



SRS 1110 all course notes - 2021 summer term

Witchcraft, Magic and Occult Traditions (University of Ottawa)

SRS 1110 - witchcraft, magic, and occult traditions

Module 1A- terminology

- **Occult** – something that is occulted is something hidden
 - It is hidden to everyone but to the people that have a need or a reason to know what it is
 - It is hidden from the general view but is accessible to people that need to know (people who study and train to learn these secrets)
 - Knowledge doesn't have to be "voodoo" secrets
 - Ex. Labels on wrappers, some symbols may be important to others but to others they have no specific importance (COR symbol on a candy wrapper)
- **Magic** – stage entertainment (hands quicker than the eye)
 - Ex. Weather forecasting, reading your palm, magicians
 - Trickery
- **Magick** – differentiates between a power or force in the natural world that is different than stage magic
 - Unexplained phenomena, casting spells, reading the future
 - Information that is occulted (need to study to understand)
 - Understood to be very powerful
 - Ex. You can see the effects of electricity on your life, but you don't see electricity in everyday life
 - It is a force that you can feel/you are aware of, but you can't touch and grasp it
 - Doesn't have morals therefore there is no good or bad to magick
 - Ex. There's no good or bad electricity – there's no intention, it is just a force
- **Witchcraft** – the knowledge/practice of being a witch
- **Witch** – Five different categories of "witch" within the encyclopedia
 - **History** – western history talks about witches as evil doers

- Anthropology – early anthropologists labelled systems of belief that were different than theirs as witchcraft
 - Ex. “I have a religion, but those people over there who aren’t like me they are witches”
 - Religionist – self-proclaimed witch (self-identification)
 - 1950s/1960s
 - Wiccan or Pagan religion
 - Feminist witchcraft/Goddess witchcraft – Feminists tried to remove the idea of a single male god
 - Post 1960s in the United States
 - Neo-Satanist – call themselves witches for shock value
- Rituals – certain actions that are done in a certain order that have an impact of fate or an outcome
 - Do not need to be religious in nature
 - Ex. Waking up and pouring yourself a cup of coffee is ritualized but is considered to be a habit
 - Ex. Prof always puts a ring on her finger in the morning. Should she forget, she is totally convinced something bad will happen
 - Cause and effect
 - Religious rituals can be eating certain types of food that are unclean in the eyes of God, washing yourself before you pray, etc.
 - Bring you into a sacred place and space and differentiate between the everyday
 - Culture – implicit agreements between groups of people
 - We are not born knowing anything, everything is learnt from the time we are born based on the people embedded around us
 - Ex. Respect your elders, voting, abortion, euthanasia, cues, colours, and sounds
 - What is viewed as occulted, or witchcraft is not the same from culture to culture
 - Subcultures – a cultural group within a larger culture, often having beliefs or interests at variance with those of the larger culture
 - Ex. uOttawa student living on campus is part of campus culture, which is a subculture to uOttawa

culture, which is a subculture to Ottawa academic culture, which is a subculture to Ontario academic culture, which is a subculture to Canadian academic culture

- **Mythology – the study of myths**
 - Study and interpretation of often sacred tales or fables of a culture
 - **Ex. We don't allow cats near a baby because the cat will suck the breath away from the baby**
 - The narrative of the stories does not change, but the interpretation of the stories is constantly evolving
 - **Myth – a sacred origin story**
 - How the universe came to be now
 - **Ex. Christianity and the creation of the earth over 6 days and on the 7th day he rests**
 - What do the people of the religion or culture believe in and of themselves (if I am not a part of that culture, I don't have to believe it if I don't want to)
 - **Muthos – language of sacred text (doesn't have to be written down (can be oral))**
 - Written with many layers of meaning and interpretations
 - They are not simple
 - **Logos – tangible, unambiguous words**
 - No ambiguity, everyone understands what you mean
 - Can be modified to better understand the logos word
 - Logos words are exactly what they say they are
 - **Ex. Glasses**
- **Legends – don't explain how the whole universe came to exist, they are more regional**
 - **Ex. A story of how a mountain came to be and why it is named a "sleeping giant"**
 - Small teachings that may be true and authentic but are not sacred (they are explanatory)

- They explain natural phenomena (geographical change, why certain animals/plants are here, etc.)
- Folktales/Fairy tales – magical and imaginary children's stories
 - Nobody that hears them understands them to be true
 - Have a set formula
 - “Once upon a time...”, “in a land far far away...”, “...and they lived happily ever after”
 - Little teachings
- Cosmology – an explanation of the origin, evolution, and eventual fate of the universe, from a religious perspective
 - Involves the origin and evolution of the universe
 - How do we understand the world (tells us about our place within the world)?
 - It is the world view, how and why you believe the world is the way it is?
 - Ex. Are women more important than men? Are horses more important than bumblebees to humans?
 - Extracted out of the sacred text
- Axiology – the study of value
 - Includes questions about the nature and classification of values and about what kinds of things have value
 - What is wrong vs. right
 - Core values
 - Ex. Both axiology and cosmology will never agree on the topic of abortion and euthanasia as it is dependent on how you view things
 - Ex2. It is a life from the day of conception vs. it is a life after the 8th week vs. etc.
- Atheism – does not believe in any God
- Monotheism – the belief that there is only one God
 - A singular creating divine figure
 - Ex. Jews, Muslims, and Christians
 - “The peoples of the book” or “Abrahamic faith”

- **Polytheism – the belief that there is more than one God/Goddesses**
 - Will sometimes focus in on one group (territorial) or will import a religious figure from another polytheistic area
 - Can bring in other Gods/Goddesses should they recognized that they fill a whole that is missing from their Pantheon
 - Broader more flexible
 - **Ex. Romans – a massive empire that spread over many cultures and nations**
 - Recognized they were on someone else's territory should they travel somewhere else
- **Pantheism – only worship the god/goddess of their people (nation state) but know there are more out there**
 - Comes from the word Pantheon (a set or collection)
 - A subset of polytheism
 - Exclusivists (very little flexibility)
 - **Ex. Classical Greeks – doesn't matter where they went/married they only worshipped the Athenians (didn't adopt additional divine figures)**
- **Animism – accept the fact that there is spirit of a higher being within all living things**
 - Recognize and honour individual spirits
 - **Ex. Shamans**

Module 1B - terminology

- **Immanent – God is within/always with me**
 - Common in polytheism and pantheism
 - God is within the world
 - **Ex. A river named after a god/goddess and is tied to this god/goddess**
 - **Ex2. Athens, Greece is a home to the Goddess Athena (Athena lives in Athens)**
 - Gods have shown to be here on earth
- **Transcendent – location of the divine**
 - Where is God? Heaven is where?

- God is separate than the human realm
- Common in monotheism (Abrahamic faiths)
- **Liminality – state of being**
 - Transitioning from single to married, child to adult, etc.
 - **Ex. A liminal place can be described like a doorway. It is not fully inside your house, but also not fully inside it either (it's a gateway)**
 - Place of transition from public to private space
 - **Ex2. The state of being engaged is a liminal status (not single, but not religiously married)**
 - **Ex3. New Year's Eve to New Year's Day is a liminal calendar state**
 - Not quite one but not quite the other
- **Linear time – time follows a line and moves in a singular direction**
 - A beginning point to the history of the world
 - **Ex. The Old Testament (“...in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth)**
 - Follows the mytho-historical narrative (sacred narrative)
 - In the beginning these things happened ... different important events happen ... and now were at the end of time (tangible time based on the sacred text)
- **Cyclical time – there isn't a beginning and then an end**
 - Time is a massive rotating circle
 - There is a direct connection to every year
 - **Ex. Mayan calendar, traditional year**
 - The continuous cycle of time
- Historically witches (the classical witch) were women and warlocks were male
 - Warlock comes from the Anglo-Saxon language (**Waerloga**) – oath breaker
 - Witches and warlocks were viewed as evil
 - **Ex. Considered to cause cows utters to rot and would be unable to give milk**

- Accusatory word, but where did their knowledge and power come from?
 - They were “packed” with the devil (minion of the devil)
 - Pawn of Satan
- Could present as young and beautiful but could be old (by definition)
- The historical magician/wizard were males that presented as old beings
 - Ex. Merlin, Gandalf, Dumbledore, etc.
 - These people were seen to be wise and good and had access to occulted knowledge
 - Magician – comes from the 3 WISEMEN that came to visit baby Jesus (the 3 magi)
- the sorcerer could be both male or female (sorceress)
 - amoral (serve their client)
 - Ex. Is my husband going to step out on me? Have I had an evil eye cast over me?
 - Sorc – fate
 - Trying to see fate/understand the future
- Festivals – celebratory/fun days on the cyclic calendar
 - Ex. Bar mitzvah, Christmas, Diwali, Holi, etc.
 - Lots of eating of rich food (fatty food)
- Holy Days – somber occurrences
 - National time of mourning on the religious calendar
 - Ex. Easter, Lent, Yom Kippur, Ramadan, etc.
- Emic – me (what I say I am doing)
 - An action somebody does is defined by somebody and the reasoning behind it
 - The subject of me – what I say I am doing and why I do it
- Etic – it (when somebody does something it seems that I should do this)

- The external analysis of what it is all about from an outsider
- Commentary
- Taboo/tapu – something that is forbidden and shocking (Haram, treyfe (same connotations of taboo))
 - Taboos are learnt and are culturally based (not inherited knowledge)
 - Something that is forbidden in the Polynesian culture may be perfectly fine within the Canadian culture
 - Get an emotional gut reaction
 - You might offend some people but within the eyes of God they are offensive (offensive at the deepest level)
 - Unacceptable within the eyes of the divine
 - Ex. Incest can be seen as taboo within certain cultures, but in others it is seen as normal (Royal Pharaohs in ancient Egypt)

Module 1 reading - “Mythology”

- Myths are religious narratives or stories that provide basis for religious beliefs and practices
 - Tell the origins and history of the world and the creation of the first human beings
 - Prescribe rules of proper conduct and articulate the ethical and moral principles of society
- The way in which societies perceive and interpret their reality is known as their worldview
 - Provides them with an understanding of how their world works
- The Navaho are the largest native American group in the United States
 - To the Navaho nature exists and humans are a part of nature
 - See their world in terms of relationships and connections that bind the various elements that make up the world

- All the elements within the universe affect one another, existing in a state of harmony
 - Disharmony can bring forth natural disaster, illness and even death
 - Sees illness as a manifestation of disharmony and attempts to bring resolution of the illness through ritual designed to re-establish harmony
- Judeo-Christians believe that the world was created for the benefit of humankind and that humankind has the authority, the right, to exploit the natural world
 - Relationship with nature is seen in attempts to control nature
 - Ex. Dams/irrigation projects
 - Seek the observed cause and then through medical technology, proceeds to “fix it”
- People describe their world and express their worldview in stories and other creative expression
 - Provide a moral lesson
- Folktales take place in a fictional world and are meant to entertain
 - They include supernatural elements and frequently contain a moral
 - Are not sacred in anyway
 - Ex. Snow White
- Legends are seen by members of the culture as representing events that have taken place
 - Take place in the recent past and tell not only of such things as migrations, wars, heroes, and kings but also of local stories about buried treasure, ghosts, and saints.
 - May or may not include supernatural elements and may or may not be sacred
 - Ex. Atlantis, El Dorado, Robin Hood, King Arthur
 - Common in the contemporary world (urban legends)
 - Ex. Women dried her dog in the microwave, crocodiles living in New York sewers, strangers giving poisonous candy at Halloween

- **myths are sacred stories**
 - tell the origin of the world and humankind, the existence, and activities of gods and spirits, the creation of order in the universe and the nature of illness and death
 - relate origins of human traditions and articulate society's values and norms
 - tell how to behave and distinguish between good and evil
- thought to recount real events that took place in the remote past in a world different from the one we live in now
 - are believed to be relevant to modern life and are often recounted in religious rituals
- Anthropologists use the term to refer to sacred religious stories that are believed by the people who tell them to be true

<i>Folktales</i>	<i>Legends</i>	<i>Myths</i>
Regarded as fiction; not considered to be sacred; meant to entertain	Based on real people, places, or events and are considered to be factual	Regarded as fact; accepted on faith; source of authority on moral and ethical issues
Include supernatural elements, yet are secular	Include few if any supernatural elements; can be sacred or secular	Include a great many supernatural elements; are considered to be sacred
Characters are human and/or nonhuman	Characters are generally human	Characters are human and nonhuman
Exist independent of time and place	Take place in the present or recent past; in the modern world	Take place in the remote past in another world or in an earlier manifestation of today's world

▪ **Ex. The Bible stories are myths**

- In literate societies, written texts may form the basis of scholarly discourse and analysis as well as ritual
- In nonliterate societies and in many literate societies as well, texts are recited
 - They are frequently unconsciously altered with each generation
 - Different versions of the same myth can exist in different families or groups within a society

- Ex. Several versions of the Navaho creation story
 - Written myths that are transmitted from generation to generation tend to be very stable through time
 - Ex. The Qur'an
 - Many written texts have their origins in oral narratives
 - Written texts that are derived from oral narratives frequently incorporate more than one version of a particular story
 - Ex. The Old Testament (Genesis 1:1 – 2:3) has two creation stories
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Module 2A - Magician, priests, and witches in history

- Worship/supplication modality – asking or begging in a meaningful way
 - Ex. Asking for a weekend off
 - Can sometimes include offering
 - Hallmark of monotheism (sometimes in pan/polytheism)
 - Supplication is hierarchal
 - Ex. God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Pope, Cardinals, Bishop, Archbishop, Priest, community, non-human world
 - Power is invested at the top with lessening amounts of power as you move your way down
 - An entire community is involved
 - To supplicate – is to ask
 - Adoration, expression of love or fondness
 - Ex. Asking for a baby, asking for survival, etc.
 - Prayer is involved with sacrifice (Internally or externally)
 - Ex. Sacrificing sleep, money, time, an animal, etc.

- Showing you are worthy of having your prayers answered by the divine
 - If they answered it is shown to be a gift from God (you are worthy)
- Going on a pilgrimage makes you humble (humility)
- If a prayer is not answered it is not a reflection of the human's supplication, it is a resemblance that the divine knows the great plan
 - Ex. God has a plan and if he does not help me get better, then I know it is my time to go
- Magical modality – knowledge of the symbolic meaning of things and their relationship to the natural world
 - Ex. The relationship between the shape of a life and the magical world
 - Not hierarchical
 - Compelling change
 - Amoral – it's not moral but it's not immoral
 - Impersonal – no direct relationship with the divine or with a manifestation of the divine
 - Actions, words, and rituals invoke change
 - Need to have practice and years of studying
 - Things need to be done correctly, any error can cause serious rebound
 - What you do and how you do it are very important (working at a symbolic level)
 - The breath is a core axiological understanding
 - Words are needed to bring things to life, the right words in the right order
 - The ritual causes the change and changes fate
 - May cause on spirits to help whether it is cursing or blessing
 - The power lies in the execution and the manipulation of the symbols
- Paracelsus to be greater than Celsus
 - Would be employed by others
 - Either was the court mage or had to work as an itinerant doctor

- Learnt high magic from the books and folkmagic from the people he worked for
- Wrote some books that weren't published until after he died
- The doctrine of signatures – like = like
 - Ex. A leaf looks like a heart it means it has to do with the heart/love, purple-yellow plants were good at treating bruises since they are purple-yellow in colour
- Shamanic modality – a practitioner who is believed to interact with a spirit world through altered states of consciousness
 - Tungus (the word is stolen from a culture in Siberia)
 - Cultural appropriation
 - Ex. Witchdoctors
 - Shamans are also known as healers
 - Shamanic modalities are not hierarchal
 - Premise is around communication through relationship
 - All things in the natural world are equal
 - Shamanic communities don't share many of the same characteristics
 - Shamans can be male or female
 - Some may be chosen as they come from family lineages
 - Some may come from a gendered lineage
 - Some may be chosen as they have had a near death experience
 - Hallmark of small-scale societies
 - Personal relationship between the shaman and a spirit
 - Ex. A communicating relationship with a bear spirit
- Possession modality – State of not mind (puppet)
 - Hierarchal relationship between God/Goddesses and human beings
 - Willing possession is a key part of worship
 - Motions made by the possessed are thought to be controlled by a higher nobility

- Voodoo – combined elements of Roman Catholic ritual with traditional African magical and religious rites, and characterized by sorcery and spirit possession
 - The community sings and dances
 - The songs are used to open the gate between the deities and the human world and invite the spirits to possess someone
 - Spirits may possess more than one initiate
 - General community is almost never possessed
- After entering the real world from their altered state of possession, the possessed will never remember anything
 - If some crazy news is revealed no one in the community will blame that initiate as they understand the news came from the spirit and not the initiate themselves
- Possessions may last for hours on end
- Far more often found among the most disempowered people
 - Ex. The poor, Africans, etc.
- Possession is a gift and the possessed are seen as higher nobility
 - Helps move them up within the religious hierarchy
- Ancestors may sometimes possess initiates but most often they are Gods and Goddesses from Africa
- There is no linear structure from primitive to advanced society, just different forms on how humans live rather than hierarchy
 - Hunter gatherers are not primitive and urban are not modern
- Hunter-gatherers – hunt and gather for food (live off the land)
 - Small scale societies, traditional people in Australia, the amazon, and indigenous people of all sorts
 - Small since they live off the land
 - May have been forced into other forms of being due to colonization

- The smallest units are your extended family
 - Usually nomadic or semi-nomadic – moves around a lot vs. moves around seasonally
 - Don't wildly move around, there is a specific range for each family unit
 - Usually have semi-permanent summer and winter ranges
 - Close to needs of the unit
 - Can move if there is bad-weather, natural disaster, etc.
 - Move based on oral text
 - Everything needs to be portable
 - Do not have money or art
 - Utilitarian things are carved to make them beautiful forms of art
 - Direct relationship to the environment
 - Ex. Sometimes you get the bear and sometimes the bear gets you
 - No monolithic divinities
 - Ancestors are who you communicate to
 - The relationship is to the spirits of things and people in the range
 - Ex. Will call out to the deer spirits to try and feed family
 - Always acknowledge the spirits of that individual plant or animal as they have allowed you to have them
 - The world is set in cycles
 - Ex. You family will move as a berry in a range becomes ripe, you will move as a fish school migrate, etc.
 - A few times a year the extended clan in a certain area will gather in a place where matchmaking will happen, news is exchanged, extra goods are traded, as well as great games of skill
 - No hierarchy
- Agrarian-Agriculturalist – plant-based society

