Course Objective

The purpose of this class is to understand the evolution of two uniquely human qualities: ritual and religion. We will take a highly inter-disciplinary approach using archeology, anthropology, primatology, and cognitive science to define what ritual and religion are and to explore the role they have played in making us human.

Reading Material

All reading assignments are posted on the Blackboard site for this class. Please note that there is a Study Guide for Graduate Readings available in the left-hand menu under Learning.

Lecture 1:

Lecture 2:

Graduate

Lecture 3:

Graduate

Lecture 4:

Lecture 5:

Graduate


Lecture 6:

Lecture 7:

Lecture 8:

Lecture 9:


Lecture 10:
Lecture 11:


Graduate


Lecture 12:


Graduate


Lecture 13:


Lecture 14:


Graduate


Lecture 15:


Exams

There are four multiple choice tests given during the course of the term. Test will cover the lecture and reading material for a given section. Graduate students will have extra readings marked Graduate, and their tests will incorporate those readings along with the other material. Each test covers either three or four lectures and will have between 40 and 50 questions.
Graduate tests will generally have 10 to 15 more questions taken from the extra readings for graduate students.

**Grading Policy, Criteria, and Scale**

Grades will be based on points achieved. On each test you will be accumulating points. Each test is worth as many points as there are questions. I grade on a relative scale. This means that at the end of the semester I total up the points that each student received on all four tests. The student with the top number of points receives an "A" and sets the top of the scale. I then take 93% of that top score and all other scores that are equal to or greater than that also get an "A." I then take 85% of the top score and all students who are equal to or greater than that get a "B," and so forth (78% for Cs, 70% for Ds). There is no absolute scale; it is all relative to students' performance on tests.

After each test, the each student’s score and the high score for that test will be posted on Blackboard. Write these numbers down (your score and the high score) and keep track of them throughout the semester. If you take your total score and divide it by the high total you will get a proportion which indicates where you stand relative to the rest of the class. Compare that proportion to the scale used to assign grades.

**Class Outline**

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Lecture(s)</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<td>Healing dances of the !Kung San</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>Just another hominin?</td>
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<td>What is ritual?</td>
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<td>Evolution of ritual IV</td>
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<td>Why supernaturalize? Personal health benefits</td>
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<td>Origins of the supernatural</td>
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<td>Religion, morality, and monotheism</td>
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**Extra Credit**

Extra credit is not offered in this course.
Due Dates and Deadlines
The syllabus contains the deadline for each unit and specifies the dates by which the test must be completed. For each deadline, you have until 11:59 PM on the deadline day. Remember, these are DEADLINES. You are encouraged to stay well ahead of these deadlines. The sooner you complete the work, the sooner you'll be done with the course.

You must complete each unit by the date specific in the syllabus. Once that date has passed, you can still access the material in the unit, but you can no longer take the test associated with that unit. For example, if Unit 3 must be completed by Thursday, September 16, if you don't take Test 3 by 11:59 PM on September 16, you will receive a 0 for that test.

Dr. Rossano’s Expectations of You
During completion of this course, you must abide by the UCCS Student Conduct Code. This code specifies what is considered proper and improper student conduct, including matters such as cheating and inappropriate behavior. Students who do not abide by the code can receive sanctions ranging up to expulsion from the university.

Remember that this is a 3 credit-hour course. Please plan on spending a lot of time working on just this class. This time will include reviewing lesson plans, completing online lectures, reading from your textbook, answering practice problems, verifying your work, and completing test. I suggest that you plan to spend at least 10 hours per week on average.

Of course, the amount of time spent does not guarantee you any particular grade. Your letter grade will reflect the amount of material that you learned, as reflected in your test scores and the overall quality of your contributions to the course.

I will be respectful of you as students. I will not demean you, insult you, or embarrass you. I expect that you will be respectful and civil in the discussion boards as our students. To me this means that you will not post off-topic or rude comments.

Solving Technical Difficulties
When you're having technical difficulties (pages not loading, connectivity problems, not able to view images, things not working as they should, etc.), please contact the Blackboard Helpdesk toll-free at 877.654.8309 or online at the UCCS Blackboard Support page. The Blackboard Helpdesk is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please note this service is separate from the UCCS IT Helpdesk.

Help Understanding Course Material
When you have questions regarding course policies, grading criteria, test administration, or course content, please email your professors for assistance or post your question to the Discussion Board.