



Prayer Meeting in Carriacou, Grenada 1971 (Canute Caliste)

RELIGION, MAGIC, AND MYTH

CRN: C 385

ANTH 211 01

Fall 2009 HIRC 6 MWF 9:00 – 9:50 AM

ATTRIBUTES: LA, AH2, and CPA

Dr. Donald R. Hill hilldr@oneonta.edu

Office: Fitz 403a Hrs: TTh 9:50-11:15 AM

(Dr. Hill communicates to students through Angel email or Angel "My Announcements." Make sure your personal, class-related emails go to Dr. Hill only and not to the whole class. It is the student's responsibility to check their Angel Announcements and email just before each class.)

FORMAT: lectures; discussion; class projects; video; audio music

TYPES OF EXAMS: essay questions (some answered as short papers), class presentation, term ids, quizzes

REQUIREMENTS:

Exam 1: F 2 Oct (25% of grade): essay(s) and identification of terms

Paper and presentation: to be arranged (33% of grade): class presentation & paper drawn from course topics + internet

Final: W 16 Dec 8:00-10:30 AM (37% of grade): essay(s) and ids based all topics covered

Quizzes (5% of grade)

READING AND LISTENING ASSIGNMENTS:

Check Angel for assignments, which focus on religious beliefs in the Atlantic region and the African Diaspora.

OUTCOMES: To understand religion as belief, as ordinary people might understand religion rather than focusing on particular religions.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE:

1. The Anthropological Study of Religion (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthropology_of_religion)
2. Anthropological Theories of Religion (Video: Faces of Culture)
3. Belief and Myth "From Coromantese to Cromanti...", "In Los Angeles, Songs Without Borders: <http://travel.nytimes.com/2009/08/16/travel/16corridos.html?pagewanted=1&8dpc>)
4. Ritual (rites of passage, "vision quests" such as Hill's Narrative & "Rastlin' Jacob'...")
5. Magic and Divination ("Magic in Tribal Societies," "Spirits of Defiance: The Mangbetu People")
6. Revitalization Movements (Video: "Mammy Water")
7. Witchcraft (classic calypso texts)
8. Souls, Ghosts, and Death ("The Big Drum Dance of Carriacou, Grenada")
9. Gods and Spirits (Yoruban cosmology and Santería, "Yo Soy Hechicero")
10. Religious Symbols (excerpts from "The DaVinci Code")
11. Conclusion
12. Final exam: Wed 16 Dec 8-1030 AM

Note: Check your email for urgent class announcements the night before and the morning of class for weather-related or other emergencies. Please arrive in class on time. Please do not leave class during the assigned period except for emergency. Exams will be given only at time assigned except for illness (no request for early exams will be allowed). Class attendance is required.

If it is necessary to evacuate the building, the class is requested to go across the Quad to the Theater in the Fine Arts building. For more important emergency procedures, please familiarize yourself with the information on this web page: <http://www.oneonta.edu/security/>