- Cannot just leave if they are planting crops (stationary cultures)
 - Semi-pastoral nomads
 - Starting to grow things
 - Starting to domesticate the undomesticated animals
 - People within the community will sometimes leave to hunt, but will come back when they are done
 - Ex. Going to hunt migratory fish, elk, deer, etc., but then will return to the place of settlement
 - Longhouse cultures
 - 300-500 people in a settlement
 - Not a lot of possessions
 - Boundaries are in place to protect the community
 - Starting to see specialization
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- When more people live in a larger setting with more interdependence, weather becomes the most important thing
 - If it is too hot, too cold, too dry, or too wet, the crops will fail and therefore you will not be able to feed your community
 - Ex. If the flood is not there, or if there is too much of it, then there become issues of not being able to feed your family
 - The first divinities that are recognized as intangible are the God/Goddesses of weather
 - Ex. Rain divinity, Sun divinity
 - The more extensive the agriculture gets, the more specialized the divinities become
 - More environmentally divine figures
 - Ex. The Navaho refer to male rain and female rain
 - Male rain – hard, strong, break young plants, will cause destruction (do not want in desert area)

- Ex. Heavy thunderstorms
 - Female rain – slow, steady, gentle (nurtures plants)
- Liminal time
 - Ritual calendar that focuses on the weather in the area
 - Cyclic time
- Women are worshipped in Greece since earlier divinities were female
 - More women than men are involved in agriculture
 - Divinities are responsible and specialized
- Urban – 1000-1500 people living in one area
 - Not super modern
 - Nation states go back at least 3 thousand years if not more
 - Ex. Athens, Sparta
 - Not related to each other in any shape or form
 - Locations are specialized
 - Ex. Market area, temples
 - Different types of people in these areas
 - Some specialization of religion but many people are doing their own religious ceremonies with their family or extended family
 - Hierarchical living situation
 - Have thieves, murderers, etc. more political gain
 - Results in some sort of policing
 - Building blocks of social structure
 - Ex. Kings/Queens, Dukes, Prince/Princesses, Emperors
 - Intermediaries between the divine world and the human world are after the extended family of the people in power
 - Ex. Priests, rabbis, nuns
 - These people pray on someone's behalf to the divine world
 - These people are also taught to read/write

- Different levels of luxury to starvation
- Things start to become symbolic
 - Large numbers of people do not produce things that are tradable
 - Coinage and money
 - Ex. The value of a 20\$ bill is what the society grants it to be
 - Symbols represent time and effort
- Aesculapius – the god of healing
 - Daughter Hygeia – goddess of hygiene and cleanliness
 - Below them they have service figures, then other spirits (demigods/goddesses of the underworld), and cursed spirits (die alone)
- Depending on where you are in the hierarchy, and you have extra money you can buy/trade for luxury items
 - Ex. Art, tapestries, high value animals, etc.
- Ceremonies and rituals are run for you by the church
 - Prestige is what matters most
 - Linear time frame is most important
 - Less about the cycles since they don't care about the weather
- Divine world is hierarchical and linear

Module 2B - Magician, priests, and witches in history

- Early convictions of being a witch included public humiliation
- Primarily women were put to death if they were convicted of being a witch
- Treason – an action against the state/government
 - Ex. Selling something to another government without the knowledge of the state
- Heresy – actions or beliefs that are counter to the religious institution
- During the witch trials (250 years ago) religious authority would do the capture, trial, and execution

- Churches would never kill anyone but would try to get a confession from the convicted
 - The government would take care of the execution
- Women traditionally were cunning, herbalists, or midwives throughout centuries
 - Ethno-botany
- Pagans – comes from Paganus (someone who lived in the countryside)
 - Thought to be behind the times because you lived out of the way/not in the urban setting
 - You were “backwards”
 - Christianity started the controversy due to their strong beliefs
 - Cramer and Stranger created this book on what witches were (Malleus Maleficarum)
- The burning times was from 1450-1700
 - People currently liked the Greeks and romans
 - Does not mean they believed in the stories, but they were fascinated with them
- Reformation Analysis of protestant and catholic witchcraft
 - Accused each other of using witchcraft
 - It wasn't about witches at all it was about internal stressors within Western Christianity
- The bulk of the people who were murdered for being “witches” were female
- The court took many strict records on how many people died; therefore, we really do know how many people died
 - 9 million is metaphoric not an actual amount
- If everyone believed witches were real, what put the brakes on the mass hysteria surrounding witches?
 - The scientific revolution – the scientific system is about having controlled studies with PROOF
 - Stories of witches were by word of mouth and beliefs of the church (doing the work of Satan)

- Broken telephone

Module 2 reading - “goddess”

- Main focus of ritual for most neo-Pagans
 - Primarily feminist Wiccans and Dianics
- Deity of feminist Goddess worship
- She is the earth we live on and the nature in which we as her creatures are deeply embedded
 - devotees often address her as Gaia (the ancient Greek earth goddess)
 - “The dark, nurturing mother who bring forth all life”
 - “The goddess does not rule the world, she is the world”
 - “The Goddess is female, the earth the body, and nature are her image, and the darkness as well as the light are metaphors of her power”
- She is the oldest and most widely worshiped of the Gods
- Central deity throughout ancient Europe and the Mediterranean area during the late Stone Age into the Neolithic Age
- The Goddess gave, took, and renewed life
- Warrior-nomads in 4000 B.C.E, destroyed any idea of the Goddess
- Contemporary worshippers trace the Goddess’s ancestry and many of her traits back to prehistoric periods
- The earth is sacred, and so humans should treat the earth and all her inhabitants reverentially.
- The Goddess is also sky, air, the “Queen of Heaven”
 - She is things that are felt and not seen
- The moon is one of the most important manifestations of the Goddess
- The triple Goddess
 - Waning moon – the Crone, the wise woman, she who lays out the dead
 - Full moon – the mature woman, the mother, the birther, and nurturer
 - Waxing moon – the adolescent, the maiden
- The Goddess answers to many names and shows many faces
- She offers undoubted evidence of female power
 - Affirms the female body, its life cycle, and its functions

- She signifies female power, female strength, and female beauty and she validates them all

Module 2 reading - “Reconstructing Celtic spirituality in Europe”

- Native tradition is embedded in place-names and buildings
- In some pagan traditions, nature is personified as a god or goddess
 - The ancient Greek Pan or Roman Faunus for the unruly aspects of nature
 - Greek Astraea or Themis for the intrinsic order
 - Greek Zeus, Germanic Tiwaz, and Roman Jupiter take their names from the proto-European word for “sky”
- “We look up to the same stars, one sky covers us all and the same universe surrounds us. Do the means by which a man seeks the truth really matter? There is no single road by which we may arrive at so great a mystery.”
- Every inch of Europe has reminders of the overt Pagan past throughout its landscape
- The Roman pantheon (the “temple to all the gods), is now the Christian church of St. Mary and all the Martyrs
- Monuments in Northern Europe are still used today as healing centers
- Celts and Germans threw away all the spoils of battle in fulfillment of their vows to their gods.
- Ceremonies that were once criticized by early Christian bishops for being Pagan continue to this day
 - Lithuania – foretelling the future by dropping hot wax into cold water on New Year’s Eve and interpreting the resulting shapes
 - Ireland – the heroic dead and the Lord of the Underworld no longer live in the turf barrows, but their modern equivalents do
 - Nuts – eating nuts on Christmas still happens but no longer in honor of Saturn (Roman God of plenty)
- Modern Pagans wisely reconstitute pre-existing traditions into a form acceptable for the present day

Module 2 reading - “the ritual year”

- As people developed cultures and civilizations, they continued to celebrate the changing year
 - How the year was divided depended on where you lived
- Local folkways influenced the dates and practices of holidays and celebrations
- **Esbat - Time for magical work**
 - Timed to the phases of the moon (full and dark moon being most common)
 - **Waxing moon – growing**
 - **Waning moon – believed to have great influence on magical working (need to diminish during waning moon)**
 - After the ordinary circle is cast, the coven members will often use a circle dance or chant to raise a cone of power
 - Ritual feast of ale and cakes closes the work and grounds the member before the circle is banished and the members are dismissed
- **Sabbat - The gathering of a Witches' coven and the celebration of one of the major seasonal rituals**
 - The circle is cast, and a god or goddess, or gods, are either invoked for the general congregation or embodied in the person of some designated leader
 - A seasonal activity takes place
 - Often a mystery play is performed to enact the theology of the season
 - Rituals reflect the belief of the coven
 - Folk practices may be incorporated into the Sabbat activities
 - **Ex. Burning of a corn dolly or the prancing of a hobby horse or dragon**
 - Sabbat has a celebratory nature and is therefore more elaborate and often more exuberant
- **Midwinter/Yule - Midwinter celebrations are the best known and most elaborate of all the Sabbats**
 - Yule and New Year are both seasons for divination
 - Time for feasting and generosity
 - Customs of “misrule”, disguise and opposites mark the season

- A decorated Christmas tree may have originated to hold sacrificed gifts to the gods or local spirits, but it also represents the thin veil between the wild woods and the civilized home
 - Burning a Yule log tamed the woods and brought the comfort of the sun indoors
- In modern Pagan practice, the season is celebrated according to the beliefs of the local group
 - Two gods are recognized – time for the growing light of the Oak King to supplant the dark of the Holly King.
 - King of the underworld has ruled since the beginning of the winter – people celebrate the birth of the new child who will become the consort of the Goddess and new king
 - Only one Goddess reigns – time for the Crone to throw off her rags and remerge as the maiden
- Brigid/Candlemas/Imbolg - Cross-quarter day is the halfway mark between the winter solstice and the vernal equinox (February 2)
 - Rome – time for purification and spring house cleaning as well as the feast of Lupercalia (fertility feast)
- Purification day of the Virgin Mary marking the forty-day ritual period after the birth of a child, and the church festival of Candlemas
- Many covens make a bride's bed
 - A basket in which is placed an equal-armed straw cross or dolly, and on which is placed a wand or stick to represent the spring mating of the Goddess and God.
- Candles are blessed in both church and coven to assure the light for the coming year
- Imbolg is a time when the first lambs are born, the first milk comes from the ewes, but it is not yet a time to plant
- Vernal Equinox/Ostara - The vernal equinox festival is held on or around March 21

- Spring hosts a variety of seasonal events where many of them have been migrated between Imbolg and Ostara
 - Ex. Shrove Tuesday
- Breads in the shape of animals are eaten by talisman to ensure the birth of healthy lambs, calves, and piglets
- Decorated eggs are rolled on the ground for fertility
- Bounds of farms are swept three times around with brooms for protection
- Volos, the herdsman, and Veles, the lord of the underworld, rule this festival
- Ostara is named after a Teutonic fertility goddess who is associated with hares
- Vernal equinox celebrates both the aspect of the rising of the young God with the first planting and young shoots, and his bond with the Lady, the verdant Goddess of spring who is the fertile earth
- A time for perfect balance
- Beltane/May Day - Beltane marks the ritual beginning of summer (Celtic calendar – ½ new year's days)
 - Magic makes this a good time for divination, especially in foretelling marriages
 - Young couples would jump fires for luck, while cattle were driven between fires for protection and fertility
 - Procession of the hobby horses is one of the most famous May Day rituals
- Midsummer/Litha - Occurs on the summer solstice on or around June 21
 - Rolling a flaming wheel down a hill are some of the oldest summer rituals from France in the 14th century and throughout the Middle Ages
 - Many May Day or Beltane rituals are also celebrated at midsummer
 - Mainly because the farther one travels North in Europe, the later the planting and ripening of the crops, and the later of the ritual beginning of summer

- In Eastern and western Europe midsummer was a choice time to gather medicinal herbs
- Lammas/Lughnassad - Held on August 1 and commemorates the first harvest
 - Named after the Celtic sun or tribal god Lugh
- Harvest/Mabon - Autumnal equinox, on or about September 21, marks the grain harvest for most of Europe
 - Personification of the crop is expressed that some things must die so that others may live
 - Life is renewable
 - Slavic custom
 - Last sheaf was decorated and kept in the farmhouse
 - British Isles
 - Last sheaf was called the Old Woman, the Witch, and the Maiden
 - Was treated with great ceremony
 - Could be considered so potent that it was immediately fed to the breeding stock to bring them fertility in the next year
 - Hebrides
 - Last sheaf was left uncut, as it was believed to contain a grain spirit who would be offended
 - Southern Scotland
 - The last sheaf was cut by throwing the sickles backward, so that the reaper didn't have to face the sheaf and its spirit
 - In modern urbanized Wicca the year-round availability of food has lessened the importance of getting in the harvest
 - Holiday now centers on the pending departure of the grain god to the Otherworld, and the Goddess's approaching delivery of the new god, and her Cronehood
- Samhain/Hallowe'en/All Hallow's Eve - The eve of November, October 31, maintains many of its Pagan characteristics and rituals
 - Samhain is the second of two Celtic new years

- Time when the veil between the worlds has grown thinnest and faery folk and ghosts walk among the living
- Considered to be a witch's holiday, and the intrusion of the Otherworld brings knowledge through divination and the ghosts of the dead
- Fires are lit to protect against the dark Otherworldly creatures
 - Ex. Jack-o'-lanterns
- Food was laid out on the doorstep to feed any passing witch or ghost
- Last of the harvest

Module 2 reading - "burning times"

- Between the 12th and the 18th centuries
- Some suppose that the witch hunts were a systematic effort on the part of the Catholic Church to eradicate the remaining vestiges of Pagan Goddess religion and its veneration of the land
 - Others presume that a wave of misogynist frenzy swept through Europe at this time, and that society was overcome by the need to frighten, intimidate, and disempower women.
- Malleus Maleficarum of 1486 – church documents such as the 1484 bull of Pope Innocent VIII
- 1829 Novel Histoire de l'inquisition en France – 400 women were executed every week
 - 15,000 executions were recorded during this time
 - 1580-1630s
- people estimate that there were around 40-60 thousand executions where 75% of them were women
- When the trials were being held by the state the death tolls began to rise
- Living in a disputed border area was far more likely to put a person in danger of being tried (especially being executed) as a witch than any other factor (including gender)
- Herbal healers, midwives, and other practitioners of benign magic were more likely to be accusers than accused

- Practitioners of beneficial magic (“cunning folk”) from the presumably imaginary practitioners of malign magi and heretical diabolism (“witches”)

Module 2 reading - “mystery religion”

- Secret initiatory religion organized around ritual enactment of a myth
- Sometimes enhanced by rigours trials such as fasting, flogging and surprise on beholding sacred objects use of hallucinogens
- Eleusinian Mysteries
 - They enacted the myth of the two goddesses, Demeter, a grain goddess, and Persephone, her daughter, who became queen of the underworld after her abduction by Hades
- The mysteries of Dionysus
 - Originated in Greece, but had their greatest popularity in Rome
 - This religion also had public processions and festivals, and offered both sexual pleasure in life and salvation in the afterlife
- The mysteries of Isis and Osiris (or later Isis and Serapis)
 - Greco-Roman adaptation of this Egyptian legend
- Christianity most successful mystery religion
 - Appealed to the needs of the individual that the civic religion did not
 - Addressed the mysteries of life and death and included elements of both devotion and emotion
- Gardnerians and Alexandrians – believe to be heirs of the mystery religion

Module 2 reading - “witch”

- The word witch has several possible meanings with very different concepts
- Anthropology – a witch is a sorcerer found in the folklore of societies across the globe
 - Ex. Witch doctors are now called shamans

- The traditional anthropological definition of a witch usually included the assumption of evil intent on the part of the practitioner
- History – during the time of the witch hunts (Burning times), many individuals were labeled “witches” by their neighbours and/or enemies, and were tried by the Inquisition or civil courts as a result
 - Continued into the 21st century that any allegation of “being a witch” can get one ostracized, have one’s children removed, or even killed
 - Images of witches are usually drawn from both historical texts and pop culture
 - Ex. Wicked witch of the West in the Wizard of Oz
- Politics – during the 1960s and 1970s in North America, various political movements emerged using *witch* as a term for a Wild Women Free of the male hierarchy’s expectations
 - Ex. W.I.T.C.H. (women’s international terrorist conspiracy from Hell) and W.I.C.C.A. (Women in constant, creative action)
 - Philosophies were exclusively political and social rather than religious
- Neo-Pagans – many participants in the neo-Pagan movement refer to themselves as witches and/or Wiccans
 - Claim for themselves the heritage of the folk healers and midwives of history whom they claim were accused of being witches by the Inquisition
 - Many will avoid the term witch when discussing their spiritual beliefs with outsiders due to the emotional baggage associated with it
- Satanists – many members of neo-Satanic organizations including the church of Satan will use the term witch to describe themselves

Module 2 reading - “Protestant witchcraft, Catholic Witchcraft”

- The eschatological view that witchcraft flourished because the world was in a state of terminal decline was common among French catholic authors

- Protestants simply did not have some of the doctrinal commitments that, like the belief in purgatory and the invocation of saints, gave ancillary encouragement to spirit activity
 - Protestants' views about witchcraft rested on narrower foundations than did those of the Catholics
- The things that defined witchcraft were things that went against the first commandment ("thou shalt have no other gods before me")
- Protestants and Catholics were jointly attempting to Christianise the average westerner and abolish magic
- The discussion of purely spiritual remedies offered by Protestantism not only defend the efficacy of faith, the word, prayer, and fasting, but vigils are turned into denunciations of catholic idolatry superstition
- To avoid effects of sorcery you needed to attend mass on Sundays and feast in the church
- Calling each other witches helped religious enemies to vent their anger and hatred, but it also identified what it was that was so offensive about enemy faiths
- Perkin's discourse by pointing out miracles associated with saints and their relics were "but mere Satanical wonders, that Catholic exorcisms were 'mere enchantments'"
 - The sign of the cross "carrieth the very nature of a Charme, and the use of it I this manner, a practise of enchantment"
 - Association of Catholicism with the Antichrist
- The Catholics returned the accusation by raising those same questions and argued that church militant Simon Magus was associated with magic
 - The things protestants denied in Catholicism were the things subverted by witches and saints

