Modern Shamanism: Ecstasy and Ancestors in the New Age
RELI 239

Also REES 282
Spring 2016 Tues/Thurs 10:30 am - 12 pm
Instructor: Justine Quijada
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Department of Religion, Room 209
office hours: Wed. 1 – 3 pm, Thurs. 1 – 3 pm

The wise and mysterious native shaman has long held a particular fascination for Western scholars of religion, but does this figure even exist? What does it mean to be a practicing shaman today? Beginning with Eliade's definition of “archaic ecstasy” we examine the idea of the shaman, its role in the New Age movement and the challenges faced by contemporary indigenous shamans, from Soviet anti-religious persecution to negotiating Intellectual Property Rights law.

This course fulfills either the Historical Traditions course requirement for Religion majors. It is also cross-listed as REES 282 and counts towards the social science requirement for REEES majors. Most of the readings are articles. These are available on Moodle or as a course packet.

Required Books:
All required books are available at Broad St. Books.

- Ana Mariella Baciagalupo, Shamans of the Foye Tree, University of Texas Press.
- Eliade, Shamanism, Princeton University Press 2004 (optional – we will be reading sections in the first few weeks. Many students like to have a copy of this classic text, but there are also a lot of copies around).

Assignments and Grading:
Late assignments will automatically drop one grade per day late. Please contact me as soon as possible if, for some reason you will not be able to complete the assignments over the course of the semester.

Everyone will be graded on participation in class (10%), and must make one in-class reading response (10%). For the rest of the assignments, there are two options:

Option 1: Two take home essay question exams (25% of final grade each), One in-class final exam (30% of final grade)
Option 2: One take home essay question exam (25% of final grade), 15-20 page research paper and in-class presentation (55% of final grade).

The research paper option is intended for students who have a focused interest in a specific topic relating to shamanism. The research project will be broken up into 4 separately graded assignments: a proposal with bibliography, a first draft, an in-class presentation and the final paper. If you wish to pursue the research paper option the proposal with bibliography is due on October 17, 2013. If you do not submit a proposal by this date you must complete Option 1. There will be no exceptions. I encourage you to meet with me in office hours to discuss your ideas if you are interested in option 2 as soon as possible.

In-class reading response:
(10% of course grade)
Each student will sign up to present a response for the readings for one class. They will begin the class by outlining what they think is interesting (or not) about the reading, how it relates to other readings and frame questions for discussion. This is NOT a summary of the argument. Presentation should be no more than 5 minutes and I will use a timer.

Class Participation:
(10% of course grade)
You are expected to actively contribute to class discussion. Participation is not measured by how much you say, but by how much you contribute to the collective process of learning, by listening to your classmates, asking questions and encouraging a fruitful discussion. In the interest of a productive class discussion I have the following rules:

1. NO LAPTOPS IN CLASS. Digital readers that remain flat on the table are acceptable, but we cannot have a discussion if people are hiding behind screens or checking their cell phones.

2. PLEASE REMAIN IN CLASS THROUGHOUT THE SESSION. We have only 80 minutes twice a week of each other's company. Getting up to get water, go to the restroom, etc. is disruptive, and disrespectful to your classmates. If this represents a hardship for anyone, please see me outside of class.

Students with Disabilities:

Wesleyan University is committed to ensuring that all qualified students with disabilities are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from its programs and services. To receive accommodations, a student must have a documented disability as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and
the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and provide documentation of the disability. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact Disability Resources as soon as possible.

If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact Dean Patey in Disability Resources, located in North College, Room 021, or call 860-685-5581 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations.

Class Schedule:
Please Note – Students should read the assigned reading before the class for which it is assigned, and be prepared to discuss it in class. All required books are available at Broad St. Books. All articles are available on Moodle and in a Reader available through the print shop (order through your portfolio).

