

(IS) RELI 30 Paganism & Magic: Eco-Spiritualities of Enchantment

Ann Burlein
104K Heger Hall
Ann.Burlein@Hofstra.edu
516-463-7238
Office Hours T R 12:00 - 1:00 or by appointment.

Course Description:

This course will introduce you to the myth, history, and rituals of modern spiritualities oriented around nature, paganism and magic. We will pay particular attention to gender and race, as well as to the political and ecological dimensions of these modern forms of spirituality.

Required Texts:

Hutton, Ronald. *The Triumph of the Moon: A History of Modern Pagan Witchcraft* (NY: Oxford University, 1999). 0192854496 \$16.50

_____. *Pagan Religions of the Ancient British Isles*. London: Wiley-Blackwell, 1993.
0631189467 \$34

Murphy, Joseph. *Santeria: African Spirits in America* (Boston: Beacon, 1988, 1993).
0807010219 \$19.

Primary Texts (You will focus on ONE of the following):

Starhawk, *Truth or Dare: Encounters with Power, Authority, Mystery*. NY: HarperOne, 1989.
0062508164 \$14.25

Marta Moreno Vega, *The Altar of My Soul: The Living Traditions of Santeria*. One World/Ballantine, 2002. 0345421558 \$13

Assignments:

10% of your grade will come from **attendance and participation**. You are expected to 1) attend ALL classes, 2) have read and prepared ALL assignments prior to class and 3) DISCUSS relevant issues. You have two days to be absent without consequences. **On your third day of absence, you lose all benefit of the doubt when it comes to your final grade. For every absence thereafter, you lose 1/3 of a letter grade from your FINAL grade.** (This does not mean that you have two cuts. If you cut class twice in the beginning of the semester, and then become sick at the end, karma happens). When you are absent, YOU are responsible to find out from another student what went on in class and for making up the work that you missed. **MAKE FRIENDS.**

35% of your grade will come from daily reading quizzes that you will take on Blackboard. These quizzes will test content only. Their intent is to keep you from slacking off and not doing the readings. I will drop your 3 lowest grades.

15% of your grade will come from a short essay (3-5 pages) in which you analyze a ritual performance recounted in Pike or Salomonsen. Your analysis must be interdisciplinary! In addition to your reliance on 1) the anthropology of Pike or Salomonsen, you must utilize 2) history and 3) a theorist (either the psychologist Winnicott or the philosopher Foucault)

40% of your final paper will use AT LEAST TWO of our three theorists (psychologist Winnicott, philosopher Foucault, and political theorist Bennett) to analyze the force of enchantment in either Starhawk or Vega. Out of the total 40%, you will earn 15% from a 3-5 page draft. You will earn the remaining 25% (out of the total of 40%) from the final 8-10 page paper. As with your shorter essay (which was practice for this larger paper in which you analyze primary texts), your analysis of the impact and work of enchantment must be interdisciplinary (so that in addition to the two theorists you choose, you must use one other discipline, preferably history although you may use anthropology).

Grading Scale

0 -- You turned in work that was not your own. Don't let this be you!

F -- You can earn an F in two ways. Your writing was fantastic, but late. OR your writing fails to answer the questions, expresses little accurate information, and/ or is not coherent.

D -- shows effort, but the information and explanation are weak. You need to make more references to the readings.

C -- articulates **what** you think clearly. You need to engage in a more detailed and systematic way with the readings.

B -- explores **why** you think the way you do.

A -- reserved for excellence, when you use the material as a springboard for higher level thinking. You engage with other perspectives and counter-arguments. You elaborate a creative and original take on the readings and issues being discussed in class, and you articulate your thoughts in your own voice. You go beyond stating your point of view to evaluate the pros and cons of thinking the way you do.

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism is a serious ethical and professional infraction. Hofstra's policy on academic honesty reads: "The academic community assumes that work of any kind [...] is done, entirely, and without assistance, by and only for the individual(s) whose name(s) it bears." Please refer to the "[Procedure for Handling Violations of Academic Honesty by Undergraduate Students at Hofstra University](#)" for details about what constitutes plagiarism, and Hofstra's procedures for handling violations.

