CLASS TEXTBOOK: The Culture of the Sacred: Exploring the Anthropology of Religion, Michael V. Angrosino, 2004

Additional Reading Material: Excerpts from various reading sources relative to topics in completion will be assigned and/or handed out throughout the course of the semester.

This class is an INTRODUCTION to comparative religion. In this course we will examine the origins, elements and various forms of religion and/or spirituality in both small and large-scale societies. This study will include a comparative survey of the religious beliefs, myths, rituals and symbolism including magic, witchcraft & healing as practiced in selected regions of the world.

Along with lectures and student participation, activities such as class discussions, slide shows, films, reading assignments, and oral presentations will be used to enhance students’ exposure to various socio-cultural models and subcultures pertaining to the Sacred, and foster their appreciation and awareness of these different models.

OFFICIAL COURSE DESCRIPTION, COMPETENCIES & COURSE OUTLINE are available online at www.my.maricopa.edu (search catalogue).

There is no prerequisite for this 200 level course although it is recommended that students have a background in cultural anthropology and at least English Composition. Therefore, prior to signing up for this class freshmen students need to assess whether they possess the aforementioned fundamentals to successfully complete this course.

ATTENDANCE is mandatory: You must attend each class in order to successfully complete this course. Students will primarily be tested on assigned readings, notes taken during lectures, class discussions, films and other material presented in class. If you plan to be absent because of outstanding circumstances, please let me know in advance (proper official documentation will have to be provided in the event of sickness, family situations, etc.). These constitute excused absences. Conversely, repeated and unexcused absences- no more than 3-will not only impact on your final grade for the course: the instructor reserves the right to withdraw the student from the course for excessive absences.

You may also leave a message through the office or email in case of an emergency. You are responsible for obtaining from other classmates any missed lecture notes, as well as photocopying handouts from any previous session that you did not attend. (There will be
no make-up exams. **Exams can only be re-taken if proper documentation is provided such as, a doctor’s note, a funeral notice, etc.**

Students need to sign their name on the sign-up sheet given at the beginning of each session. Failure to do so will count as an absence.

Tardiness which is in itself disruptive, will not be tolerated. A 10 minute tardiness will result in a 3% deduction from the student’s overall grade. Those who are 20 minutes late should not come to class.

NOTA BENE: **Assigned readings are prerequisite** to constructive class discussion. You need to know the material before you can participate actively with an **informed opinion** in discussions and group activities.

**Important:** This is a text message free environment. **Students who text message or use other such media during class will be withdrawn from the course.**

Please remember that chatting, sleeping, eating, doing homework while attending class, answering phone call, or walking in and out of the classroom during class are not considered attentive, involved, or professional behavior, and therefore are **unacceptable. Bathroom runs will have to be taken before class. Laptops will not be allowed during lectures except for students sitting in the front rows.** Please do not make me remind you of these rules.

**STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT:**
Students are responsible for reading these policies as found in the SCC College Catalogue. All matters/ personal issues shall be handled in a professional and diplomatic manner outside of class.

**TERM PAPER AND CLASS PRESENTATION:**
Our term paper for this course will be assigned with reasonable notice. You will be given guidelines for this assignment. This essay will stand as the content from which you give your oral presentation at the end of this term. **No late work will be accepted. Please note that additional essays will be assigned throughout the course of this semester.**

**A SPECIAL NOTE ON PLAGIARISM:**
Writing or using someone else’s work needs to be acknowledged as such. Please use proper methodology when citing, paraphrasing, and/or quoting another author.

Plagiarism is heavily sanctioned on all campuses. You may read the SCC policy on plagiarism in the current campus catalogue.

**WITHDRAWAL POLICY:**
It is the student’s responsibility to withdraw from a class if, for instance, she/he has too many absences.

**Failure to do so in a timely fashion would result in earning an F mark for the course.**
PERCENTAGE BREAK DOWN OF FINAL GRADE:
Your grade for the course will be calculated on a 100% maximum score.
The break down below is only an example on how your final grade will be computed.

Attendance, participation: 20%
Midterm: 20% (week 8)
First exam: 10% (week 5)
Term paper and presentation: 20% (10% each)
Writing assignments (in class or as homework): 30%

GRADING SCALE:
100-90%       A
89-80           B
79-70           C
69-60           D
59 and below F

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS:
Some topics may require more time for class discussion than other subjects presented in
this course. Therefore, this schedule is flexible and may be altered during the course
of the term. For this reason, I will update reading assignments and exam dates according
to the initial schedule throughout this semester.
The instructor reserves the right to make additions, deletions, and modifications to the syllabus and course
requirements with reasonable written or oral notification to the students. It is the absentees’ responsibility
to know these updates.

HOMEWORK: Students are responsible for reading each assigned chapter, on
which they may be quizzed regularly throughout the course of this term, and for
turning in on time other writing assignments.

READING SCHEDULE: There are 8 Chapters in your textbook.
We typically cover 1 chapter every 2 weeks according to the nature of the topic
presented in class, and availability of films and video material relative to that subject.

Chapter 1: Overview and Basic Concepts
Chapter 2: Prehistoric Religion
Chapter 3: The Ideological Component of the Sacred
Chapter 4: The Ritual Component of the Sacred
Chapter 5: The Mythological Component of the Sacred
Chapter 6: The Ethical and Moral Components of the Sacred
Chapter 7: The Environment of the Sacred
Chapter 8: Religion in an Age of Globalization
Typically, Midterm exams are scheduled on the 8th week of class (TBA for this semester).
Final class presentations and papers are due on the 13th week of class for this particular semester.
Final exam week is scheduled on the 15th week of class for this course (17th for regular semester).
Syllabus Acknowledgement Form

Instructor: Nicolas Abramowicz

Course Title:

Section Number:

I, __________________________ understand and agree to all the items listed in this syllabus. By signing below, I agree to all the terms and conditions written in the course syllabus, especially as pertaining to attendance, punctuality, and text messaging. I understand that the instructor reserves the right to revise and modify schedules, assignments, and other items found in this syllabus with reasonable written or oral in-class notification, and I, the student, am responsible for taking notes of these modifications and I will act accordingly.

__________________________                                 _________________
(Student’s Signature )                                                       (Date)