Part 1 – Eliade and the “Classic Complex”

1. Thursday 1/21 Introductions and review of the syllabus

2. Tuesday 1/26 – Eliade Cosmology and Symbolism
   Eliade, Shamanism: Archaic Techniques of Ecstasy, Foreword, Chapter 1, 3, 5

3. Thursday 1/28 Eliade – The Role of the Shaman in Society
   Eliade, Shamanism: Archaic Techniques of Ecstasy, Chapter 5, 6, 7, 8

4. Tuesday 2/2 – Alternate States of Consciousness - Universalist/Functionalist Approaches

5. Thursday 2/4 ASCs - Culturally specific approaches
   2. Geertz, The Impact of the Concept of Culture on the Concept of Man, Chapter 2 in the Interpretation of Cultures. New York: Basic Books 1973
6. **Tuesday 2/9** - Healing, Power and Performance
   FIRST TAKE HOME EXAM QUESTIONS HANDED OUT

7. **Thursday 2/11** – Healing, Power, Performance
   In class viewing: “An initiation Kut for a Korean Shaman” Laurell Kendall and Diana Lee (37 min)
   Readings:
   Laurel Kendall, *Shamans, Nostalgias and the IMF* University of Hawaii Press Chapter 3
   
**Case Study – Chile - Shamans of the Foye Tree**

8. **Tuesday 2/16** –
   Ana Mariella Baciagalupo, *2007 Shamans of the Foye Tree*, University of Texas Press, Chapters 1 – 4

9. **Thursday 2/18** -
   Ana Mariella Baciagalupo, *Shamans of the Foye Tree* Chapters 5 - 6

10. **Tuesday 2/23**
    Ana Mariella Baciagalupo, *Shamans of the Foye Tree* Chapters 7 - 9

11. **Thursday 2/25** - An alternative understanding
   FIRST TAKE HOME EXAM ESSAY QUESTIONS DUE

**Part 2: The New Age**

12. **Tuesday 3/1** – Power and the Other

13. **Thursday 3/3** – The New Age – the Spark

Spring Break!

14. **Tuesday 3/22** - The Guru
15. Thursday 3/24

16. Tuesday 3/29 Native Critique of the New Age and Intellectual Property Rights
In class film: White Shamans and Plastic Medicine Men, by Terry Macy and Daniel Hart (30 min running time)
Proposals for Research Projects Due Today in CLASS – 1 page proposal and bibliography

17. Thursday 3/31 Ayahuasca patent case – Ayahuasca and Intellectual Property Rights

18. Tuesday 4/5
SECOND TAKE HOME EXAM ESSAY QUESTIONS HANDED OUT

Case Study: Shamanism in Korea

19. Thursday 4/7 –
Laurel Kendall, Shamans, Nostalgias and the IMF University of Hawaii Press 2010
Chapters Intro and Chapter 1

20. Tuesday 4/12
Laurel Kendall, Shamans, Nostalgias and the IMF University of Hawaii Press 2010
Introduction and Chapters 2 & 5

21. Thursday 4/14
Laurel Kendall, Shamans, Nostalgias and the IMF University of Hawaii Press 2010
Introduction and Chapters 6 & Conclusion

Case Study: Shamanism in Buryatia

22. Tuesday 4/19 –
SECOND TAKE HOME EXAM QUESTIONS or FIRST DRAFT OF THE RESEARCH PAPER DUE
in class viewing In Pursuit of the Siberian Shaman 72 MINUTES, Anya Bernstein dir.
23. Thursday 4/21 – “Traditional” and Soviet shamanism
Watch at home: Siberian Dream, Janet Gardner dir. Link:

24. Tuesday 4/26 –
2. Caroline Humphrey, Shamans in the City from The Unmaking of Soviet Life (Moodle/Reader)

25. Thursday 4/28 – Tourism and the New Age
2. Quijada and Stephen, 2015, “Performing ‘Culture’: Diverse Audiences at the International Shaman’s Conference and Tailgan on Olkhon Island”, for a special issue edited by Nikolay Tsyrempilov, Etudes Mongoles et siberiennes, centrasiatiques et tibetaines Issue 46

26. Thursday 5/3 – Final Wrap up and review

FINAL EXAM – WED May 11th, 9 am – 12 pm. SET YOUR ALARM CLOCKS!!!
Research projects due at the time of the final exam for those doing the research paper option.