COURSE DESCRIPTION
Religion is one of the most unique aspects of human culture. As approached from the perspective of anthropology, the study of religion is both comparative and wide-ranging and has played a central role in the theoretical development of anthropology. In this course students will study that role as well as a wide variety of anthropological topics dealing with religion such as myth, ritual, gurus, shamans, health, and globalization. By comparing what is "religious" in many cultures, we will develop a better understanding of the relationships among human beings and religion. From the main textbook, we will study six communities from Christianity, one from Judaism, three from Buddhism, four from Islam, and many others from African and Native American religious traditions. This will be supplemented by the second book, which provides non-Western religious theories and methods based on the three ethnographies. Several guest speakers will also be invited into the class from the local DFW communities as an in-class participation-observation experience.

COURSE GOAL
To enrich the awareness and understanding of human behavior from an anthropological perspective by studying what human beings consider religious and to familiarize with the rich variety of beliefs and rituals that anthropologists study as religion. There is no prerequisite for this course.

TEXTBOOKS
Required:

Recommended:
Jain, Pankaj. Dharma and Ecology of Hindu Communities, 2016, Routledge. The book is also available as an e-book at the UNT library: http://iii.library.unt.edu/record=b4022378~S12

COURSE SCHEDULE
Week 1: The Anthropological Study of Religion pp. 1-45

Week 2: The Myth, Symbolism, and Worldview 46-85
Video: Pentecostal Congregation in West Virginia
http://iii.library.unt.edu/record=b3919682~S6
Video: Myths of East and West: http://www.ted.com/talks/devdutt_pattanaik.html

Week 3: Ritual pp. 86-139

Short Myth Paper (due September 17, 2015):

Week 4: Shamans, Priests and Prophets pp. 140-185
Video: The Sora Community http://vimeo.com/4111949
Guest Speaker: Dr. Jon Bjarnason, a Mormon leader

Thursday 9/24/2015 PAPER TOPIC DUE

Week 5: Altered States of Consciousness pp. 186-230
Video: The Fire-walking Rituals http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sM4ECmeB_4w
Video: A Balinese trance séance & Jero on Jero http://iii.library.unt.edu/record=b3840138~S6
Video: Kusum http://iii.library.unt.edu/record=b5031612~S12

Week 6: Illness, Religion, and Healing pp. 231-283
Video: Zar Cult in Sudan http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VNMDc3H2LbM
Video: Journey of Ayurveda: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vBI7dE_EyI

Week 7: Religion in a Changing World pp. 373-446 (part 1)
Video: Discrimination against Muslims: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvIDqgyK8fw

Tuesday 10/13/2015 MIDTERM EXAM

Week 8: Religion in a Changing World pp. 373-446 (part 2)
Video: Targeting Terror http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gaprxU0v5aE

Week 9: Witchcraft, Sorcery, Divination, and Magic
Video: Witch cleanser: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZ0ShX4HpWU&feature=relmfu
Video: Poison oracle by Azande: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8q9HyONL_10
Video: Baseball Ritual: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9EFd8jyM_RQ

Week 10: Death, Ancestors, Ghosts, and Souls
Video: Vodou http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kpeLdXeIbwA

Thursday 12/10/2015 RESEARCH PAPER DUE

Week 11. Anthropology of Religion of Asian Communities (The Jains and the Bishnois, Swadhyayis, and Bhils from Dharma and Ecology of Hindu Communities)
Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OX8bmlXyXro and Eco Dharma http://iii.library.unt.edu/record=b3830692~S12 OR (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53K3b3zQEfw and http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SvSvaGXSnWM)
Video: Swadhyaya http://iii.library.unt.edu/record=b3830693~S12
Video: The Spirits of Forest: http://iii.library.unt.edu/record=b3868624~S6
Video: Sacred Groves of Kerala: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4SxLOFUXH4s
Video: Green Struggles of Bhils: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uN1_oc80sHE
Video: Ahimsa (of Jains) http://iii.library.unt.edu/record=b4018694~S12

Week 12: Review Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1cGZfUmbuOg

Tuesday 12/1/2015 SHORT ECO PAPER DUE

GRADING PROCEDURE
Grades in this course will be based on one major exams, one research paper, two short papers, attendance, and class participation. Students will be notified in class of any changes in the course schedule.

Midterm Exam = 100 pts.
Research Paper = 100 pts.
Short “Myth” Paper = 25 pts.
Short “Eco” Paper = 25 pts.
Class Participation = 50 pts.

