
Required readings not in the above books will be placed on reserve at the library. Where so indicated many (but not all) of these required readings are found in:


### I. History and Theory in the Anthropology of Religion

**Tue 1/4**

*Symbol, Myth, and Ritual: Rethinking Familiar Terms*

J. Bronowski, "Likenesses." (Essay handed out in class)

**Thur 1/6**

*Science and Religion: Tropes for "the West" and "the Rest"?*


Recommended:


**Tue 1/11**

*Perennial Debate: Rationality and Relativism*


Recommended:


**Thur 1/13**

*The Logic of Symbolic Classification: From Totemism to Structuralism*

Emile Durkheim and Marcel Mauss, *Primitive Classification*. (Whole book including Introduction, skim Chapter. 2).

Recommended:


**Tue 1/18**  
**Symbols in Action: Drama, Process, and the Emotive in Ritual**


C. Geertz, "Religion as a Cultural System." In: *The Interpretation of Cultures.* (Chapter 4, pp. 87-125).

II. Idioms of Symbolic Communication

**Thur 1/20**  
**The Structure and Function of Symbols**

First Paper Due


**Tue 1/25**  
**Plants and Animals: Humanity and Divinity in the Mirror of Nature**


Thur 1/27  Food: Incorporation, Commensality, and Exchange

Film: "Touching the Timeless" (On the Huichol Peyote Pilgrimage)


Tue 2/1  The Human Body


Thur 2/3  On Seeing (Vision/Color) and Hearing (Sound/Music)


III. The Meanings of Myth

Tues 2/8  Recurring Themes in Mythology: Creations, Floods, Heroes, & Tricksters Comparative and Psychanalytic Approaches to the Study of Myth

Film: "Joseph Campbell -- The Message of the Myth"


Recommended:

Thur 2/10 The Structural Study of Myth
Second Paper Due


Tue 2/15 Cosmology and World View: Symbolizing Time and Space


Gary Gossen, Telling Maya Tales: Tzotzil Identities in Modern Mexico, (Pp. 1-76).

Thur 2/17 Myth, Ritual, and History: The Convergence of Structure and Event

Gary Gossen, Telling Maya Tales: Tzotzil Identities in Modern Mexico, (Pp.77-187, 246-266).

Film: "Sacred Games" (The Ritual of Carnival among the Tzotzil Maya of Chamula)

IV. Ritual: Enacting the Sacred

Tue 2/22 Perspectives on the Study of Ritual


Lis Harris, Holy Days: The World of A Hasidic Family. (Pp. 9-110).

Thur 2/24 Rites of Passage


Film: “A Life Apart”

Recommended:

Tue 3/1 Sanctification of the Everyday

Guest Lecture on Lubavitcher Hasidism: Rabbi Dovid Greene (or Rabbi Shlomo Bendet)

Lis Harris, Holy Days: The World of A Hasidic Family. (Pp. 188-266).

Thur 3/3 Shamanism and Ritual Healing


Tue 3/8 Ritual as Play and Contest
Third Paper Due