI: NEO-SHAMANISM AND OTHER RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Michael Harner, *The Way of the Shaman*. (chapters to be designated)

Recommended Readings: Michael York, "Castaneda, Carlos" in *ERN*, v. 1, 272-3; Kocku von Stuckrad, "Harner, Michael – and the Foundation for Shamanic Studies, *ERC*, v. 1, 743-4; Kocku von Stuckrad (article on Western mysticism and New Age shamanism); Piers Vitebsky, "From Cosmology to Environmentalism: Shamanism as Local Knowledge in a Global Setting", in G.Harvey (ed.), pp. 276-298

12/07: last class. Film: "In Pursuit of the Siberian Shaman"

12/17: **PAPERS ON UNIT VII DUE (in Religion Department, Anderson 107).**

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. **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.