Module 2 film - "the burning times"

- Witch as a healer or strong women
 - Often people see witches as evil
 - Confuse "witch" with Satanist
 - Renaissance witch craze
- Women's power was associated with darkness and death

- Taught to fear the witch but still drawn to her power
- Hat symbolizes knowledge while the cauldron symbolizes life and the magical power of women
- Halloween was a time to remember the ancestors
- The word “witchcraft” has been used to dismiss many cultural traditions
- The society of the Alaiho – Europeans called them Heathens and were persecuted as witches
 - Still called witch doctors
 - Folk doctors of Peru
 - 400 years ago, they would’ve been burned to death for being witches
- Mexican healing witch – doctors are beginning to re-examine these techniques
 - Rely on Christian faith to perform cures
- Witch comes from the Anglo-Saxon word Wick – bend or shape consciousness (bend or shape events in your life)
- Neo-Pagans believe they are returning to a pre-Christian tradition that honours women and nature
- Christianisation of Europe resulted in the loss of millions of lives
- The church of Rome set up the inquisition to enforce its will
 - People who criticized the church were charged with heresy and were executed
- The witch hunts began and 85% of those killed were women
 - The “women’s holocaust”
 - Huge numbers of people that were burned/killed due to the inquisition
- The witch craze involved the destructions of a way of life that had existed for thousands of years
- Many traditions were targeted as witchcraft
 - Most pagan people live on a particular part of the land with certain traditions, rituals, and celebrations that were important to life
 - Ex. Help the crops grow, helped animals come in, etc.
 - Traditions based on action, celebration, and customs

- Churches were built over Pagan shrines
 - Goddesses were turned to saints
 - Pagans demanded that Mary be recognized as a Goddess
 - Queen of heaven, mother of the world, mother of God
- Formal catholic religion vs. ordinary people (the religion of spirits)
- Joan of Arc led the French to victory in war
 - Was condemned to be a witch by the same church that elevated her to sainthood
 - Joan of arc was goddess like
 - Heard voices that would lead her to battle and gave her authority greater than the church
 - This wasn't acceptable as she was a female and would show that people do not need the church as a system of authority
- The inquisition announced that no one did more harm than midwives
 - Any women that cured without studying was claimed to be a witch
 - Women were barred from universities and therefore practiced under fear for their lives
- The burning times were there to repress women's control of their bodies
- Gathering in groups was seen as a plot against men
 - Men were urged to beat women
- Guilt and sin were now a part of every Christian live
 - Sexuality had become the root of all evil
 - Women were the obstacle to all male holiness
- During the black plague many turned to the village wise women for help and comfort
 - Women began to outlive men
 - Some believe that women were more immune to disease at the time
 - Because of the excessive numbers of women to men many didn't marry, and they became very dependent on charity for survival

- Those who were seen as old during time of war and disease were claimed to be witches
-

Module 3 - secret societies, lodges, and WWII

- Until the scientific revolution the division between astrology and astronomy was unclear
 - God left messages within the sky for people to follow
- Kabbalah is an esoteric method, discipline, and school of thought in Jewish mysticism
 - The Zohar is a foundational work in the literature of Jewish mystical thought known as kabbalah
 - Analyzes the creation of the universe
 - Understood to be very powerful knowledge in its occulted form
 - Need to be male, over 40, and have already had children to study kabbalah
- Gematria helps to determine if there are secret message within the bible
 - The bible code plays with some of these concepts
 - Many people use a letter/number relationship to find the key to the universe
- Try to understand Gods tools
- Many of these organizational lodges have become very powerful today and influenced the free Mason era
 - Knowledge is only for initiates
 - Sacred knowledge
- Low Magic – folk magic, ethno-botany, charms, simple spells
- High magic – relies heavily on metaphor, language, and symbol sets
 - Paracelsus wrote about correspondences – the law of similarity
 - Ex. Doctrine of signatures

- Look at the natural world and determine what God encoded into the natural world
- The law of similarity – like produces like
 - Ex. the Romans would place amethysts (dark purple) or garnets (rich red) in their wine cellars as it was believed that stones had a magical ability to bring down the level of alcohol induced drunkenness as their colour is like the colour of the wine
- The law of contagion – suggests that once two people or objects have been in contact a magical link persists between them
 - A formal cleansing must break the material bond
 - Ex. voodoo dolls
- Men began to study magic within lodges
 - Ex. Fraternal orders
- The order of woodcraft – scouting-like movement operating in the United Kingdom
 - Founded in 1916
 - Taught “manly” values
 - Didn’t survive very well as Seton didn’t want boys involved to help during WWII
 - Baton Powell discovered the boy scouts, which helped during WWII
- Occult lodges had affiliate groups for women around the 1940s
- Occult lodges studied many different things
 - Alchemy – form of speculative thought
 - Sought to discover cures for diseases and a way of extending life
 - Trying to change the total nature of one thing to another thing
 - transmutation
 - What did God know that allowed him to create everything in the world?
 - If we can decode that thing then maybe, we can be as powerful as God

Module 3 reading - “divination”

- Divination – to foretell, predict
 - Techniques for obtaining information about things unknown including events that will occur in the future
- Used to manipulate the supernatural world to provide information
- Different methods aimed at determining the will of the Gods or the Goddesses
- Art of seeing the future or disclosing hidden meanings of present or past events
- Can be performed with or without aids
 - Ex. Magical dreams, reading signs of nature, interpreting random toss of sticks or stones, flickering of flame, pattern of oil cauldron of water
- Not all divination was done in secret or by witches
 - Practiced at sacred sites and in temples in the form of dreams
 - Ex. Christian era – in shrines/temples
 - Ex. Ancient Greece – Delphi – priestess in trance brought question by priest and would make prediction that priests would have to interpret
 - Ex. Rome – no major events without auguries being read
 - Disemboweling animal and looking at its entrails for signs and portents
- Like looking at horoscopes and bibliomancy/tarot cards
- Often associated with Dark Arts
- Divination is once again being used to disclose hidden knowledge that may guide people’s lives at a conscious or subconscious level
- Astrology – science of the stars
 - 12 zodiac signs that relates to personality and use of astrology for divinatory purposes
 - Works via two methods
 - Study of stars as a natural science – astrological influences in terms of forces that are radiated by the planets

- Spiritual or occult dimension of the study of planetary influences – correlations between celestial and mundane spheres result from a prearranged harmony that is built into the structure of cosmos
 - Magic = art of influencing events by occult means
 - Astrology provides insight into occult forces playing on the Earth at any given time
 - Electional astrology used by magicians to determine best times for performing rituals
 - Relationship exists between planets and hours of day and day of week
 - Amulets used as charms are constructed during days and hours in symbolic harmony with the task the amulet is intended to perform using materials ruled by the relevant planet
- Geomancy – 2 different kinds of divination: An earth magic and Numerological system
 - Modern geomancy is a theory of sacred places that are power centers and the energy lines that connect to such places (ley lines)
 - Lines of power, can track UFO activity
 - Includes feng shui
 - Originally, geomancy was a divination technique developed in the Arabic World in the Middle Ages involving random casting of sand and interpretation of the patterns created according to a given chart

- **Palmistry – refers to the art of divination based on palm reading**
 - Each zodiac signs corresponds to a particular digit and various parts of the palm are named after planets
 - A palmist can read a person's character, life expectancy and destiny through the shape, size and lines of hand and digits
- **Scrying – any kind of divination in which the seer looks into an object to see hidden knowledge**
 - Some claim they see pictures, like looking at a movie, while other say the object helps them clear their minds of conscious thought and allow unconscious thoughts or knowledge of higher planes to drift through
 - Crystal ball with light shining on surface
 - It can be done in water, in a black or silver bowl, or in a cauldron or by looking into a fire
 - Depends on helping a see attain an altered state of consciousness by entering a trance
- **Runes – alphabets devised in Northern Europe by the Nordic peoples**
 - Classical authors note they were used for divination but provide no details thus contemporary authors have developed systems on their own
- **Tarot – Medieval deck of cards from which modern playing cards are thought to have evolved**
 - They constitute the basis of a divinatory method that is especially popular among contemporary neo-pagans
 - Deck has 2 parts
 - 4 suits of fourteen cards called Minor Arcana (from which modern deck was created)
 - Combined Knight and Page card to make Jack

- 22 other cards called Major Arcana
 - Used Fool card to make Joker
- Diagnose a person's current situation in terms of overall spiritual growth (not fortune telling)
 - Traditional occult system = reading and interpreting tarot cards

Module 3 reading - "Kabbalah"

- Play with languages and search for hidden meanings
- Kabbalah comes from Hebrew origins and is a 12th century medieval Jewish mysticism
 - Asks how God put everything together
- The 17th century was when it was first adapted by Christianity
 - Similar to alchemy it searches for the key
- It was studied by married men who were middle-aged, mature, and Jewish
- The colour red diverts the evil eye
 - Ex. A red ribbon would be tied to the crib of a baby to fend off any evil
- In resurrecting something, the person would have accomplished what a God could do
 - Ex. golems are un-dead corpses that have been resurrected
- It is the morphing of a non-animate to an animate – returning or bringing life to things that never lived
- System of an esoteric (secretive) philosophy developed by Jewish mystics in the 12th century (may have roots in Babylonian magic)
- Based on a concept drawing called Tree of Life – a cosmological model composed of ten sephirah or positions which represent various manifestations of life
- Tree has spots on its branches from Crown at the top, through various qualities such as strength and mercy to the Ground at the base and describes the infusion of divinity in all things
- Pagan and Wiccan traditions have used Tree by expanding it to include Pagan deities and philosophical principles

- Use Tree to gain occult knowledge

Module 3 reading - “Aleister Crowley”

- Powerful magician, poet, prophet, occultist (not a neo-Pagan)
- Most controversial and misunderstood personality in realm of magic and witchcraft
- Born in 1875 in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire
 - Brought up in narrow minded religious atmosphere in which he rebelled
- 1898 he joined the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn
- Had a natural aptitude for magic and advanced quickly through the ranks of the order
- Travelled in the East studying Eastern occult systems and tantric yoga
- He and his wife took part in a magical ritual during which he claims he received message from the gods
- Because of this communication, he wrote Liber Legis, the Book of Law
- “Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law. Love is the Law, Love under Will”
 - based his life and teachings upon this
- 1912 – became involved in the Order of the Temple of the Orient (German occult order practicing magic)
- 1920 – moved to Sicily and established notorious Abbey of Thelema at Cefalu

Module 3 reading - “Left-and-Right hand paths”

- Left-Hand = indulgence
 - Left-hand path is associated with selfishness, cursing, hedonism, and evil
 - Left hand emphasizes deliberate and conscious violation of social norms, involves inversion of ideas and practices common to the culture that takes place as an attempt to reframe the meaning of and the relationships among the self, divine, morality and reality
 - Associated with overindulgence, pushing your limits, selfishness

- Some left-hand paths teach that to understand all things (including good and evil), one must experience them, at least on an emotional level
- Hyper-focus on yourself and those close to you
- Indulges in drugs/sex
- Inversion of the practices of society and cultural norms
- Not common in mainstream religions
- **Right-Hand = don't do this, don't do that**
 - Right hand path is associated to altruism, healing magic, asceticism, and goodness
 - Right hand emphasizes changing or following social norms
 - Right hand paths place divinity outside self and seek to serve it while left hand paths place divine within it and seek to become divine or realize it within themselves
 - Submissive to the word of God
 - Outlines for how you should live and works towards the social good
 - Associated with healing magic, selflessness, and goodness
 - Stresses moderation
 - Emphasizes changing the social norm
 - **Ex. Abrahamic faiths**

Module 3 reading - "Occult precursors to modern wicca"

- Philosophical Concepts
 - **Reincarnation and karma – the concept of reincarnation has been part of Western thought for millennia.**
 - The purpose of incarnation was to "learn" specific lessons.
 - Karma is the ongoing "game of learning" which ties to the thought of reincarnation
 - **Levels of reality – this concept was incorporated in Christianity.**
 - This concept is best describe as taking the position that there are multiple spiritual worlds, each with its own natural laws and inhabitants.

- Magic – Western magic was inaccessible to the average person.
 - The magic that was available was that of the kitchen witch, which led to a strong split between high magic (associated with the educated and the wealthy) and low magic (commoners).
- Immanence of Deity – derives most directly from the protestant concept of universal priesthood and the broader Gnostic concept of the individual soul as a manifestation of God.
- Discarnate teachers – reception of a special magical language from a purely spiritual source
- Symbol systems
 - Britano-Celtic mythography – The primary symbol of the modern Wicca was primarily influenced by the works of Margaret Murray as well as Charles Leland.
 - Britano-Celtic mythography, as a symbol system, was finally harmonized and, to a large extent, formalized in the works of Janet Farrar and Stewart Farrar
 - It has since become the core mythographic system for Alexandrian and Gardnerian groups and many of their derivatives
 - Kabbalah – originally a Jewish mystical system that derived from the Merkabah rider of the first century
 - Kabbalistic symbology was incorporated into the Golden Dawn right at the start of the movement, as Westernized/Christianised forms of it were used extensively by Dion Fortune.
 - Provides a “map” of the territory of the soul that resonates with many Western core symbols
 - Has traceable lineages and a vast body of literature that provides both legitimation and explanation
 - Can incorporate any specific mythology within it, thereby making the symbolic structure quite “portable” between mythographic systems

- Alchemy – central high magical tradition in Western Europe.
 - Fortune tied alchemy into the kabbalah as the psychological process that operates within the symbolic structure.
- Western mystery tradition – refers to a collection of symbolic technologies that derive from the Golden Dawn via the works of Dion Fortune.
 - One of the major forms of high magic operating today
 - Much of what they have produced are portable technologies rather than systems of belief
- Structures
 - Coven structures – derives from two main sources, the Britano-Celtic mythography of Margaret Murray and the structure of Masonic lodges
 - The basic social structures of modern Wicca are those of Masonry – not a surprising fact given Gardner’s connections with the movement
 - Circle structures – many characteristics of circle structures derive from Masonic practice
- Modern Wicca is best defined as a syncretistic movement that has many precursors, none of which are absolute
- Certain core characteristics are primarily attitudinal rather than dogmatic or doctrinal
 - “If it works, we’ll use it” type of attitude is reinforced both by the philosophical concepts and in the adoption of portable symbolic technologies

Module 3 reading - “order of the temple of the orient”

- The OTO is the best known Thelemic organization in the world
- Was founded near the turn of the last century by Carl Kellner and Theodor Reuss, originally as a Masonic Order of ceremonial magicians
- Initiates were describes as being heirs to the wisdom and knowledge of the Rosicrucian, the Illuminati, the Templars,

the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, and the Ecclesia Gnostica Catholica

- Aleister Crowley was admitted to the first three degrees of the OTO in 1910
 - He became the outer head of the order in 1922 where the OTO then became a fully Thelemic order
- The OTO arrived in North America in 1915 with the establishment of the first Agape Lodge in Canada
 - During WW2 communication between the European OTO and the American OTO
- In 1955 Kenneth Grant was expelled from the OTO after a dispute between himself and Karl Germer who had taken and held the position of OHO
 - Grant went on to start his own Typhonian OTO which was primarily concerned with opening gateways and making contacts with entities “outside of normal time and space” often using ecstatic sexual magic
- The OTO functions as an educational organization, an initiatory magical order, and a church through its religious arm, the Ecclesia Gnostica Catholica

Module 3 reading - “Thelema”

- It is a Law called: Do as Thou Wilt Shall Be the Whole of the Law
- It's referred to as the Law of Thelema – Greek word for “will”
- Number 93 is numerologically identical to the Greek word Thelema
- Thelemites believe the Law has always been in effect like the Law of Gravity, but no one had decided to start a religious movement based on it before
- Aleister Crowley started this after communication with spiritual entity he named Aiwaz
- Thelema = philosophy and religion
 - As philosophy
 - Do your will, an individual's true will is what they came here to do in this lifetime
 - Must do a lot of magical and physiological self-examination to determine true will

- Most important magical work is ritual to gain knowledge and conversation of one's Holy Guardian Angel
- HGA is personal godhead and constant throughout multiple incarnations in the material world
- To do one's will, one may have to do things one does not actively want to do
- Doing not being
- Love is supposed to be subject to will
- Every Thelemite is divine
- Religion
 - Deepest roots in ancient Egyptian and Greek teachings
 - Use astrology, alchemy, tarot, gematria, Kabbalah
 - It is a left-hand path with aspects of inverted and heretical Christianity

Module 3 reading - "OTO and HOGD"

- HOGD – Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn
 - Dedicated to the continued preservation of hermeticism (western esoteric tradition)
 - Rooted in the hermetic and Rosicrucian traditions that teach and practice the triad of spirituality disciplines known as the Trivium Hermeticum
 - Theurgy (magic), astrology and alchemy
 - Founded in London in 1888 by William Wynn Westcott, S.L. MacGregor Mathers, and R. Woodman
 - Started by two medical doctors – one was an MD, and the other was a coroner
 - Both were involved in the Occult after the witch burning period
 - Both discovered a manuscript in a bookshop
 - This book contained symbols and codes, and a letter welcoming them to the HOGD
 - The HOGD practiced high ceremonial magic and was very codified and orderly

- **OTO - Order of the Temple of the Orient**
 - Founded in Germany around 1904
 - Found inspiration in the medieval Knights Templar
 - Practiced illicit sex
 - Sodomy – anal or oral sex between people
 - Bestiality - sexual activity between a person and a non-human animal
 - Seems to have originated out of a masonic group founded by Karl Keller and Theodor Reuss
 - Mention that the order possessed the key of all hermetic and Masonic Secrets
 - Ex. Sex magic
 - Aleister Crowley was invited to join the OTO and became the outer head of the order for England
 - A system of ten degrees which progress upward through degrees admitting the member to more of the inner teachings
 - First six degrees taught a general occult system that prepared them for the introduction of the sexual magic present in the 7th, 8th, and 9th degrees
 - 10th degree was administrative
 - 11th degree was introduced by Crowley and was based upon his homoerotic predilections
 - Secret materials of the OTO were published in the 1970 and revealed a system of sexual magic based on the use of sex to accomplish goals in magic
 - Crowley's system is different than the mystical sexual practices of tantric yoga
 - Crowley became the outer head of the order where the OTO became his major means of spreading his magical philosophy that was rejected by many German members