Disabilities Policy: If you believe you need accommodations for a disability, please contact Services for Students with Disabilities(SSD). In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, qualified individuals with disabilities will not be discriminated against in any programs, or services available at Hofstra University. Individuals with disabilities are entitled to accommodations designed to

facilitate full access to all programs and services. SSD is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations and will provide students with documented disabilities accommodation letters, as appropriate. Since accommodations may require early planning and are not retroactive, please contact SSD as soon as possible. All students are responsible for providing accommodation letters to each instructor and for discussing with him or her the specific accommodations needed and how they can be best implemented in each course.

For more information on services provided by the university and for submission of documentation, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities, 212 Memorial Hall, 516-463-7075.

This course meets the following Learning Goals in the Department of Religion:

Learning Goal 1: Students will be able to *describe* religions' historical contexts

Learning Goal 2: Students will be able to *differentiate* major theoretical approaches to the study of religion

Learning Goal 3: Students will be able to *analyze* the social implications of religion

Learning Goal 4: Students will be able to *interpret* a variety of religious texts

Many of you are taking this course to meet distribution requirements in HCLAS. This course meets the following HCLAS Learning Goals:

Goal 1. Students will demonstrate the ability to think critically and creatively.

Goal 2. Students will apply analytical reasoning across academic disciplines.

Goal 3. Students will demonstrate proficiency in written communication.

Course Schedule	
Th Jan 26	Introduction
Mythical Origins: Celts, Druids, and Other Uncertainties	
T Jan 31 (History)	Hutton, <i>Pagan Religions of Ancient British Isles</i> , chapters 1-3.
Th Feb 2 (History)	Hutton, <i>Pagan Religions of Ancient British Isles</i> , chapters 4 and 5.
T Feb 7 (History)	Hutton, <i>Pagan Religions of Ancient British Isles</i> , chapters 6-8.
Theoretical Interlude #1: Psychology	
Th Feb 9 (Psychology)	D. W. Winnicott, "Transitional Objects and Transitional Phenomena," in <i>Playing and Reality</i> , pages 1-25.
T Feb 14 (Psychology)	D. W. Winnicott, "Playing: A Theoretical Statement," in <i>Playing and Reality</i> , pages 38-52.
Mythical Presents: Modern Paganism	
Th Feb 16 (History)	Hutton, <i>Triumph of the Moon</i> , chapters 1-3.
Th Feb 23 (History)	Hutton, <i>Triumph of the Moon</i> , chapters 4-6 and 8.
T Mar 6 (History)	Hutton, <i>Triumph of the Moon</i> , chapters 10-12.
Th Mar 8 (History)	Hutton, <i>Triumph of the Moon</i> , chapters 13-15.
T Mar 13 (History)	Hutton, <i>Triumph of the Moon</i> , chapters 18-20.
Th Mar 15 (Anthropology)	Sarah Pike, "Driving into Fairie: Place Myths and Neopagan Festivals" chapter one of <i>Earthly Bodies, Magical Selves: Contemporary Pagans and the Search for Community</i> .
T Mar 20 (Anthropology)	Pike, "Serious Playing with the Self: Gender and Eroticism at the Festival Fire" chapter six of <i>Earthly Bodies, Magical Selves</i> .
Theoretical Interlude #2: Postmodern Philosophy	
Th Mar 22 (Philosophy)	Michel Foucault, <i>Hermeneutics of the Subject</i> , chapter one.
T Mar 27 (Philosophy)	Isabelle Stengers and Phillippe Pignarre, "Inheriting From Seattle," "Infernal Alternatives," "Do You Believe in Sorcery?" and "Reclaim" in <i>Capitalist Sorcery</i> (chapters 1, 4, 6 and 21).
(back to US Paganism)	
Th Mar 20	Jone Salomonsen, "The Reclaiming Community" and "Utopian and