Final Grade Determination
100-90% of pt. total = A
89-80% of pt. total = B
79-70% of pt. total = C
69-60% of pt. total = D
59% and below = F

ATTENDANCE POLICY AND CLASS PARTICIPATION (50 points):
Attendance is mandatory. Students with five unexcused absences will have their final grade
lowered by one letter grade. Without a proper official document, all absences are treated as unexcused. Also, coming to the class later than ten minutes (or leaving early) will be counted as an unexcused absence.

Students are expected to come to class having completed all written, readings, and viewing assignments and should be prepared to actively participate in meaningful discussion about readings in question and/or complete a short fact-quiz (these will be occasional, but usually unannounced). Active participation may include sharing your questions and comments about the readings with the class, engaging your classmates in relevant and meaningful dialogue based on the topics/readings, and/or participating in other class activities.

Class preparation and participation is evaluated using the following criteria:

A+ (100%): Outstanding class preparation and class participation. Student meets and exceeds all criteria for "A" (described below).

A (95%): Student comes to class prepared, having read and thought about the assigned films and texts and having completed all written assignments. Student often comes with written notes, and participates actively in class. Student arrives on time, stays the full length of the class, is attentive, responds when called upon, and volunteers frequently with pertinent questions and comments.

B (85%): Student is usually prepared, sometimes with written notes, and responds when called upon. Student is attentive, participates in all activities, and volunteers with questions and comments on occasion.

C (75%): Student shows evidence of being unprepared from time to time. Due to lack of preparation, student may have some trouble responding to instructor's questions or participating in class discussion/activities. Student does not volunteer often and sometimes comes to class late/leaves early (will be marked absent).

D (65%): Student is unprepared and/or inattentive. Student never volunteers and regularly comes to class late/leaves early (will be marked absent).

F (0%): Student exhibits a lack of concern for the class, sleeps in class, or distracts his/her classmates. Student's behavior has a negative effect on the class.

Succeed at UNT:  
As a UNT student, you’ve got a lot on your plate. But you’ve also got lots of resources and plenty of people who want you to succeed. Start your college career off strong and define your future by visiting https://success.unt.edu
Other Information:
Anthropology does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's disability as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. The program provides academic adjustments and aids to individuals with disabilities in its program and activities.

Acceptable Student Behavior:
Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [www.deanofstudents.unt.edu](http://www.deanofstudents.unt.edu)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAPERS
All individual papers will have the following general components: The paper will have a title page and be typed in 12-point font using Times Roman font style. It should be double-spaced. All pages, except the title page should be numbered in the upper right and margin. Margins will be one inch all around. A title page will list the title of paper, date, course name and number, instructor, and contributing group members’ names. The page requirement does not include bibliography, notes, or reference pages. All assignments are to be uploaded on Blackboard ([http://learn.unt.edu](http://learn.unt.edu)), not as a hardcopy (nothing to print!). Please upload only MS-Word or Adobe PDF formats, not notepad or wordpad or text or html formats please!

Research Paper (due 9/24 topic approval; final paper 12/10):
Requirements: Length should be six typed pages, double spaced, and 1" margins. At least eight sources must be used and should be accurately referenced in the text of the paper. Include articles from at least two scholarly journals. Encyclopedias are not acceptable references.
TOPIC: Analyze a topic in the anthropological study of religion that is of interest to you. The instructor must approve the topic, but you may choose whatever in the field appeals to you. You may study the religion of a single culture in depth, or you may look at some aspect of religion cross-culturally. For example, you might want to explore "Religious Symbolism of the Nuer of Africa" or "Funeral Rituals in MesoAmerica" or "New Religious Movements in 20th/21st Century Americas" or "A Comparison of Magic or Witchcraft in Three Cultures" or “The Internet and the Spread of Islam.” Write a paper in which you: a) introduce your topic and the thesis you wish to defend, b) present data from your research that defends that thesis and c) draw conclusions regarding your thesis that are based on the data you presented.

Short Myth Paper (due 9/17/2015):
Research one or more of the following creation myths of different religious communities, and create your own myth (minimum two pages, double spaced): Greek Creation Myth (Gaia), Japanese Creation Myth, Vedic Creation Myths of India, Native American Myths, or Norse Myth. Create your own myth…ideally should have all the "mythical" components we discussed in the class.

Short Eco Paper (due 12/1/2015):
Summarize and compare the three religious communities that we studied in the course in terms of their ecological practices (minimum two pages, double spaced).

SETE Submission
20 points for PDF proof of your confidential SETE submission (not the actual feedback!)