

**MR 520: POPULAR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND PRACTICES (4 units)**

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**Online Facilitation by Mantae Kim, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Anthropology.**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Religious experiences that reflect religious belief proliferate into a wide range of manifestations that provide great interest to anthropologist, theologian, and missionary alike. This course seeks to enable students to appreciate these phenomena as manifestations of deeper pan-human issues that God has implanted in human beings created in His image. How each religion works out these human concerns and manifests them is a product of beliefs and values relating to human interaction with transempirical power, both personal and impersonal. Particular attention is given to the structures of beliefs and symbols, the nature of ritual and ceremony, types of religious practitioners, and the dynamics of religious movements. The course concludes with a method for providing a biblical critique of religious systems as an adjunct to ministering to the people in a culturally sensitive manner.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will have:

1. Learned how religion is a system of meaning
2. Begun to understand how people in other religious systems respond to God
3. Researched the religious beliefs and practices of people in another religion, and
4. Understood and appreciated another religion for the purpose of helping their understanding of Christianity.

**COURSE FORMAT:**

The class will be conducted on the Internet using a 10-week lesson program aligned with Fuller's academic calendar. Each week students and the instructor will interact with the text materials and readings, and have practical involvement in an unfamiliar religious context that will provide students a unique opportunity for learning. Also weekly journaling, threaded discussions, and web-based research will be required.

**REQUIRED READING:**

- Hiebert, P. G., D. Shaw & T. Tienou. *Understanding Folk Religion: A Christian Response to Popular Religiosity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1999.
- Moro, Pamela., Myers, J., & Lehmann, A. (eds). *Magic, Witchcraft and Religion*. (7<sup>th</sup> ed.) Palo Alto, CA: Mayfield Publishing Co., 2006.
- Shaw, R.D. *Course Reader*, 2001.
- Reading related to student interests as follow-up to a religious research project of the student's choice.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. Weekly Threaded Discussions (9%), Journaling (8%), Web research (3%).
2. Writing reports on field assignments in a religious context each week that will be compiled into a final research document (40%).
3. Assigned Reading report (10%).
4. Write a final project of 15 to 20 pages reflecting the course principles missiologically into your study of a particular religious context (30%).

**PREREQUISITES:** None.

**RELATIONSHIP TO CURRICULUM:** Elective.

**FINAL EXAMINATION:** None.