(Anthropology)	Generic Witches” chapters 1 and 3 from <i>Enchanted Feminism</i> .
T Apr 3 (Anthropology)	Jone Salomonsen, “Holy Hermeneutics,” “Elements of Magic” and “The Spiral Dance Ritual,” chapters 4, 5 and 6 from <i>Enchanted Feminism</i> .
Black Magic: Lucumi/ Santeria	
Th Apr 5 (History)	Yvonne Chireau, <i>Black Magic: Religion and the African-American Conjuring Tradition</i> , chapters 1-3.
T Apr 17 (Anthropology)	Joseph Murphy, <i>Santeria: African Spirits in America</i> , Preface to 1988 edition plus chapters 1-5. Paper using a theorist to analyze Pike/ Salomonsen due today.
Th Apr 19 (Anthropology)	Murphy, <i>Santeria</i> , chapters 6-9.
T Apr 24 (Anthropology)	Murphy, <i>Santeria</i> , chapters 10-12.
Th Apr 26 (Primary Materials)	Marta Morena Vega, <i>From the Altar of My Soul</i> , excerpts. Drafts of final paper due today!
Theoretical Conclusions (#3): To Politics	
T May 1 (Political Theory)	Jane Bennett, <i>The Enchantment of Modern Life</i> , pages 3-13, 131-137 and 159-174.
Th May 3 (Political Theory)	Jane Bennett, <i>Vibrant Matter: A Political Ecology of Things</i> , Preface.
T May 8 (Political Theory)	Jane Bennett, “The Force of Things” chapter one from <i>Vibrant Matter</i> .

Course Bibliography

- Albanese, Catherine. *Nature Religion in America: From the Algonkian Indians to the New Age*. Chicago: University of Chicago, 1990.
- Berger, Helen. *Witchcraft and Magic: Contemporary North America*. Philadelphia: University of PA, 2006.
- _____. *Voices from the Pagan Census*. University of South Carolina, 2003.
- _____. *A Community of Witches*. University of South Carolina, 1998.
- Chireau, Yvonne. *Black Magic: Religion and the African American Conjuring Tradition*. Berkeley: University of CA, 2003.
- Clifton, Chas. *Her Hidden Children: The Rise of Wicca and Paganism in America*. Altamira, 2006.
- Davies, Owen. *Paganism: A Very Short Introduction*. NY: Oxford, 2011.

- De La Torre, Miguel. *The Beliefs and Rituals of a Growing Religion in America*. Erdmans, 2004.
- Drury, Nevill. *Stealing Fire From Heaven: The Rise of Modern Western Magic*. NY: Oxford, 2011.
- Eller, Cynthia. *Living in the Lap of the Goddess: The Feminist Spirituality Movement in America*. Boston: Beacon, 1995.
- _____. *The Myth of Matriarchal Prehistory*. Boston: Beacon, 2001.
- Ellis, Peter Beresford. *A Brief History of the Druids*. Running Press, 2002.
- Flores-Pena, Ysamur. *The Garments and Altar of Santeria: Speaking without Voice*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1994.
- Hanegraaf, Wouter. *New Age Religion and Western Culture*. Leiden: Brill, 1996.
- Hutton, Ronald. *The Triumph of the Moon: A History of Modern Pagan Witchcraft*. NY: Oxford University, 1999.
- _____. *Pagan Religions of the Ancient British Isles*. London: Wiley-Blackwell, 1993.
- _____. *Blood and Mistletoe: The History of the Druids in Britain*. New Haven: Yale University, 2001.
- Lewis, James (ed). *Magical Religions and Modern Witchcraft*. SUNY, 1996.
- Magliocco, Sabina. *Witching Culture: Folklore and Neo-Paganism in America*. Philadelphia: University of PA, 2004.
- Murphy, Joseph M. *Working the Spirit: Ceremonies of the African Diaspora*. Boston: Beacon, 1995.
- _____. *Osun Across the Waters: A Yoruba Goddess*. Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 2001.
- _____. *Santeria: African Spirits in America*. Boston: Beacon, 1993.
- Olmos, Margarite Fernandez et al (ed). *Creole Religions of the Caribbean*. NY: NYU, 2003.
- O'Hogain, Daithi. *The Sacred Isle: Pre-Christian Religions in Ireland*. Boydell Press, 1999.
- Owen, Alex. *The Place of Enchantment: British Occultism and the Culture of the Modern*. Chicago: University of Chicago, 2007.
- Pike, Sarah. *New Age and Neopagan Religions in North America*. NY: Columbia University, 2006.
- _____. *Earthly Bodies, Magical Selves: Contemporary Pagans and the Search for Community*. Berkeley: University of CA, 2001.
- Salomonsen, Jone. *Enchanted Feminism: Ritual, Gender and Divinity among the Reclaiming Witches of San Francisco*. NY: Routledge, 2002.
- Urban, Hugh. *Magia Sexualis: Sex, Magic and Liberation in Modern Western Esotericism*. Berkeley: University of CA, 2006.