Anthropology 121: Anthropology of Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft

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Office Hours: Before Class Tues. After Class Mon/Wed
Anthropology = the study of humankind
Four subfields of Anthropology

- Cultural Anthropology
- Archeology
- Biological Anthropology
- Applied Anthropology
What Is Anthropology?

- Study of Humanity

- However, anthropology is an integrated study of humanity

- Holism, the theory that parts of a whole are in intimate interconnection, such that they cannot exist independently of the whole, or cannot be understood without reference to the whole, which is thus regarded as greater than the sum of its parts. Holism is often applied to mental states, language, and ecology.

- Fore Example pg.6

- How do we do this??
  - Ethnography
  - Etic & Emic Views
Where do we go from here?

- What is culture?

- Who decides what is normal?
**Culture**

**Culture is learned.** You do not inherit your culture. You learn it in the culture that you are raised in.

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• **Culture is symbolic.** When you are a part of a culture you learn the meaning or various meanings of the symbols in that culture. Depending on what culture you are raised in certain symbols will be significant to you or insignificant to you.

• **Culture is shared.** Culture requires a community of people

Culture is adaptive. In that your culture tells you the acceptable way to live and survive. The culture that we are raised in informs us what animals and plants are food sources, what type of shelters to live in, and what clothing is appropriate to wear. The political and economic systems of a society are also a part of the culture that people live in.

• **Culture is integrated.** All of the different systems and institutions in the culture operate together, such as the economic and political system along with the predominant belief systems. No aspect of culture is isolated and each part affects the other parts. A change in one area of a culture often affects other areas of the culture (a change in the economic system can affect religious values and expressions.)
Assignment

• Break up into groups of 4-5 people

• Write on a sheet of paper one example for how culture is; learned, symbolic, shared, adaptive, & integrated.

• Put all the group members names on the paper.

• Turn into me at the end of class after we discuss.
Why do you think religion exists?
Struggling to define Religion

Home Work

- Read the theoretical approaches to Religion (pp. 17-21). Describe which approach you mostly relate to.
Religious Tensions Today

• Yazidi People in Iraq –
  • What do you guys think causes religious persecution?
  • Give me some other examples of religious persecution.
  • What is Ethnocentrism?
  • What is Cultural Relativism?