Module 3 reading - “Gematria and Numerology”

100	ק	10	י	1	א
200	כ	20	כ, כ	2	ב
300	ש	30	ל	3	ג
400	ת	40	ד, נ	4	ד
		50	ה, ו	5	ה
		60	ו	6	ו
		70	ז	7	ז
		80	ח, ט	8	ח
		90	ט, י	9	ט

- Form of Jewish numerical/alphabetic manipulation going back to the 12th century
- Romans and early Jews did not have a system of calculating volume or amount separate from their lettering system
 - Ex. Arabic numbers (1, 2, 3, etc.) came from the Arab world. These digits only stand for things such as how many cows someone owns, or how old a person is
 - These numbers are read and written right to left
- Gematria is a Jewish form of numerology in which the letters of the Hebrew alphabet are substituted with corresponding numbers
 - The first 10 letters are given number values that increase from 1 to 10
 - The next 8 letters are given number values that increase by a factor of ten from 20 to 90
 - The final four letters are given number values that increase by a factor of 100 from 100 to 400
- Gematria is often used as an alternative to Arabic Numerals when recording numbers
- Gematria can also be used as a form of bibliomancy to obtain a more spiritual understanding of Biblical texts
- Kabbalistic cosmological system rests on the belief that God created the universe through the power of Hebrew letters along with their numerical values
 - The many names of God and their permutations in Kabbalah have numerical values that are believed to contain potent power

Module 3 Reading – “Nazi Hippies – when the new age and far right overlap”

- Germany's two largest astrological organizations endorsed the Nazi party
- The Nazi's backed an organization called the Society for Scientific Pendulum Research
 - Dowisers were forced by the SS to stand “with their arms stretched out across the nautical charts” just in case the pendulum made the slightest movement

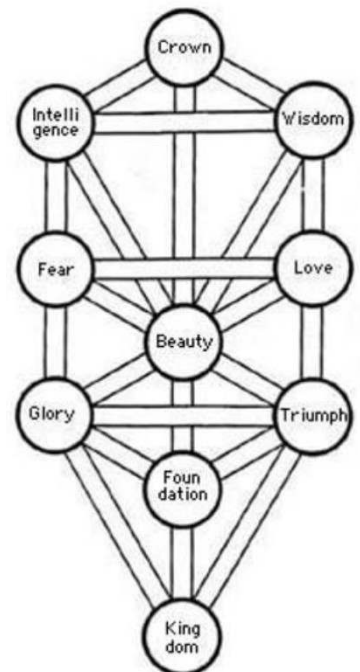
- Many Nazis were into alternative medicine, organic/vegetarian diets, homeopathy, anti-vaxxing and natural healing
- The Nazis were fascinated with the idea of holism
 - Quest for wholeness led the Nazis to pass a legislation to protect forests and rivers and moved to ban experiments on animals
- The weak and sick specimens should be killed, and superior breeds (Aryan race) should be protected against invasive species (Jews)
- Promoted forms of nature-mysticism and nature worship, as well as championing pre-Christian pagan rites like solstice festivals
- The Nazi Government sponsored research into the use of mind-altering drugs to improve soldier performance
- Many Nazis were influenced by variants of theosophy – put forward a spiritual theory of evolution in which humans' spiritual progress is guided by “hidden masters” via successive races
- Numerous Germans compared Hitler to a magician, a hypnotist, a medicine man who casts a spell on his listeners in his rally speeches
 - His followers attributed occult powers to Hitler of insight, prophecy, and infallibility

Module 3 film - “Robert Spano on Kabbalah numerology”

- 12th century Spain was extremely fertile for Jewish kabbalah
- The kingdom is married to the source

Module 3 film - “Nazi: Occult Conspiracy”

- The Nazis wanted to build a sinister New World Order led by a so-called race of Aryan supermen.



- Many believe the Nazis conjured strange spirits and followed occult practices that had lain dormant in Europe for thousands of years
 - Now documents prove that their beliefs were based on a perversion of ancient pagan law.
- In the 1930s, the Nazis began searching the top of the world for evidence of ancient high priests who they believed were their blood ancestors.
 - The Nazi belief in these ancestors was to form the foundation of Germany's new religion
 - Ex. A religion with Adolf Hitler as its high priest
 - A belief was that Aryan blood was being contaminated by so-called "inferior races".
 - Once they were destroyed, a new race of Aryan supermen would rule the world – This was the Nazi interpretation of ancient myths and occult lore dating back thousands of years
- The Nazis would borrow any belief from any religion and myth that they could adapt to the Aryan cause.
- Hitler needed to eliminate competing religions
 - To achieve absolute control, he not only used the power of myth, but co-opted Christian ritual
 - His inner circle who had strong ties to the occult, would help him to accomplish this goal.
- At the foundation of this new religion was an ancient occult legend that tells the story of a continent somewhere in the north Atlantic.
 - There lived a race of super-beings who'd fallen from grace through evil and vice. A great flood wiped these beings off the face of the earth, but before they could all be destroyed, certain priests escaped by boat eventually finding their way to India and the high peaks of Tibet. These escaped priests, believed by mystics to be the original race of Aryan godmen, were said to be the ancestors of all Indian and European people. The land was called Atlantis.

- Some German mystics claimed the Atlantis myth was actual history and believed that Aryans were the chosen people descended from the super-beings of Atlantis.
 - They believe they had lost their powers by mating with mortals.
- Reichsfuhrer SS Heinrich Himmler, an extreme nationalist, made it his mission to prove that the Germanic peoples were the descendants of the Atlantic master race.
 - Government funded expeditions under Himmler's direction were sent to Tibet searching for evidence of their ancestors.
 - In 1946, in a post-war interrogation by the US Army, the SS scientist who led one of the Tibetan expeditions described his first meeting with Himmler.
 - "Himmler mentioned his belief that the Nordic race did not evolve but came directly down from heaven to settle on the Atlantic continent and that ancient immigrants from Atlantis had founded a great civilization in central Asia."
- Nazis in Tibet would search for "Aryan physical traits", narrow foreheads, long limbs, and angular features.
- The Nazis began killing people and using their bodies for experiments
 - They believed that once they had proven that their ancestors were gods it would be simple to recreate this race of Aryan godmen through selective breeding.
- Hitler proclaimed, "Humanity accomplishes a step-up every 700 years and the aim is the coming of the sons of God. All creative forces will be concentrated in a new species. It will be infinitely superior to modern man."
- For breeding, Himmler's SS only recruited young men who were tall, blond, and blue-eyed. They had to be well educated and only from families of pure Aryan heritage.
- In 1935, Himmler created the SS Lebensraum, "Fountain of Life," Program.
 - Lebensraum was designed to facilitate the birth, housing and raising of as many pure Aryan babies as possible.

- Women were thought to have only one function, to breed the children who's offspring the Nazi party believed would become gods.
 - An estimated 11,000 Lebensraum babies were bred between 1935 and 1945
 - Most of these children never knew their parents.
- The SS weekly newspaper declared: "Only when the number of cradles constantly exceeds the number of coffins, can we look forward with good cheer to a better future."
 - The babies of the Lebensraum immediately became property of the state.
 - During the war, children with Aryan appearance were abducted from conquered nations and sent to Lebensraum homes in Germany.
 - Nazi records indicate that 200,000 Polish babies alone were kidnapped and placed in Lebensraum homes where they received careful training in every aspect of Nazi culture and mythology.
- After serving with distinction in the First World War, Hitler was stationed in Munich where it was his job to infiltrate left-wing organizations for the army.
 - He infiltrated an organization that was a back-room political club called "The German Workers Party."
 - The party turned out to be extremely right-wing
 - Hitler joined and eventually became leader of the organization.
- With racist philosopher, Alfred Rosenberg, Hess was a supporter of one of the more prominent groups, the "Thule Society," which actively sought a Germanic messiah and was dedicated to the revival of the so-called "Aryan master race."
 - Members practiced astrology, sun worship and other occult sciences thinking that this would help them reach their goal
 - Their emblem was a dagger set against a curved swastika

- In 1920, Hitler's party officially changed its name to the German National Socialist Worker's Party, the NSDAP or as it would soon become known, the Nazi Party.
- Immensely popular at the time, the journal preached that the Nordic or Aryan races had much to fear from people darker than themselves and targeted Jews as the most threatening.
 - The Ostara claimed that the Jews were preventing the Aryans from taking their rightful place as rulers of the world, an eternal struggle dating back to Biblical times
 - Headlines read, "Are you blond? Then you are in danger. You should therefore read Ostara. Publications for blonds and the male rights movement."
- Rosenberg preached that the blood of the people carried the soul of the race.
- Nordic myth replaced the Christian Bible as the foundation of the new Nazi religion.
 - Rosenberg wrote: "Today a new mythos is dawning, the mythos of the blood, the belief that the godly essence is to be defended through the blood."
 - Hitler took Rosenberg's idea further when he wrote: "The old beliefs will be brought back to honor again. The whole secret knowledge of nature, of the divine, the demonic. We will wash off the Christian veneer and bring out a religion peculiar to our race."
- As a symbol for the new religion, Hitler chose the swastika.
 - From earliest times, it was the symbol of good luck in China, and to this day it remains a religious emblem in the Hindu and Buddhist faiths.
 - Among the Norseman the swastika was a reminder of the Arctic sun worshiped throughout pagan lore as a bearer of life and good fortune
 - For Hitler, the swastika held a different meaning
 - He wrote: "In the swastika we see the mission of the struggle for the victory of the Aryan man."

- Hitler's bid for power began on November 9, 1923, with an attempted overthrow of the Bavarian government.
- Hitler brashly announced the formation of a new government, then took to the streets, marching 3,000 Storm Troopers through Munich.
 - They were confronted by police; shots were fired and 16 of Hitler's men were killed
 - It was a failed coup, but in the ten years before Hitler seized power, the 16 would become martyrs.
- Nazi blood attained a sacred symbolic power, ritualized, and sanctified in the ceremony known as "The Rite of the Blood Flag."
 - The Blood Flag was the crucifix of Hitler's religion.
 - In 1933, Hitler succeeded in becoming the Fuhrer – "the leader."
 - Propaganda Minister Goebbels orchestrated a ritual in which the 16 Nazi heroes were honored as martyrs of the Reich; the dead were resurrected then achieved eternal life.
 - The first martyrs of the Reich became known as the "Sixteen Immortals."
 - In Munich, the ritual began with a funeral march down the very streets where the "Immortals" fell.
 - The bodies of the 16 heroes were interred in a building known as the Feldenhalle or "Temple of Honor"
- In 1933, the party took over all Germany's youth organizations
 - For girls, the compulsory organization was the League of German Maids where they were taught self-sacrifice, to marry young and that their bodies belonged to the nation.

- Ten-year-old boys became members of the Organization of Young German People.
 - At 14, they joined the Hitler Youth and at 18, the Nazi Party.
 - At each stage they were taught the Nazi creed of sacred blood rituals, racial superiority, and total allegiance to Hitler, even to the death.
- Hitler stated: "I want to see again in the eyes of youth, the gleam of the beast of prey."
- Forced sterilization laws were enacted, even Aryans were investigated for hereditary diseases
 - Ailments ranging from tuberculosis and epilepsy to alcoholism and depression were cause for automatic sterilization
 - Over 400,000 Germans suffered this fate
 - Children with health problems were registered at birth
 - If their problems persisted, Nazi doctors would secretly administer lethal injections, telling their parents they died of natural causes
- By 1935, Hitler had created the blood laws which made it a criminal act for a pure German to marry or even have sex with a Jew.
 - German Jews were stripped of their rights as citizens.
 - Hitler wrote: "The greatest and most ruthless decisions will have to be made. A barbaric measure for the unfortunate who is struck by it, but a blessing for his fellow man and posterity. The passing pain of a century can and will redeem millenniums from sufferings."
- The military offered the Fuhrer a deal: their full support if Hitler would eliminate the SA
 - Hitler accepted and with Himmler rid the Party of the Storm Troopers in one night.
 - The SA leadership was rounded up and executed. It is reported some were still shouting "Heil, Hitler" when they died

- Himmler was born a Catholic, but by the time he met Hitler, he was already a confirmed occultist.
 - Historians now say that Himmler was convinced that he was the reincarnation of King Heinrich, a German leader from the Middle Ages who stopped the Slavs from invading Germany.
- As the Nazis prepared to march on Eastern Europe, Himmler believed he was on the path to realizing his karmic destiny, that his SS had returned to the Fatherland to fight a similar holy war.
- Like the Teutonic Knights, Himmler transformed a series of ancient castles into SS training schools that were both military and religious centers.
- Himmler tried to create a replica of the Grail Chapel from the Arthurian legend
 - A mystical chalice, the grail was said to have contained sacred blood
 - To Himmler, the sacred blood of the grail legend was pure Aryan blood. His closest advisor on grail law was archeologist Otto Rahn.
 - Rahn believed it was hidden in the caves of southern France.
 - Rahn's expeditions also took place in Germany
 - A letter on file from Rahn to SS headquarters, suggests that he believed he was close to realizing his life-long dream.
 - "To bring my work to a successful conclusion, I must personally inspect the sites. First, I must go to the Wildenberg ruins, the German castle of the holy grail. There are currently digs under way. Heil, Hitler.
 - In 1939, Otto Rahn mysteriously resigned from the SS
 - Many believed Himmler issued orders to have Rahn killed once it was clear his quest for the grail had failed. Two

months later, he was found dead in the Austrian Alps.

- While Himmler suppressed certain occultists, he also advanced the careers of others, such as Karl Villigut.
 - Villigut believed he was a direct descendant of the Norse god, Thor.
- One document entitled the "Nine Commandments of God" was signed by Villigut and initialed by Himmler
 - Written in both modern German and the runic alphabet
 - According to Nordic legend, the runic alphabet used by Villigut was given to mankind by Odin, the supreme god in Norse mythology
 - This sacred alphabet was his gift to mankind.
- In a speech given to SS officers stationed at Dachau, Himmler stated: "Never forget. We are a knightly order from which one cannot withdraw, to which one is recruited by blood, and within which one remains body and soul."
- The marriage ceremony also became an SS ritual
 - Mimicking ancient Germanic tribes, SS officers took on the role of the clan leader who presided over marriages.
- The Nazi year was marked with celebrations taken from the ancient Germanic calendar
 - Ex. The May-Pole Festival, initially accepted as a celebration of fertility, was transformed into a show of nationalism and military strength. Hitler said: "And so it is that this day the first of May, the land is filled with celebrations of the resurrection of the German people out of eternal inner strife."
- Nazis even began to restore ancient pagan temples like EXTERN-SCHTEIN which was dedicated to a solar deity.
- As the Nazi frenzy swept Germany, Hitler made clear what he expected from the nation
 - "The Party is the selecting ground for German political leaders. Its doctrine will be unchangeable. Its

organizations will be as hard as steel. It's total image, however, will be like a holy order."

- From the onset of the war in 1939, country after country fell to the Nazis.
- By the winter of 1942, however, the tide turned, and the Nazis began to experience what they thought was impossible defeat
- Over maps of the North Atlantic, clairvoyants would swing an object suspended from a string attempting to locate the position of allied convoys
 - German U-boat missions were dispatched based on the results
 - In this letter written by Himmler dated January 12, 1943, he refers to dousing research and training having made great progress during the year
- To interpret the French prophet, Goebbels recruited renowned astrologer and Nostradamus expert, Karl Ernst Kraft.
 - In Goebbels' diary, he expressed his excitement when a member of his staff began to formulate a plan to use the prophesy
 - May 19, 1942: "Burndt handed in a plan for the occultist propaganda to be carried on by us. We are getting somewhere. The Americans and English fall easily to this kind of propaganda. We are, therefore, pressing into service all-star witnesses of occult prophesy. Nostradamus must once again submit to being quoted."
 - The creation of fake prophecies and fraudulent mysticism to influence the enemy became known as "black propaganda."
- Just as the Nazis had flooded France with fake Nostradamus prophecies, the allies smuggled their own "black propaganda" into Germany.

- Astrology and espionage would soon collide again in what is still considered by many to be the most bizarre incident of the Second World War When Rudolf Hess, the Deputy Fuhrer and one of Hitler's closest friends and advisors, made an astonishing solo flight to Scotland.
- Hess's idea to make the flight began with his belief that the British, a Nordic race, would be made sympathetic to the Aryan cause and could even be persuaded to side with the Germans if only Churchill could be overthrown.
 - One of Hess's mentors, Karl Haushofer, reinforced this idea by telling Hess about a dream he had
 - In it he saw Hess walking through a Scottish castle with tapestries hanging from the walls, bringing peace between Germany and Great Britain. In addition to prophesy, astrology would also come to play a role in Hess's decision to make the flight.
 - Astrologer and close friend, Ernst Schulte-Strathaus, cast a horoscope for the Deputy Fuhrer that revealed an auspicious arrangement of the planets.
- There has always been some doubt whether Hess flew to Scotland based upon astrological advice
 - However, recently discovered documents written by Hess from prison in England, include a letter to his mother. In it he asked her to have two documents notarized: a record of Karl Haushofer's dream and the horoscope cast by Schulte Strathaus.
 - Whatever words passed between Hitler and Hess, at 5:45 pm on May 10, 1941, Hess climbed into a Messerschmidt fighter and set off for Scotland
 - His plan was to meet with the Duke of Hamilton, a man he'd met through Karl Haushofer
 - Instead of a greeting party, when Hess entered British airspace, he was shot down by the RAF and forced to bail out.

