

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTFC.

Academic School/Department:	Communications, Arts and Social Sciences
Programme:	Combined Studies
FHEQ Level:	5
Course Title:	Magic, Religion & Witchcraft
Course Code:	SCL 5105
Course Leader:	Alex Seago
Student Engagement Hours:	120
Lectures:	22.5
Seminars/Tutorials:	22.5
Independent / Guided Learning :	75
Semester:	Spring
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

This course focuses on sociological and anthropological perspectives on religious practice and experience. Classical theorists Marx, Weber and Durkheim will be examined. Notions of Magic, Witchcraft and the Supernatural will be addressed in relation to Myth and Symbolism. 'New Age' spirituality will be analysed in relation to Altered States of Consciousness and Counterculture and alternative versions of 'Faith'.

Prerequisites: SCL 3100 or COM 3100

Aims and Objectives:

The aim of this course is to provide a critical overview of the main theoretical perspectives in the sociology of religion and evaluates their relevance in analyzing faith and spirituality in a emerging global society. The objective is to understand religion and spirituality in a multi-faith and increasingly globalized and mediated society.

Programme Outcomes :

A5(i); A5(ii);B5(i);B5(ii);B5(iii);C5(i);C5(ii);C5(iii);D5(ii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal.

Learning Outcomes:

- Detailed understanding of culturally diverse approaches to spirituality.
- Detailed understanding of key theoretical approaches to subject matter.
- Critical engagement with major thinkers and intellectual paradigms from an historical perspective.
- Detailed understanding of relevance of subject matter in changing contemporary multicultural contexts.
- Completes assigned work with a degree of clarity, technical competence and critical thinking, and a degree of independence and capacity for self-evaluation, appropriate for a 5000-level course

Indicative Content:

- Definitions of religion
- Major sociological approaches to religion
- Major anthropological approaches to religion
- Occultism
- Counterculture and religion
- 'New Age' spirituality

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on 28 June 2012.

Teaching Methodology: The course will combine lectures, seminar discussions, and audio-visual screenings.

Bibliography:

See syllabus for complete reading list

Indicative Text(s):

Dawson, A. *Sociology of Religion* (2011, SCM Press)

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
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