University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Anthropology of Religion and Supernatural Creatures: Voodoo, Shamanism, and Vampires, PG_00179113		
Field of study	Criminology		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025	Academic year of realisation of subject	2025/2026
Education level	Bachelor's studies	Subject group	
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	e-learning
Year of study	1	Language of instruction	Polish Polish
Semester of study	1	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit	Faculty of Social Sciences -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr hab. Mariusz Finkielsztein	
	Teachers	dr hab. Mariusz Finkielsztein	

Lesson types

Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
E-learning hours included: 30.0						

Learning activity and number of study hours

Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
Number of study hours	30	2.0	18.0	50

Subject objectives

The aim of the course is to familiarize students with the basic issues of the anthropology of religion using selected examples covering such topics as shamanism, voodoo, zombies, magic, secret societies, mysteries or cannibalism.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	- student knows the basic concepts of the anthropology of religion and knows how to apply them to the analysis of selected cases - student is able to move efficiently in the thematic areas related to the anthropology of religion	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written

Subject contents	Topics of individual classes: 1. Introductory classes 2. General characteristics of primitive religions 3. Myth 4. Shamanism 5. Secret societies 6. Mysteries 7 Ritual murder 8. Voodoo 9. Zombies 10. Cannibalism 11. Magic and rationality 12 Magic curses 13 Witches' Sabbath 14. Vampires 15. Werewolves
Prerequisites and co-requisites	
Assessment methods and criteria	

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
Attendance	80.0%	100.0%
Tests at the end of each class	50.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	Bowie, Antropologia religii Durkheim, Elementarne formy życia religijnego Szyjewski, Religie czarnej Afryki Eliade, Aspekty mitu Eliade, Szamanizm i archaiczne techniki ekstazy Eliade, Inicjacja, obrzędy, stowarzyszenia tajemne Davies, Wąż i tęcza Arens, Mit ludożercy Evans-Pritchard, Czary i wyrocznie u Azande Favret-Saada, Śmiercionośne słowa, zabójcze uroki Ginzburg, The Night Battles Petoia, Wampiry i wilkołaki
	Supplementary literature	no
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	How does Eliade define myth? Why should you be careful when someone gives you something? Which characteristics of pop culture vampires are not found in folklore? What do voodoo worshippers do on Saturday nights? How to create zombies and why? Is cannibalism a cultural fact or a myth?	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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