- Hitler blamed the entire Hess affair on the advice of Hess's astrologers
 - In response, the Nazi Propaganda Ministry issued an edict called "Action Hess" that forbade the public practice of any occult sciences including astrology.
- In 1943, Wulff predicted that Hitler would survive a great danger on the 20th of July 1944, that he would fall ill in November of 1944 and die a mysterious death before the 7th of May 1945.
 - Based on these predictions, Wulff became Himmler's personal astrologer and one of his most trusted aides. All these predictions came to pass.
- In a post-war interrogation by the allies, Schellinberg admitted using Wulff to advance his own position
 - He believed that Wulff's influence would carry great weight with Himmler.
- According to Schellinberg's interrogation, during the final weeks of the war Himmler became obsessed with the astrology of a coup when the stars suggested that he might successfully overthrow the Fuhrer.
 - Reading Hitler's chart, Wulff saw planetary arrangements that indicated a downfall
 - Wulff and Schellinberg continued to urge Himmler to overthrow Hitler and install himself as the leader of the waning Reich.
- Despite Hitler's order to continue the exterminations to the end, Wulff was instrumental in convincing Himmler to temporarily stop the killing
- Two weeks later, Goebbels and his entire family descended with Adolf Hitler into the Fuhrer's private bunker
 - On April 30th, Adolf Hitler and his bride Eva Braun committed suicide
 - Goebbels poisoned his six children, then shot his wife and himself

- Dressed as a common German soldier, Heinrich Himmler almost managed to escape
 - He was arrested by the British but during a physical examination crushed a cyanide capsule he kept in his mouth
 - At 11:04 pm on the 23rd of May, the Reichsfuhrer who had summoned occult forces in the service of Aryan glory was dead
- In November 1945 several top Nazis were brought to trial by the allies at Nuremburg
 - Rudolf Hess was sentenced to life in prison
 - He died there at the age of 93
 - Occultist Alfred Rosenberg was found guilty of crimes against humanity and hanged in October 1946
- The Third Reich which was to have lasted over a thousand years ended after only twelve
 - Nearly 50 million had died

Module 4A - Wicca, Goddess Worship/Feminist Witchcraft, and Neo-satanism

- Pagan – one whose born in the countryside (behind the times)
 - Comes from the Latin word Paganus
- Neo-Pagan – born again Pagans (umbrella term)
 - Practice pre-Christian religion
 - Western European
 - Wicca(n) – bending or shaping reality
 - Asatru(r) – people who practice pre-Christian religion that is either Germanic or Scandinavian in origin
 - These people were literate which explains why we know so much about them
 - Heathens – someone who lives on a heath (don't use the name Pagan)

- **Druidry (druids) – comes from the British Isles and France (Celts)**
 - Priestly classes in these areas
 - Non-Literate, Oral society, explains why we know very little about the druid society
- Modern Paganism is the fastest growing religion in Canada
 - More than doubles every year
- **Wicca – polytheistic and/or pantheistic religion**
 - **Lunar based religion – 13 lunar months**
 - 8 major holidays
 - **Non-institutional – do not go to the school of Wicca or church of Wicca for training**
 - Gardnerian Witch is based on the teachings of Gerald Gardner
 - Hierarchical
- Pagan religionists
 - **Gerald Gardner – father of modern Wicca**
 - **Doreen Valiente – mother of modern Wicca**
 - Feminized much of the Gardnerian Wiccan language
 - Came up with the rituals, wrote books, and did some interviews
 - Cracked the Nazi code during WWII
 - **Alex Sanders – founder of Alexandrian Wicca (tradition of Wicca)**
 - Self-proclaimed King of the Witches
 - Similar text to Gardnerian Wicca
 - Sanders's origin story involves coming down the stairs to find his grandma practicing a ritual who then turned him into a witch
 - Tried to train as a Gardnerian but was then kicked out
 - **Aleister Crowley – was first involved with the HOGD but was thrown out because of his large ego; joined the OTO with S. L. MacGregor Mathers**
 - Fascinated by tantra and yoga that came out of India
 - Ceremonial magician

- Published information of the HOGD under his name as information of the OTO
 - Was taken to court by the HOGD as a copywrite violation
- Because there is no seminary or counsel of witches, a coven of one is legitimate
 - Solitary system
 - Eclectic system
- Alters can be found in one's home or in the churches/meeting places for larger crowds
 - On the alter there is usually a statue of a man/women to symbolize the gods and goddesses
 - Some groups only pray to the gods so they would have a male statue and some women only pray to goddesses so they would have a female statue
 - Others pray to both
- There is a god/goddess side to the alter
 - The goddess side has female elements and vice versa for men
 - The goddess usually represents the moon so the candle on her side is typically white, silver, or black to symbolize the darkness the moon shines in
 - The god usually represents the sun so the candle on his side is usually white, yellow, or orange
 - White is the default colour as they are easy to obtain
 - Longer candles are used as they can have carvings of symbols

- Earth, air, wind, and fire are represented on the alter:

Male Side	Female side
○ Candle	○ Candle

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fragrances and oil blends (incense) – air ○ Cauldron of fire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A bowl of water ○ Symbol for earth (salt) ○ Chalice/goblet can be filled with water, wine, or whatever the person doing the ceremony is doing and will be drunk by everyone performing the ceremony
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- Buren (need a knife), only used for carving candles, cutting rope – only used to cut things at ceremonial table
- Athame – ceremonial knife that is used to call spirits and is never sharp
- Cookies to break and share by everyone performing the ceremony
- Lower candle handle for third candle
- **Steps in performing the candle spell**
 1. **Light the goddess candle then the god candle**
 - a. Goddess is higher in Wicca than God
 2. **Take some salt and put in water, can be mixed with spoon or athame**
 - a. Blesses the water and salt
 3. **Light incense, do not blow out because it represents air and the sacredness of it**
 4. **Light fire in cauldron**
 5. **Take the third candle and carving tool**
 - a. Carve the name of the person the spell is intended for on the bottom (full name)
 - b. Carve the date of birth
 - c. Carve the zodiac sign (can be the symbol)
 - d. Rotate and draw something symbolic (very simple) for what you are hoping for
 - i. **Ex. If you want wealth carve a \$ sign**
 - e. Draw arrows from name to symbol and vice versa and arrows from wick to name
 6. **Dress candle (not literally)**

- a. Put oil (can be any kind of oil) in your hand and start at the middle of the candle and oil the top half
 - b. Reverse candle and do the same from centre to bottom
7. Put candle in candle holder
8. Say magical words
 - a. can make them up or find some online
9. then light the last candle with the lighter
 - a. must let it burn all the way to the bottom and can never put it out
- if you want something to increase do the ritual on the full moon, if you want something to decrease do it on a half moon
 - ex. Wealth on full moon, debt on half moon
- light it as close to midnight as possible for maximum effect for increase
 - ex. Light candle for wealth at 11:59 pm
- light it as smallest time for maximum effect for decrease
 - ex. Light candle for debt at 0:01 am
- do not blow out, instead if you cannot let it fully extinguish at once, put a spoon to the flame and let it extinguish
- Religious texts are a symbolic language
- Semiotics – the study of symbols and signs
 - Signs are univocal
 - Have one meaning
 - Ex. Stop sign colour and shape
 - Symbols are multivocal that are culturally based
 - Layers of meaning
 - Can be clear or unclear
 - The why behind the meaning can be easily lost
 - Ex. Red rose in February means I love you
 - Ex. Red in China means wealth and good luck
 - Meaning behind red comes from Ares the God of war
 - Blood is red
 - Bloodlust = seeing red = passion = love
 - Ex. Black heart means sorrow or loss

- Symbols work metaphorically – don't give you the clue that you are being literal
 - Ex. I was acting like an idiot vs. I am an idiot

Module 4B - Wicca, Goddess Worship/Feminist Witchcraft, and Neo-satanism

- Feminist witchcraft has more of a focus on ritual, and can be more hierarchical than Wicca
 - Focused on the divine female/goddess
- Feminist witchcraft – akin to Wicca
- Modern Feminist witchcraft creators:
 - Morgan McFarland – female first among equals
 - Worked alongside Mark Roberts
 - Coming out of the Hippie and commune culture of the 1960s and 70s
 - Created the McFarland Dianic Witchcraft
 - Fuses magical, political, and cultural aspects of Witchcraft
 - References both Gods and Goddesses, but Goddesses are first in Witchcraft
 - Z Budapest – draws on feminist ideals through ancient art
 - Came to San Francisco Bay Area from Eastern Europe with her husband
 - Realizes she is a lesbian
 - Starts a branch of feminist Witchcraft
 - Her branch was known as Dianic Wicca
 - Egalitarian society, Ceremonial, Bisexual women only
 - Starhawk – bridges political feminist witchcraft and Wicca
 - Leader of the “reclaiming collective” wiccan movement
 - Allowed men and women, and focused on gender equality
 - It resembles the W.I.C.C.A. movement and states that one must not separate their spirituality with their cultural and political views

- Goddess worship started in the United States and then moved into Europe
 - Was born out of the civil rights movement
 - Second wave Wicca/feminism
- Moving away from the traditional monotheist religions as they are trying to eliminate that idea of a single male God
- Within the US there was 2 women's socio-political movements
 - W.I.C.C.A. – women in constant creative action
 - Not a religious movement but a political movement
 - Focused on equal rights for men and women
 - W.I.T.C.H. – women's international terrorist conspiracy from hell
- Trying to create a mythical version of a strong women in power
- Women want a divine figure that looks like them and that they can relate to as opposed to a male
- Marija Gimbutas – archeologist who focused on Neolithic and Bronze Age female figures
 - All things that men brought into society was wrong
 - Doesn't call herself a witch or try to find a new religious system for women
 - Analyzed repeated patterns that seemed floral like
 - Represents the female power
 - Wrote 2 books in archeology about the role of women in the Neolithic and Bronze age
 - Her research inadvertently impacted Goddess Worship
- All Goddesses are one Goddess – no matter the place whether they are Roman, Greek, Celtic, etc. they are all the same Goddess
 - Gynocentric – centered on or concerned exclusively with women, taking a female point of view
- Mary Daly – was born Roman Catholic and pioneered radical feminist theology
 - Focusses on the females in the New Testament
 - Becomes more and more disillusioned as she continues her research

- States that the New Testament is horribly misogynistic and is women should forget everything that is stated
 - Wrote *Beyond God the Father and Church and the Second Sex*
 - Challenge's people and their beliefs
 - Wants you to slow down and consider the relationship of a certain word to the other words
 - Ex. Be-ing vs. being – the act of existing vs. doing something
 - Walked away from Roman Catholicism and began to call herself a witch
- Satanism – group of ideological beliefs based on Satan
- Solitary Satanist – usually work alone
 - Are often male
 - Ages 15-21
 - Usually about gratification to acquire things they want within their lives
 - All about desires
 - Ex. Better marks, money, car, a beautiful girl
 - Tend to buy or steal the Satanic Bible by Anton LaVey
 - Many believe they are more powerful when they steal the book
 - Convinced that animal sacrifice gives great power
 - Falls for many of the old stereotypes of Satanic worship
 - Many members begin to drift away after they don't get their many desires granted
- “Outlaw” groups
 - Rarely more than 5-6 people
 - Fairly charismatic leader who is older than the group of boys involved
 - Hierarchical
 - Deal with power heavy crimes
 - Ex. Drugs, prostitution, etc.
 - Many only last a few years within the group
- Neo-satanic churches – do not believe in a real Satan or literal Devil (Satan is a metaphor)

- The Church of Satan (CoS) – founded by Anton Szandor LaVey
 - In 1966 LaVey said he had a dream that Satan talked to him and claimed that Satan told him to find the CoS for him
 - LaVey never believed that Satan was real or literal
 - Members never worship a literal devil
 - Use Satan as a metaphor to get what they want and to keep Christians afraid
 - Alice Cooper is a member of the CoS
 - The CoS is all about making money
 - Ex. If you want to be this, you pay x amount of dollars
- The Temple of Set (ToS) – founded by Michael Aquino
 - Michael Aquino joined the CoS but was put off by the fact that it was a big money maker as opposed to a place of devil worship
 - In 1971 Aquino founded the Temple of Set
 - Strict place of worship of the Egyptian God Set (the Egyptian god of war, chaos, and storms)
 - Used the word Satanism for 30-35 years but now use the word Setianism to describe their religion
 - Rooted on the left-hand path – control of the unpredictable, indulgence, etc.
 - Xepering – to be as God/Goddess like as possible
 - Become as powerful or as close to as powerful as God
 - Zeena Schreck (daughter of Anton LaVey) worked with her husband to create the Werewolf order within the Temple of Set
 - Trained how to get what you want through psychological manipulation
 - “The natural world goes from completely dangerous and threatening too neutral to completely positive and wonderful. Neo-Pagan cosmology and axiology states that the natural world (environment) goes from neutral to wonderful and ‘we want to stay in balance with it’ (we don’t exploit it). On the

Neo-Satanic side, the natural world is somewhere between the neutral and completely dangerous and uncontrollable. As Neo-Satanists we use the magical arts to control the natural world and get what we need and want out of it."

Neo-Satanists	Neo-Pagans
Danger	Neutral
Respect	

Module 4 reading - "Alexandrian tradition"

- Very similar to that of the Gardnerians
- Most rituals are formal and heavily indebted to Western ceremonial magic
- The Alexandrian ritual year deals mostly with the division of the year between the Holly King and the Oak King and several ritual dramas that deal with the theme of a dying/resurrected god
- Sexuality of female-male polarity symbolized by Goddess and God are emphasized
- Alexandrian Wicca is the creation of Alex Sanders and his wife Maxine Sanders
 - He claimed to have been initiated into a family tradition of Wicca by his aging grandmother in 1933
 - Received Gardnerian training to the first degree with an English Gardnerian witch
- Alexandrian Wiccan style tends to be somewhat more eclectic than Gardnerian Wicca
- Alexandrian covens focus strongly upon training and place more emphasis on ceremonial magic practices such as Kabbalah, angelic magic, and Enochian magic
 - Has a hierarchical structure with degrees and a High Priestess and High Priest
- Meet weekly, on full moons, new moons, festivals
- Two traditions have slowly moved towards each other

Module 4 reading - "Arnold, Charles"

- Born in Washington in 1947

- Vietnam war veteran
- Studied the Craft as a solitary and later more formally achieving initiations in several traditions
- Requested 2 days off for religious reasons (Halloween and Beltane)
 - Was denied the days off because the army didn't recognize his religion
 - Took his case to the Ontario Labour Board and became the 1st Wiccan in Canada to get the government to acknowledge his religion
- Member of Wiccan Church of Canada Board of Directors
- Founding member of Wicca Communitas and the Temple of the Elder Faiths
- Best known for having publicized challenges around the treatment of Wicca as a religion in Canada
- Arnold filed application to solemnize marriage as member of clergy in capacity
- as High Priest of the Temple of the Elder Faiths
 - Application refused as conflicting information had been presented about process of ordination in his religion
 - Requirements did not account for decentralized, autonomous spiritual groups common in Wicca
- Still ambiguous whether neo-Pagans are protected against religious discrimination under Charter as Arnold's win was by a tribunal, not a court, not making it a legal precedent

Module 4 reading - "Gardner, Gerald"

- Father of modern Wicca
- Travelled around Europe and British colonies with his nanny as a child, and was self-taught by her
- Developed an interest in tribal religions and Hinduism
- Wrote books about witchcraft, both fiction and non-fiction
 - "Witchcraft today" and "Meaning Witches"
- Worked with Aleister Crowley and followed some of his practices
- First met with a coven in New Forest, England
 - Initiated by a coven of witches called New Forest Coven in England

- Met with a secret group who claimed to be hereditary Witches practicing a religion passed down orally through the centuries
 - Initiated into Old Religion coven of Dorothy Clutterbuck
- Started his own coven and branch of Wicca known as Gardnerian Wicca
 - Gardner continued practicing and met Doreen Valiente in 1953 when he initiated her into his coven
 - Both wrote Book of Shadows, and she took out much of Aleister Crowley's material from his books
 - Valiente put more emphasis onto Goddess worship in rituals
 - Began to train people, draw others into the faith, and brought recognition towards Wicca
 - Believed he was a descendant of Grissell Gairdner who was burned as a witch in 1610
- Had a strong love and fascination with history and occult (particularly Malay Kris - dagger with wavy blade made of asteroid metal)
- Performed mostly low magic, with a few high magic ceremonies
- Died on the way back home from a vacation and buried in Tunisia

Module 4 reading - "Gardnerian"

- Gardner claimed he was initiated into a coven of Witches in the New Forest region of England in 1939 by a high priestess named Dorothy Clutterbuck
- Gardner started to establish covens using some basic ideas and rituals
 - Many were borrowed from diverse sources, including Masonic rituals and the writing of Aleister Crowley

- In 1953 Doreen Valiente was initiated into his coven
 - Helped reshape the structure of his rituals by rewriting and embellishing his Book of Shadows
 - Established a new tradition of witchcraft, originally termed “Gardnerian”
- Greatly influenced by the teachings of Charles Godfrey Leland as well as some traditions of Italian witchcraft
- Today, a Gardnerian is a witch who can trace his or her lineage matrilineally back to a high priestess who worked with Gardner
 - Specific details of Gardnerian worship are protected by an oath that each initiate takes upon joining a coven
 - Involves a lengthy course of study, including the study of magic, oaths of secrecy and the memorization of traditional scripts
- Gardnerian Wicca features 3 degrees of training, which are each attained in no less than a year and a day
- Gardnerian tradition is mainly coven based and follows an extremely traditional path
 - Each coven is considered autonomous, but the high priestess running the coven may turn to her initiating priestess for advice and counsel when required

Module 4 reading - “Murray, Margaret”

- An anthropologist and Egyptologist that wrote about witchcraft prior to Christianity
- Conducted field studies in Europe and published that pre-Christian Pagan fertility cults were deeply rooted and extent to paleolithic area
 - Her opinions were ridiculed
- Her second book in 1931 talked about the Horned God but was ignored until 1951 when the publisher reissued it
- Murray continued to travel around Europe to give talks but was generally ridiculed and her work was never taken seriously
- She wrote about how monarch had died in ritual that caused controversy and her books were banned

Module 4 reading - “Sanders, Alexander”

- Self-proclaimed “king of the witches”
- Alex claims to have been initiated into the family tradition by his grandmother at age 7 after he saw his grandmother perform some sort of Pagan ritual
 - Was changed to witchcraft by his grandmother who put a knife to his scrotum
- Responsible for founding the Alexandrian tradition of Wicca, which one of the main traditions of the neo-pagan witchcraft movement
 - Alexandrian Wicca is very similar to Gardnerian Wicca
- Alexander Sanders trained under Gerald Gardner and left to form his own tradition
 - Unsuccessfully sought entrance to many Gardnerian covens so he copied Gardnerian Book of Shadows and embellished it which raised a lot of attention and attracted a large following

Module 4 reading - “Valiente, Doreen”

- Mother of modern Wicca
- Found Gerald Gardner through the press and was fascinated by pre-Christian religions
 - Got involved with Gerald Gardner’s coven
 - Questioned why he used the practices of the HOGD and OTO
- Wrote her own manuscript on the practices of Wicca – wrote the ceremonial language

Module 4 reading - “Wiccan church of Canada”

- Run by Richard and Tammara James and was incorporated into the government of Ontario in 1979 and is mainly in Toronto
 - Not an umbrella group comprised of independent covens

- The church runs on a modified church model called a Pagan temple structure
- The WCC teach and train their own Odyssean tradition
 - Believed everyone has an odyssey/personal voyage to complete
- There is a division between Priesthood (initiated) and the non-initiated
- The WCC is different as it is not closed and open to the public by often offering open circles
 - This removes the stigma surrounding witches and provides craft exposure
- The WCC applied to revenue Canada to be a charitable organization
 - Was denied 3 years later due to syncretic and amorphous nature leading to belief there was no religious doctrine
- The WCC often visits prisons and increases opportunities for Pagan inmates to have Pagan services or chapels

Module 4 reading – Appendix: The Semiotics of Spell craft: Metaphor and Symbols in Neo-Pagan Spells

- Semiotics – study of signs and symbols (how they are used and interpreted)
- Signs have very clear and distinct meanings
 - the lack of ambiguity is what defines certain things as a sign
 - Ex. Size, shape, and colour of a “stop” sign
- Symbols have various layers of meaning; the same symbol may have many meanings depending on culture or even the individual
 - Ex. Heart shape vs. biological heart
 - The ambiguity of meaning and the various meanings imbedded therein, is what distinguishes a symbol from a sign
- The construction of a Neo-Pagan spell relies heavily on the cultural meanings of colour, shape, and other symbols

- A spell should utilize the personal symbols which best resonate for the recipient/client
- Wiccans and other Neo-Pagans view the crafting of an effective spell to be a melange of many things
 - Identification of reason – cause/need
 - Neo-Pagans agree that spells are generally done for healing and empowerment of the disempowered
 - Ex. To heal the environment, those who are ill physically, emotionally, or spiritually, and/or to empower the poor, the neglected, and the abused
 - Choice of tool/mode of spell – candle/tarot cards, string, etc.)
 - Candle-spells are considered some of the easiest spells to obtain supplies for
 - What colour of candle is “best” for this spell?
 - Ex. A black coloured candle would work well for things needing absence, while white candles would work for spells requiring presence
 - However, this is generally not how the colour of a candle is chosen, since semiotics mean that we ‘give meaning’ to certain colours based on our culture and background
 - Personalization of the spell – symbols which represent the person the spell is to work upon and what the spell is to do
 - The name of the target is to be ‘inscribed’ into the candle itself
 - The recipient’s full name should be cut directly into the wax of the candle
 - The full date of birth should also be inscribed
 - The symbol for that birthday’s zodiac sign can also be carved into the candle personalizing the candle even further
 - Some sort of pictorial or symbolic ‘shorthand’ imagery should be put into the candle

- representing what the spell is supposed to 'acquire' or achieve
- Something which indicated that the symbol is to come to the target and not vice-versa
 - The specifics are less important than the resonance of the symbols
 - Many Wiccans 'dress' their candle before setting it alight by putting a thin coating of some sort of oil on it
 - Any oil is fine for the job
 - One suggestion however was to avoid Canola oil for spell crafting, as the old name for Canola is rapeseed
- The use of words – words have been considered the most powerful magical tool back to ancient Canaan and the Israelites
 - God spoke and things in the world were born
 - Words spoken are thought during the creation of a spell are considered both imperative and powerful
 - “Be careful what you wish for, for you just might get it”
- The building up of power – sometimes actions/words/thoughts
 - Whatever allows the person to raise energy and imbue the spell with intention and magical Will, is an acceptable tool for the spell
- The release of the spell itself
- Most Wiccans do not do spells as a first choice of action
- If a spell appears to have been effective, the spell itself is given credit
 - It is not unusual for the blame to be saddled on some portion of the symbols used for the spell
- For some Neo-Pagans the real value of spell crafting is that it offers a sort of psychological permission to talk about the situation, and that in return, ultimately offers a solution

Module 4 reading - “Budapest, Z”

- Came to the San Francisco Bay Area from Eastern Europe with her husband
- Realizes that she is a lesbian
- Draws on feminist ideals through ancient art
- Starts a branch of feminist witchcraft
- Her branch was known as Dianic Wicca
 - Egalitarian society, ceremonial, women only

Module 4 reading - “Chicago, Judy”

- A pioneer in feminist art and feminist art education
- She has a large movement on witchcraft and goddess worship
- She produced Womanhouse in 1971 and transformed a modern house into a feminist symbol that looked at America’s middle class feminist role
- Her most famous piece was the Dinner Part that had 39 females/leaders/Goddesses sitting at a triangular table and their meal each represented what they brought to the table

Module 4 reading - “Daly, Mary”

- Feminist, goddess worship, religion scholar
- Worked at Boston University, and did research on the portrayal of women in Judaism and Christianity
- Wrote two major books “Beyond God the father” and “the Church of the second sex”
 - Believed that there was no place for women in Judaism and Christianity and therefore women should form their own religion

Module 4 reading - “Dianics”

- Z Budapest is the author and thinker who founded a major movement of feminist Witches often called Dianics
- Budapest-style Dianics turn to the goddess(es) more than they do to the god(s), and they are all eclectic witches
- Budapest Dianic practice has a very high percentage of lesbian participants because of its very strong emphasis on

the Goddess as primal figure in its mythos and its strong feminist ethos

- However, there are a few males involved in the Dianics
- Emphasizes Goddess worship, often to the complete exclusion of God worship
 - Do not deny an existence of the God, but Dianics do not feel they need to include a God figure simply to lend an artificial balance to a ritual where none is needed
- Budapest-type Dianics feel that one of the problems with masculine-feminine polarity is a stronger tendency to express all other polarities in terms of it

Module 4 reading - “Feminist Spirituality and Neopaganism”

- West of the Atlantic: The Beginning
 - 1972 – the first coven of feminist witches was born (Susan B. Anthony coven)
 - Led by Z Budapest
 - Proclaimed religious separatism with women-only space and an autonomous female deity
 - Celebrated Wiccan Sabbats and incorporated many Wiccan symbols and practices
 - 1974 – Marija Gimbutas began to publish work that purportedly demonstrated the existence of a Neolithic “Goddess Civilization” in southeastern Europe
 - Worship of the Goddess was central to all aspects of life
 - Argued that this way of life has been destroyed in a series of invasions by patriarchal Indo-European warriors who replaced worship of the Goddess with their own male-dominated religion
 - 1976 – Merlin Stone used the Old Testament to illustrate “the suppression of women’s rights” to explain the devaluation of women today
 - 1978 – the first Goddess conference takes place
 - Carol Christ argued that using male imagery for the divine and having almost exclusively male

religious authorities makes women psychologically dependant on men

- Naomi Goldenberg coined the term theology to refer to the study of Goddess religion

- The Blend

- 1973 – Barbara Ehrenreich and Diedre English has condemned Christian churches for the persecution of women healers as witches
- 1975 – Budapest's book *The Feminist Book of Light and Shadows* provided a political analysis of religion and oppression based on the kinds of ideas present in the work of Gimbutas
 - Announced that the liberation of women must include spiritual liberation
 - Gave instruction on how to do magic, celebrate the Sabbats, read the tarot, use herbs, form a coven, and be a witch

- East of the Atlantic: Britain

- 1975 – *When God was a Women* was first published in Britain
 - Served as an inspiration to British feminists
- 1975 – formation of the Matriarchy Study Group was formed
 - Intention of looking for evidence of Goddess-worshipping matriarchal societies
- 1977 – *Goddess Shrew* was published and was grounded in the same ideological soil as Gimbutas' work
- 1981 – the Matriarchy Reclaim and Research Network (MRRN) was formed to serve as the link between those who desire and experiential focus and those who preferred an intellectual one that centered on research into prehistory

- Ireland

- 1976 – Lawrence Durdin-Robertson, his wife Pamela, and his sister Olivia Robertson founded the fellowship of Isis (FOI)

- Envisioned as a place where people of different religious faiths could celebrate the “re-emergence of religion of the Goddess”
 - It is possible to use female imagery in representing the divine and still be conventional
- Beliefs and Practices
 - The focus on the Triple Goddess makes her world affirming and easily accessible to women
 - Goddess spirituality is radically embodied – it is a way of knowing and being in the world
 - Healing is defined in a way that embraces concepts from individual physical or psychological healing to healing of wounds in the global environment
 - The immanent Goddess is the web of life that links all things
 - The Goddess is the world
- Goddess spirituality has already changed the way we think about religion

Module 4 reading - “Gimbutas, Marija”

- Was from Eastern Europe, had a PhD, was a professor and archeologist
- Wrote two books that looked at artifacts through a feminist lens
- Focuses on goddess worship
- Absorbed by the second wave of feminism
 - Her theories became actualized in the second wave of feminism

Module 4 reading - “Goldenberg, Naomi”

- Influenced by Starhawk and Z Budapest after hearing them speak
- She believed goddess and craft revival deserved attention from religious scholars
- Goldenberg wrote the first essay that linked feminist analysis with religious traditions

- She taught witchcraft at the Central Michigan university and eventually at the University of Ottawa

Module 4 reading - “McFarland Dianics”

- Was started in 1971 by Morgan McFarland, who had been practicing her personal rituals as a solitary for several years
- McFarland met Mark Roberts who had been practicing within a coven with his first wife who had initiated him into an English family tradition
 - McFarland introduced Roberts to many neo-Pagan and Craft contacts, and Morgan became a public spokesperson on talk shows as well as in the written media for their mutual beliefs
- Roberts made note of the similarities to “Dianic cults” in Margaret Murray’s *The witch-cult in Western Europe*
 - McFarland then adopted the designation “Dianic” as that of her traditions
- McFarland Dianic covens espies feminism as an all-inclusive concept
 - All genders are welcomed as initiates into McFarland Dianic covens
- Roberts served as a high priest for McFarland until early 1977
 - Began dedicating his life to Hyperborean until its last High Priestess closed the tradition in 2000
- McFarland retired as a high priestess in 1979 and turned over her last existing coven over one of her high priestesses
 - All the women of that coven that began to create their own covens
 - Morgan now serves as an adviser to the McFarland Dianic Council and is recognised as the matriarch of the tradition

Module 4 reading - “Reclaiming tradition”

- Diane Baker and Starhawk decided to plan and coteach a basic class of witchcraft
 - Called their first class “elements of Magic” that offered Goddess spirituality and was directed towards women

- Emphasis on experiential rather than didactic
- Women pleaded for more after taking their classes
 - Created a more advanced class called “The Iron Pentacle”
 - Based on Faery Witchcraft
 - Focus was trancework and the discovery of the healing powers of the human body through meditations and the five-pointed star
 - The points on the star were sex, self, passion, pride, and power
- Success spawned a further class called the “Rites of Passage”
 - Ended with the students initiating themselves and starting their own coven
 - All classes were conducted within a ritual
- Almost all the early planning and activity took place in sacred space, ritualized in the presence of the god/dess(es)
- Reclaiming is a community of San Francisco Bay Area women and men working to unify spirit and politics. Their vision is rooted in the religion and magic of the Goddess and the Immanent Life Force. They see their work as teaching and making magic as the art of empowering ourselves and each other... They use the skills we learn to deepen their strength, both as individuals and as community, to voice concerns about the world in which they live and bring to birth a vision of new culture.
- Reclaiming has always espoused a connection between spirituality and political action
- Reclaiming Tradition WitchCamps throughout the United States, Canada and Europe are run autonomously
 - Now connected to Reclaiming’s representative body called the Wheel through the WitchCamp spokes council called the Web
- Starhawk describes Reclaiming’s style of ritual as EIEICO
 - Ecstatic, improvisational, ensemble, inspired and organic
- Nonhierarchical, no specific pantheon, no requirement of initiation, strong emphasis on political involvement, not set liturgy, cultivation of ecstatic states, cultivation of self-

empowerment, extensive use of chanting and breathwork, intense energy raising, magical use of the Pentacle of Iron construct, concept of Three Souls, encouragement of the creation of new ritual forms by anyone are distinguishing features of Reclaiming tradition Witchcraft

- Reclaiming believes that any Witch may honestly and sincerely claim to be a reclaiming tradition Witch if he or she practices Reclaiming-style magic and agrees to the Principles of Unity

Module 4 reading - “Starhawk”

- Starhawk was the leader of the “reclaiming traditions” wiccan movement
- The movement allowed men and women, and focused on gender equality
- It resembles the W.I.C.C.A. movement and states that one does not separate their spirituality with their cultural and political views

Module 4 reading - “LaVey, Anton Szandor”

- Founder of the Church of Satan (first neo-Satanic church recognized in US)
- Founded CoS in 1966, performed Satanic wedding, baptized his first daughter Zeena at age 3
- Started the Church of Satan
- Believed that Satan spoke to him, and that Satan was a metaphor for self-indulgence
- Called themselves Satanists and Satanic witches
- Church’s view on Satanism was not about evil or animal and child sacrifice but rather a radical expression of freethinking along with disdain for hypocrisy that LaVey believed corrupted Christianity
- Satanic images were just symbols intended to provoke reaction and force thought
- LaVey believed Devil was a Jungian archetype or metaphor made up by mankind

- Played the part of the Devil throughout his life (in his home decor and personal appearance)

Module 4 reading - “Neo-satanism comparted and contrasted with neo-paganism”

- Satanist evokes strong response because of a successful campaign by early Christianity to demonize the aboriginal, pre-Christian religions in Europe
- Malleus Malificarum gave first physical description of Devil that is still in use today
 - declaring that this was the god worshiped by “witches”
- Solitary Satanists are social outcasts looking for wish fulfillment
 - Interpret Satanist rituals out of media and do rituals in private
 - Rituals focus on social power, sexual attraction, and popularity
 - Usually grow out of this phase and cause no harm to anyone
- Outlaw Satanist groups are comprised of 16-25 aged males that use mind altering substances and blood in rituals
 - Best fit public image of what a Satanist is
 - Express worship of Satan as the Evil One of the Bible
 - Very rarely survive for than a year or two
- Neo-Satanic Churches are legitimate new religious movements represented by Anton LaVey and Church of Satan/Michael Aquino and Temple of Set
 - LaVey created CoS to worship concepts Satan embodied (Satan = concept, not a literal being)
 - Cosmology and axiology of church member focuses on self, self- gratification and taking care of what deserves one’s attention and care
 - Reject monotheistic religions and view Gods as concepts/symbols not literal truths
 - Aquino founded ToS as a rival neo-Satanic church
 - Believed LaVey was not taking Satan seriously enough
 - ToS views their gods as literal (not just metaphors)

- Set is worshipped as oldest god of darkness in history
- Members work with left hand path magic and philosophies
- Seitan's strive to make themselves as perfect (godlike) as possible
- Expansion of ego and perfection of self

Neo-Satanic	Neo-Pagan	Both
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strive for expansion of ego and perfection of self - This-worldly religiosity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One strives for balance both within and without - From this world view and beyond 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decentralized religious movements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - no central person or body of elders to guide community - Adopted trappings of traditional figures regarded as scandalous by mainstream society (witches and Devil worshippers) - Reject a transcendent God (Satanic understanding of divine in physical and Pagan understanding of divine as immanent, tangible, embodied) - Similar symbols (Satanists = pentacle, Wiccan = upside-down pentacle to denote degree of initiation)

- The main difference between the two is their view on nature and humanity

- Neo-Pagan

- Employ nature as perfect symbol and ultimate source of divine religious inspiration
- Nature viewed as benign to overtly positive (if not friendly) to humanity
- Ideal is to become as one with natural world (live in harmony)
- Leads to a lot of neo-Pagan efforts in social issues, environmental causes, and humanitarian aid
- Live their cosmology through social action and community efforts
- Most important unit in creation is natural world itself
- Study to understand their role in the celestial family
-

- Neo-Satanic

- Nature viewed as benign to hostile towards humanity (natural disasters)
- Strive to perfect individual persons over the community to increase their abilities to the degree that they can dominate the world around them
- Domination allows them to achieve best potential rather than succumb to randomness of natural world

- Most important unit in creation is individual person
- Study to differentiate themselves from nature

Module 4 reading - “Temple of Set”

- Described as a neo-satanic religious organization currently headed by Magistral Patty Hardy
- Was established by Michael Aquino in 1971
 - Was a retired lieutenant colonel in the American Military Intelligence
- Was an early member in the church of Satan along with his wife Lilith
- Severed ties with Anton LaVey and CoS over philosophical ideals such as whether Satan was a metaphor or real being
- States that he woke from a dream that told him to build a temple of sea, the Egyptian god of destruction
- They believe that sea is a real god and not just a metaphor
- They worship him by making themselves as close to gods and goddess as they can be, through expansion of knowledge
- Temple divided into differing structures and members can join multiple subsections where specific skills are taught
- ToS views Set as archetype of isolated self-consciousness
 - Set – more complex than Set because Satan is tied to conventional religions and their moral codes, as such, cannot effectively represent richness, subtly and complexity of ToS
- Members work on underlining and enhancing the division of the person from the natural universe
- ToS drifting from moniker Satanist as it is very limiting
- ToS describes itself as a school of introspective inquiry as compared to religions and philosophies based on faith

- The left-hand path is typified by the ToS as following qualities and actions:
 - Antinomianism – Denial and rejection of the herd mentality
 - Human society values stability and lack of change while Seitan seeks continuous self-evolution
 - Individuality – Each individual oversees self-change and growth
 - Control – To recognize, start and complete great quests
 - Encouraged to take control of self/environment through actions rather than spells
 - Black magic
 - Left-hand followers' practice what many people call Black magic
 - Seitan black magic focuses on self-determined goals

Module 4 film - “the Politics of the Goddess”

- Many women find Goddess symbolism to be affirming
- Influenced by two streams of Feminist political thought
 - Radical feminism – perspective that calls for a radical reordering of society in which male supremacy is eliminated in all social and economic contexts while recognising that women's experiences are also affected by other social divisions such as in race, class, and sexual orientation
 - Cultural Feminism – the view that there is a “female nature” or “female essence”, attempts to revalue and redefine attributes ascribed to femaleness
- Dianic witches acknowledged only the Goddess as a creative and independent force
- Z Budapest was influenced by many cultural feminists

- Budapest claims that the creation of an all-male God who has no mother is totally unnatural, and its purpose is only to deny motherhood and women

Module 4 film - “Reclaiming’s Spiral Dance”

- Special ritual that has occurred for 30 years in San Francisco on Halloween
- Honours the dead and plants the seeds of a visionary future
- Reclaiming is an activist religion
- Ritual gives courage and hope

Module 4 film - “the Satanic Temple’s Protest for the First Amendment Rights”

- The Satanic temple is not a group of devil worshippers but liberal political activist who oppose the influence of the religious right in American politics
- The Satanic Temple does not believe in a physical Satan but use Christian belief in the devil as one of the tactics they use to harness the power of Satanic symbolism to bring attention to their left-wing causes
- Believe there is a physical violation between the constitutional separation of church and state

Module 5A – Psychoanalysis, Meditators, and Healers

- Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic - Arthur C. Clarke
 - The more advanced we get the more alien we seem
- There are two parts to the human the mind and the body
 - This is not a universal way of understanding human being existence
 - Ex. Hunter-gatherers vs. body/mind
- Franz Anton Mesmer – doctor who is trying to determine how you can control/mitigate pain
 - Studied Animal Magnetism

- Medical science at the time believed there was an invisible natural force within living things
 - Theory stated that since there was so much iron within the human blood, you could heal people by using big magnets
 - Idea was to draw blood away from the injury to reduce swelling
 - Called this technique Mesmerism
- Marquis de Puysegur – went through Mesmerism training
 - The first person he treated was named Victor Race (he was a peasant)
- As Marquis started to do the process of Mesmerism to Victor, he noticed that Victor responded in an unusual way
 - Victor fell into a sleep like trance (hypnosis)
 - Called it artificial somnambulism
- Determined that this artificial somnambulism is more than one state of consciousness
 - Was aware and awake but wouldn't just get up and walk away
- Marquis recognized different states of consciousness within the late 1700s
- James Braid – coins the word hypnosis
 - Hypnosis is a form of hyper relaxation
 - Hypnosis only works if the participant is willing
- Hypnosis is effective and fascinating as it has physical proof of different states of consciousness
- Trance – the person is in an altered state of consciousness
 - Ex. Daydreaming, Highway hypnosis
 - Rhythmic events can trigger a trance state
- Out of body experience (OBE) – includes awareness and perception
 - Still able to see and hear things
 - Like floating out of one's body and being attached to it by a small string

- Near death experience (NDE) – can change humans in negative or positive ways
- Extraordinary human consciousness (EHC) – like an adrenaline rush where someone does something because they have a sudden urge to do so
 - Ex. Deja vu
- All human beings have two distinct states of consciousness which come from shift and phase
 - Phase/Warp/Wave – they are actively aware of what is going on
 - Static, the normal daily sense of consciousness
 - Shift – giving the brain a break while not being fully conscious or unconscious
 - Like lucid dreaming, but can be redirected
 - The neutral space between consciousness and unconsciousness
 - Awake but disengaged

Module 5B – Psychoanalysis, Meditators, and Healers

- Shaman – people who work with spirits
- The name Shaman comes from the tungus people that today is seen as cultural appropriation
- Many Shamans used to be called witchdoctors
- The world is not based off hierarchy
 - Everything is equal
 - There are relationships between everything that exists – interrelationships
 - Ex. If a bear kills a human, it is thought to be a balancing of the world
- These relationships are more direct than the magical way of worship
- There are humble asking for things (no demands are made)
 - These asking's go to the divine figure associated with the spirit because there is no single divine
 - Spirit to spirit relationship
- Harrison Snowboy

- Currently doing healing session in Montreal (like animal magnetism)
 - Hired as an occupational therapist to help with youth suicide
 - Usually blocks everything out because the work is so intense
 - Determined the Earth mother was a common factor of suicides
- Traditionally most shaman are men
- Becoming a shaman is not just a job but a vocation
 - A young initiate is called through a visitation of the spirits
 - The call to shamanize is directly related to a near death experience or serious illness
 - Easier to cross and go back once you've already come back to life from a near death experience
- The novice shaman studies with a mentor for years to master trance states and shamanic traditions
 - Ex. Names and functions of spirits, the mythology and genealogy of the clan and sacred chants are learnt
- The shaman might be perceived as a primitive medical doctor
 - In reality, they are revered as a bridge between physical and spirit worlds
- Shaman's healing rituals provide existence with a moral interpretation and meaningfulness
- The function of a shaman is to reproduce and restore belief, not physical health
- The understanding is that the words you speak/actions you make allow the world to be created
- The shamanic modality is relationship
 - Opening and closing sacred space – ability to orient oneself to the Universe and to the forces within it
 - Will learn a way to open a sacred container for a time of prayer or meditation
 - Deepens any meditation or spiritual practice

- Journey for healing, wisdom, and insight – person learns to journey to various location for healing, to gain wisdom, and to commune with the spirit world
 - Involves being guided into a trance state
- Locating guides – learn to locate and establish a connection with guides
- Chakra healings – work on establishing whether a wound has been left in the energy field and if so, what chakra it is connect to
 - Using energy to mend and strengthen the energy field
- Extraction – removes objects or energies, accelerating physical and emotional healing
- Decoding – locate negative sensed cords and cut them
- Soul retrieval – the shaman undertakes a journey seeking to retrieve any lost soul parts that desire to return to the person
- Creating protective, healthy boundaries – teaches the person how to create energetic safety for themselves, to take responsibility, and to defend themselves against forms of negative energy that they interact with
- Death Rites – offer practices to prepare for the end of one's life

Module 5 Reading – “Shamanism”

- Originally, their term shaman was applied to the ritualists of the indigenous peoples of Siberia
- The Tungus saman provided the prototype for similar trance healers in other indigenous culture across the continent
- The term shamanism is then to shamans what religion is to priesthood
 - The notion of shamanism has evolved as an abstract constrict supported by a whole assortment of data about heterogenous cultures
 - Unlike religions, there is no founder, no master, no sacred text, no geographic area, or historical people to limit the term
- The Ethnographers' accounts

- Applied to a wide sample of ritual practices outside of European-based civilizations
- If the term shamanism is to denote a definite kind of religious practice, belief system or ritual complex, one must acknowledge that there is no such thing as shamanism in singular
 - Ex. In central Siberia, a Tungus saman guides the dead souls of his clan down the mythical river Engdekit that links the three world of Evenk cosmology
 - Ex. In northeastern Siberia, a Yukagir irk-eye (trembling one) negotiates with animals for the release of Game to the hunters
 - Ex. In the Canadian Artic, an Inuit angagok attempts to reach a transparency of mind and body that will allow him to transform into a walrus or a polar bear
 - Ex. In British Columbia, Canada, a halaidm swanassxw (blowing powerful ones) has traveled in spirit to the realms of the dead to bring back a soul
 - Ex. In the Colombbian northwest Amazon, a payes (chief, healer, and priest) is asked to negotiate the release of the game in return for human souls
- The shamanic realms are rich and deep
- Seem like a mode of relation with the world
- Shamans are defined as
 - Healers working at a spiritual or paranormal level
 - Who enter in relationship with the nonhuman or invisible world
 - Including animals and other nonhuman powers
 - Who work as individuals and rely on their own personal experience rather than teachings of a community or hierarchy
 - For pragmatic goals
 - Are likely to operate in trance or trancelike states

- Shamans deal with those problems that can be objectified as the result of “spiritual” forces or processes
- Shamanic cosmologies, are not constructed on universal principles
- The cultures shaped by the shamanic activities taking place in their midst are each unique, each carrying a brilliance of its own, and requiring an initial respect for the men and women who carved meaning for their lives in these environments
- **Mircea Eliade’s Teachings**
 - Shamanic traditions are the remnants of the precursors of the great religions dealing with a celestial godhead
 - Restricts the term shamanism to those religious complexes built on common ritual themes and specific universal symbols
 - Ex. The World tree
 - His definition of shamanism emphasizes the ecstatic and religious aspects of the shamanic rituals
 - Define shamans as the practitioners of a religious tradition that has its inception in central Siberia and might have expanded through cultural diffusion all the way to South America, Southeastern Asia, and Northern Europe
- **Psychological or Archetypal Shamanism**
 - Some consider shamans as the cultural manifestation of a panhuman primitive or primal psychological or spiritual need
 - Others take shamans to be the ecstatic recipients of universal magical forces
 - Authors tend to ignore the anthropological sources and simplify the ensuing questions by considering shamanism as a universal or archetypal process and concentrating on its psychological aspects
- **Urban or Neo-Shamanism**
 - Some authors are presenting shamanism as a set of techniques for healing and empowerment

- The resulting “urban-shamanism” or neo-shamanism is composed of new versions of some of the old shamanic traditions
- The model of the shaman becomes that of an equally benign practitioner working primarily in the mental world of symbolic images and imaging
- The emphasis on techniques has contributed new perspectives and a strong impetus to the field of shamanic studies
- **Outdated theories**
 - Historically, shamans have long been judged negatively by Christian communities and missionaries, who’s religious worldview had no way to interpret what they saw in a positive light
 - These attitudes have shaped the history of shamanic studies
 - As a result, what is written about shamans is most difficult to assess
 - They have often survived cultural shocks and social marginalization, they are adapting to postcolonial and urbanized situations, and are becoming enmeshed with the construction of ethnic and nationalistic identities
 - Shamanic practices also evolve as they adapt to the presence of formal religions, with their missionary and their political agendas, to chaotic cultural changes, and to the urbanization process propelled by economic colonization

Module 5 Reading – “Neo-Shamanisms”

- Indigenous critics have used the terms white-shamanism and plastic medicine men to describe Westerners appropriating their spiritual traditions
- Neo-Shamanisms may be a more appropriate, sensitive, and critical orthography
 - It distinguishes Western forms from those Indigenous communities

- Pluralizing embraces diversity and difference
- Capitalization locates neo-shamanisms alongside established religions
- The lower-case neo- prefix avoids pinning down a variety of practices to a fixed name type
- The -ism does not indicate “an organised system... a reification constructed from disparate lifeways”, but rather a suffix that acknowledges similarities
- Critics consistently compare neo-Shamanisms with shamanisms in terms of authenticity
 - A more sensitive approach does not require that we accept or embrace all neo-Shamanisms with criticism but that we address the diversity of neo-Shamanisms and shamanisms, and the subtleties of their engagement and interaction
- Three sources have a particularly prominent impact on neo-Shamanisms
 - Mircea Eliade’s cross-cultural study *Shamanism – Archaic Techniques of Ecstasy*
 - Eliade has famously promoted shamanism studies and simultaneously perpetuated a gross misrepresentation of shamanisms
 - Carlos Castaneda’s Don Juan books discussing shamanism in Mexico’s Sonoran Desert
 - Michael Harner’s *the Way of the Shaman*, a how-to manual
 - Core shamanism has provided safe and simple techniques for making neo-Shamanisms a pragmatic possibility
- Contemporary Druids and heathens draw on historic and archeological sources to reconstruct perceived Celtic and Northern shamanisms
- Some neo-Shamans have endeavored to meet shamans directly
- Neo-Shamans reify cultural primitivism in their romanticizing of the shaman
- Some neo-Shamans make constructive contributions to shamans and the term shaman

- Neo-Shamanisms demonstrate a great diversity of practice that is increasingly coming to the attention of academics

Module 5 Reading – “Neo-Paganism and Psychology”

- All branches of contemporary Paganism are interested in myth and enacting myth through ritual
- Carl Jung’s psychology shows a readiness to embrace religious experience as an important impetus to psychological growth and integration
 - Jung was not an orthodox follower of any of the world religions, but has had a long-standing interest in and belief in the importance of myth and symbol
 - A psychological crisis led Jung to an intense study of his dreams and visions, through which he became aware that some material related to his personal life, but other was spiritual and religious in content and meaning
 - For Jung, archetypes and myths were the bedrock of religion and culture
 - Archetypes are the “ruling powers, the gods, images of the dominant laws and principles, and of typical, regularly occurring events in the soul’s cycle of experience”
 - Lies within the collective unconscious
- Collective unconscious – In addition to our immediate consciousness, which is of a thoroughly personal nature and which we believe it be the only empirical psyche, there exists a second psychic system of collective, universal, and impersonal nature that is identical in all individuals
 - Does not develop individually but is inherited
 - Basis for magic
 - “The main body of the collective unconscious cannot be strictly said to be psychological, but psychical”
 - “Psychology is simply a branch of magic”
- Archetypes as the images of the gods lend themselves readily to the polytheistic worldview found in much of contemporary Paganism

- Through myth human beings can find a sense of connection and rootedness in a disconnected and alienated world
- The language of psychology is a means of communicating Pagan ideas to non-Pagans
- Contemporary psychologies appeal to Pagans in that they provide models of psychological and spiritual growth that can be aligned to Pagan beliefs and worldviews
- **Transpersonal psychology – psychology that recognizes the importance of the spiritual component of human beings**
 - Readily embraces the whole range of spiritual experience and provides “maps” of psychological growth that can be used by all spiritual traditions
- **James Hillman – each one of us has many different “selves”, and the various archetypes within the psyche are designed not to unify into one whole but to offer different and diverse routes to psychological understanding**
 - Advocates a contemporary polytheism
- **Jungian, post-Jungian, and transpersonal psychologies explore in ways meaningful for Pagans the fictive power of religious imagination**
 - Experience is seen to come from within Paganism
- This focus on the inner, the private, and the symbolic is part of a cultural and religious trend that had been evolving since the nineteenth century

Module 5 Reading – “Altered States of Consciousness”

- Religion is a system of beliefs and behaviours that deals with the relationship between humans and the sacred supernatural
- **Altered state of consciousness – any mental state that is recognized by the individual or observer as differing from a normal state**

Table 5.1 Characteristics of altered states of consciousness

<i>Alterations in thinking:</i> disturbances in concentration, attention, memory, and judgment; reality testing impaired to varying degrees; distinction between cause and effect blurred
<i>Disturbed time sense:</i> altered sense of time and chronology; feelings of timelessness; time coming to a standstill; the acceleration or slowing of time seen as infinitely long or infinitesimally short
<i>Loss of control:</i> fear of losing grip on reality and self-control; feelings of helplessness; in spirit possession states the person relinquishes control
<i>Change in emotional expression:</i> sudden and unexpected displays of emotional extremes; individual may become detached and uninvolved
<i>Body image change:</i> distortion in body image; a schism between body and mind; dissolution of boundaries between self and others and the universe; various parts of the body appear or feel shrunken, enlarged, distorted, heavy, weightless, disconnected; spontaneous experiences of dizziness, blurring of vision
<i>Perceptual distortions:</i> hallucinations; increased visual imagery; synesthesia, in which one form of sensory experience is translated into other form, such as in seeing or feeling sound
<i>Change in meaning or significance:</i> attach increased meaning or significance to experiences; feelings of perceptiveness and insight
<i>Sense of an indescribable experience:</i> inability to communicate the experience to someone who has not undergone a similar experience; varying degrees of amnesia; sometimes a lucid memory
<i>Feelings of rejuvenation:</i> experience a new sense of hope and rebirth; hypersuggestibility, in which the person comes to rely more on the suggestions of the religious practitioner; contradictions, doubts, inconsistencies, and inhibitions tend to diminish; suggestions of the person endowed with authority accepted as concrete reality

- Ex. Daydreaming and the feeling that comes from drinking a little too much alcohol
- The nature of altered states of consciousness
 - The definition of an altered state of consciousness is a subjective one that includes a wide variety of phenomena

Table 5.2 Factors bringing about an altered state of consciousness

Production of altered state of consciousness	Examples
Reduction of external stimulation and/or motor activity	Solitary confinement, prolonged social and stimulus deprivation, altered states while falling asleep or waking up, dreaming
Constant exposure to repetitive stimulation	Prolonged drumming or repetitive dance movements (e.g., whirling dervishes)
Increase of external stimulation (sensory overload) and/or strenuous physical activity	Third-degree tactics, spirit possession states, ecstatic trance
Increased alertness or mental involvement sustained over time	Prolonged vigilance, intense mental absorption in a task
Decreased alertness; passive state of mind; reduction in goal-directed thinking	States attained through meditation, daydreaming, cognitive and muscular relaxation (e.g., while floating on the water or sunbathing)
Alterations in body chemistry or physiology of nervous system	Hypoglycemia (which may be due to fasting), dehydration, sleep deprivation, hyperventilation, temporal lobe seizures, administration of pharmacological substances

- Entering an altered state of consciousness
 - Altered states of consciousness can be brought about by several physiological, psychological, and pharmaceutical factors
 - Many of these factors occur in religious practices and are given a religious interpretation
- Fasting
 - Fasting can lead to the development of an altered state
 - Fasting is often seen as a sacrifice to a deity and frequently accompanies religious rituals
 - Fasting also accompanies rituals of atonement as in an act of cleansing
 - Fasting is part of the process of achieving atonement (moving the individual closer to God by abandoning those things that are enjoyable)
- Sacred pain
 - Altered states of consciousness can also result from pain
 - It may be punishment
 - Ex. Christian legacy of Eve bringing forth children in pain
 - It may be purifying

- Ex. Ascetics and monks who cause themselves pain of the flesh in this life to avoid greater torment of the soul in the next life
- It is sometimes an enemy or maybe even a weapon
 - Ex. Christ's battle with the cross
- Pain may be transformative
- Pain can induce a euphoric state
- Religious pain is often shared pain
 - Ex. Sacrifice of Christ on the cross, the existence of hell, and the public executions of witches and heretics
- Many rituals use pain that is either self-inflicted or inflicted by others
 - Ex. Some funeral rituals involve self-mutilation on the part of mourners
- Subject often enters an altered state of consciousness while undergoing such painful procedures
- Pain is also closely linked to emotion and sense of self
- Pain can also be experienced as healing and transformative
- It can be the catalyst for strengthening the person's sense of self
 - Ex. Possession and exorcism
- A pilgrimage often involves sacred pain that may be interpreted as a sacrifice, an imitation of the suffering of a god, a penance, a test, and so on
 - Ex. The pilgrimage to Sabari Malai in South India. The pilgrimage follows the path of the god Lord Ayyappan, son of Shiva, and his encounter with, and defeat of, a female demon. Pilgrims commit themselves to celibacy, moderate eating, walking with bare feet, and sleeping on the ground. The pilgrimage is a forty-mile journey, walked barefoot over sharp stones and hot sand.
 - The pain of this is seen as an essential part of the pilgrimage, the goal of which is becoming one with Ayyappan
- The biological basis of altered states of consciousness

- A particular experience may be experienced as a medical condition or, if the culture interprets it that way, a mystical experience
- Research in neurobiology has focused on how rhythmic, ritualized behaviour affects certain parts of the brain
 - Ex. In situations in which a fast rhythm is being used, such as with vigorous singing and dancing, the sympathetic system or arousal system of the brain is driven to higher and higher levels, ultimately becoming overstimulated.
 - The brain essentially selectively shuts down, and certain areas of the brain stop receiving the neural input that they normally receive and on which they depend to function normally
- This may be responsible for an altered mental state described by many religious systems in which the divisions between the self and the outside world disappear and one feels as being “one” with the universe or supernatural beings
- Ethnographic examples of altered states of consciousness
 - Altered states of consciousness are at the core of many religious experiences and enable the believer to experience the supernatural in a very immediate, visceral way
 - Ex. San healing rituals – An indigenous ritual by which a state of altered consciousness is achieved through rhythmic dancing and hyperventilation. It is used for healing sickness in individuals and healing negative aspects of the community as a whole
 - Ex. The Sun dance of the Cheyenne – a four-day ceremony of dancing, fasting, and prayer held in mid-summer when the corn was in silk. Each summer after the sacred arrow renewal, the Cheyenne held their sun dance. It was a world-renewal ceremony offering prayers for the welfare of the people and for the increase of their resources

- Drug-induced altered states of consciousness

- The use of drugs to induce an altered state of consciousness is practice by many societies

Category	Examples	Effects
Euphoria	Morphine	Reduces mental activity and induces a sense of well-being
Phantastica	Marijuana, peyote	Causes visions, illusions, hallucinations, delirium
Inebriantia	Alcohol	Produces a state of intoxication; brings about an initial phase of cerebral excitation followed by a state of depression
Hypnotica	Xanax	Sedatives or sleep producers; may cause insensibility to pain
Excitania	Analeptics, coffee, tobacco	Mental stimulants
Tranquilizer	Librium, Thorazine, Valium	Reduces anxiety and mental tension; produces a state of mental calm

- This can have both adaptive and maladaptive expressions
 - Ex. A drug addict may not be able to maintain a home, a job, or normal social relationships because of his or her addiction
- It is important to recognize the difference between secular drug use and ritual drug use
- Religious drugs use takes place only at certain times and in certain contexts, with defined beginning and end points
 - Ex. The Huichol emphasize the role of the shaman not just to lead them on the peyote pilgrimage, but also to lead them back. They long for the ecstasy of this religious experience but also worry they might not be able to return from it

- Hallucinogenic snuff among the Yanomamos

- Various substances are used in religious contexts to bring about altered states of consciousness
- The most used hallucinogenic snuff is called *ebena*
 - Used on daily basis within the shamans of the village
- The Yamamomo provide a cultural interpretation of these visual hallucinations
- A shaman's supernatural power depends on his ability to entice the *hekura* into his chest
- The use of tobacco, often mixed with other substances, is common in South American societies

- Peyote in the Native American Church

- Religion became one method of coping with this stress, and out of the chaos developed a series of religious

movements known by anthropologists as nativistic movements

- Some of these early movements involved the use of hallucinogenic cactus peyote (peyotism)
- Peyote plays a role like that of the sacramental bread and wine of the Christian Mass
 - The Peyote is believed to contain the power of God and to ingest the peyote is to absorb God's power
 - Enables them to have a direct experience of the supernatural
- Marijuana among the Rastafarians
 - A common Rastafarian religious practice is the smoking of marijuana, or *ganga*
 - *Ganga* is sometimes referred to as the “wisdom weed” or “the holy herb” and is seen as a religious sacrament and a way to gain new understandings of self, the universe, and God

Module 5 Reading – “The Search for a New Meaning”

- Small scale societies are being drawn more and more into the larger, often more complex, world
 - Exposed to many influences that result in change
- Adaption and change
 - Religion reinforces a societies culture and worldview
 - Religious practices tend to be very conservative
 - This conservatism is derived from their sacred nature and the fact that a society's belief system is usually considered to be an ancient
 - If a society is to survive, it must adapt to some degree to the world as it exists
- Mechanisms of culture change
 - Societies that are technologically simple tend to be relatively isolated from outside infleunces and tend to change slowly over time
 - Internal change occurs through the processes of discovery and invention

- Discovery – a new awareness of something that exists in the environment
- Invention – occurs when a person, using the technology at hand, comes up with a solution to a particular problem
- Diffusion – when two groups, such as those within a culture area, face similar problems, solutions that are developed in one group through discovery and invention might be adopted by the other
- Stimulus diffusion – sometimes it is only the idea that moves from one culture to another, and stimulated by that idea, the receiving society invents a new trait
- When a trait diffuses from one culture to another, it is often altered to a greater or lesser degree to become consistent when the rest of the receiving culture
 - Ex. Use of a hallucinogenic drug is introduced into a society from a neighboring group. Yet how that drug is used in ritual might differ. Differences will occur in which rituals the drug is used, who uses it, and what it means.
- An introduced trait must be altered to fit into the cultural system and to reflect the worldview of the culture
- **Acculturation**
 - One society might assume political and/or economic control over another
 - When one society can dominate the other the dominant culture undergoes far less change than does the subordinate one
 - Ex. The dominant society can establish control over the subordinate one
 - The subordinate culture experiences change as traits are accepted, often at a rate that is too rapid to properly integrate the traits into the culture
 - Ex. An anthropologist who enters a tribal village and sees cans of soda, metal knives, pots and pans, and a radio knows that this is an acculturated community

- Assimilated – when dominated society has changed so much that it has ceased to have its own identity
- Religion may play an especially important role because a dominated culture might look for religious explanations for what is occurring, and the dominating group might use religious justification for its actions
- In many societies, people practice rituals from different religious systems more based on need than anything else
 - Ex. In Japan someone might travel to a Shinto shrine to ask for blessings on the family, be married in a Christian ritual, and be buried in a Buddhist ritual
- Syncretism
 - There often is a reworking of the trait through a process known as syncretism
 - Syncretism – a fusing of traits from two cultures to form something new and yet, at the same time, permit the retention of the old by subsuming the old into a new form
 - Ex. Origins of Halloween and the Day of the Dead
- Haitian Vodou
 - Vodou is a religion that is found in the country of Haiti and in the Haitian diaspora
 - The term *vodou* comes from the Fon language of Dahomey and means “spirit” or “deity”
 - In the late 17th century, the French government decreed that all slaves had to be baptized and instructed in the Catholic religion

Lwa	Role	Symbols	Seen as	Colors
Legba	As the guardian of the threshold between humans and the supernatural, Legba is the first lwa to be greeted in ritual	Crutches, pipe, rooster	St. Peter	Orange, yellow, red
Danbala and Ayida Wèdo	Lwa of rainfall and fertility. Danbala is the oldest of the lwa; his wife is the rainbow spirit	Serpent, rainbow, lightning bolts, bishop's attire	St. Patrick	White
Agwe	Protector of ships at sea	Ritual boat, shells, admiral's attire	St. Ulrich holding a fish	Green
Ezili Dantò	Lwa of fertility and motherhood; protector of mothers	Heart, knife, black pig	The Black Madonna	Multicolor
Ezili Freda	Lwa of love and luxury	Hearts, flowers, doves	Madonna of Sorrows	Pink, white
Gede	Lwa of death; healer, trickster deity	Cross, skull and cross bones, top hat, sun glasses missing one lens	St. Gabriel	Black, purple
Azaka	Lwa of agriculture	Straw hat, straw bag, pipe	St. Isidore	Green, white, denim
Lasirèn	Female lwa of the sea; brings luck and money; patron deity of musicians	Mermaids, fish, mirror	St. Martha with a dragon	Blue, white
Ogou	Lwa of war and military might; protector of cars	Fire, iron, swords	St. James	Red and blue of Haitian flag

- Over time the slaves became vaguely aware of the most basic tenets of Catholicism, but they continued to practice their African religions
- In 1804, Haiti became isolated from the rest of the world
 - Catholic clergy did not return until 1860
- Haiti is normally a Catholic country although many protests churches have been established
- Vodou is in many ways a West African religion
- Haitian Vodou has a pantheon of deities called *Iwa*
 - The Rada *nanchon* consists of African deities and are thought to be very ancient
 - The Petwo *Iwas* are aggressive and assertive, born-out of the slave experience
 - Another important group of *Iwas* are those associated with death
 - Each *Iwa* is known to be partial to certain foods that are used as offerings
 - Rada *Iwa* like things that are cool
 - Ex. Candies/Sweet drinks
 - Petwo *Iwa* like things that are hot
 - Ex. Rum/Spicy foods
- Alters are constructed containing objects that are infused with spirits, and offerings and sacrifices are made to appease the *Iwa*
- Dance and music play a major role in Vodou rituals
- Santeria
 - Developed in Cuba from a fusion of West African religions, primarily Yoruba, and Spanish Catholicism
 - Communities of freed slaves in remote mountainous areas developed Santeria
 - Santeria deities, called by the Yoruba name *orisha*, show the same syncretism as the Haitian *Iwa*
 - Associated with saints – Ogun is Saint Peter, Obatala is Saint Mercedes, and Shango is Saint Barbara
 - The proper name for the religion is *Regla de Ocha*, or Rule of the Orisha
 - The religion is known for being secretive

- One reason for secrecy is the use of animal sacrifice in ritual
- The issue is whether animal sacrifice should be permitted as part of the first Amendment protection of the free exercise of religion or whether it should be banned under statutes preventing cruelty to animals
- Revitalization movements
 - Societies that are situated next to each other experience diffusion
 - The situation often arises in which one culture can establish economic and political dominance and superimpose itself on another
 - A massive introduction of items from a dominant culture can have a dramatic effect on the receiving culture
 - Revitalization movement – one that forms to deliberately bring about change in a society
 - The movement may be secular, but they are very frequently religious movements, complete with mythology, ritual, and symbolism, and may result in the formation of a new religion
 - Revitalization movements arise from several perceived stressful and often traumatic situations
 - Ex. Political and economic marginalization, economic deprivation and poverty, and malnutrition and high levels of chronic or epidemic diseases

Module 5 Reading – “Selling ‘Shamanic Journeys’”

- Seeking spirituality outside churches is common in California, Arizona, New York, and in America’s heartland
- Selling shamanic journeys is a multimillion-dollar business today
 - Belief that what they are selling is assisting clients to “cross the shamanic bridge”
 - What the sellers of shamanic journeys have in common is that they do not minister to their own communities but to strangers

- New age shamanism universalizes practices and principles just as scientific medicine does
- Michael Harner's "Way of the Shaman"
 - Harner earned a PhD in anthropology from Berkeley, while living among the Shuars
 - Harner drank *ayahuasca* and was later able to persuade a Shuar spiritual leader to give him a datura drink
 - These two drug-induced vision experiences convinced Harner that the "shamans" really do reach through mundane life to perceive spirits
 - Resigned from academia to devote himself to his workshops and Foundation for Shamanic Studies
 - He supplemented his personal observations by reading others' ethnographies of ritual practitioners
 - He advocates relying on intense concentration, not on drugs
 - Argues that there are two realities and that the perception of each depends upon one's state of consciousness
 - Ordinary reality – ordinary state of consciousness
 - Nonordinary reality – shamanic state of consciousness
 - Individual forms encountered in nonordinary reality are themselves real
 - The existence of spirits is not a belief but an empirical force
 - For shamanic practitioners, souls are identifiable entities because they encounter them directly in nonordinary reality, as they do other spirits
 - Nonordinary reality is a consensual reality
 - The foundation for Shamanic Studies strives to strip "shamanic practice" from specific cultural baggage
 - His "core shamanism" courses advertise teaching the "basic" Shamanic Journey, extraction of disease, divination, soul retrieval, Dream Dance ritual, and the Harder Method Shamanic Counseling
 - Students wanting to learn the Harner Method Shamanic Counseling are warned that they must

- “have been having success in contacting you power animals and/or teachers on your own and that you feel confident about your journey skills”
 - Michael Harner and his followers are evidently earnestly sincere in their conviction that we all have one or more guardian spirits
 - Believe that soul’s journey outside their bodies
- Neo-Shamanism
 - Neo-Shamanism, “idealized and metaphorical images of shamanism... attach(ing) these to a wide range of rituals and beliefs not directly related to shamanism”
 - Neo-shamanists would usually be identified as within the New Age movement
 - We need to abandon the conventions of present-day Western culture and forge a new age of caring, caring for the earth, caring for our fellow humans
 - For some New Agers, that was a “Neolithic Age of Matriarchy” or Goddess worship, when civilization was ruled by nurturing women, only to be overturned by cruel warmongering patriarchal barbaric men riding out of the steppes
 - Eclectic spiritualists can be amazingly uncritical
 - One general characteristic of Neo-shamanists that contrasts strongly with the real shamans is that New Age spiritualists more actively work on their own personal enlightenment and “growth”, where the non-Western practitioners see themselves primarily as doctors to others in their communities
 - Ex. The apprenticeship of the non-Western practitioners is akin to medical school rather than personal salvation
 - Traditional shamans often struggle with spirits, whereas in Jakobsen’s research experience in Denmark and England, shamanic teachers speak only of benign spirits
 - Christianity preaches individuals’ need for salvation, to be sought by personal devotions

- New Age in this way carries on the modern Western focus on the individual, despite its bemoaning out supposed loss of community
- It is up to everyone to work to find, make, or purchase what they need to be happy
- Neo-shamanism's pitch to individual fulfillment is very much part of contemporary Western possessive individualism
- The problem with selling non-Western spirituality
 - Misuse ranges from non-Indians showing up at reservation worship events demanding to participate without bothering with fasting, appropriate dress, or other observances of respect, to playing a Lakota holy pipe beneath a crucifix in a Christian church, proclaiming it to be the benighted heathens' approximation of the Cross of Jesus
 - Cultural primitivism does more than exile non-Westerners from civilization
 - Expropriating a small nation's religious practices infringes upon its sovereignty, akin to taking over its land
 - Michael Harner is quintessentially American in reducing "shamanic journeying" to a basic technique that anyone can learn in a few hours
- Selling "shamanic techniques" is selling physiological training labeled to make it seem precious, rare, worth a high price

Module 5 Reading – "Snowboy – a Voice in the Wilderness"

Module 5 Film – "Mesmer and 'Animal Magnetism'"

- Anton Mesmer was disturbed by the types of techniques doctors were traditionally using to manage pain
 - Wanted to find something gentler and kinder that could be used for pain management

- Gave patients iron tablets and then would use a magnet to move the iron around the body to cleanse the system
 - Not everyone wanted to swallow the tablets
 - Had patients hold onto magnetic rods
 - Patients claimed to feel better (psychological)
- Mesmer realized that people would claim they feel better even when all he was wearing was that of a stereotypical wizard
- Claimed that the universe is permeated by an invisible force called animal magnetism that flows right through our body
 - When this magnetism is impaired, we can repair it by transferring the animal magnetism from a healthy person to the injured
- Patients became mesmerized by this type of procedure and would claim to feel better without being treated
- Was deemed a father of hypnosis as his treatment was based on the power of suggestion
 - The placebo effects
- Many people today still claim that external magnets can help heal as they are “magical”

Module 5 Film – “Video Nugget: The Marquis de Puysegur with Adam Crabtree”

- Marquis de Puysegur decided to learn Mesmer’s technique
- The first person he encountered he used the passes and caused her toothache to go away
- Victor Race asked the Marquis de Puysegur to help him with his flu
 - Victor’s personality began to change and noticed he was able to ‘control’ him through suggestion
 - Victor began to have a medical clairvoyant ability

Module 5 Film – “Hypnosis History – Who is James Braid?”

- He believed that it was not the hypnotist who has control in the hypnotic process, but the patient themselves
 - He did not believe there was anything to do with magnetism or the occult

- Identified eye fixation and concentration as the reason for the hypnosis
 - Believed hypnosis was phenomena attributed to the physiological state of the brain and spinal cord
 - Saw hypnosis as a valuable complement to the medical profession
 - We now know hypnosis to be a natural state of brain function
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Module 6A – Where Magic and Religion Meet

- In a hypnotic state you are aware but not fully aware
 - In a shift state
- In the shamanic modalities (trance), you are in a possessive like state, but you are still aware and remember what happened
- During a possessive state, it is understood that you are doing nothing of the things
 - You are merely an entity that carries the spirit that possesses you
 - Possession = stealing a soul = remembers nothing
- The Evangelical sect of Christianity believes in and continues to practice possession
 - One may be possessed by the holy spirit, an angel, or another godly spirit
 - Ex. Speaking in Tongues (glossolalia – the phenomenon of speaking in an unknown language, especially in religious worship. It is practiced especially by Pentecostal and charismatic Christians)
 - Holy angel or spirit is talking through you
 - Raises the status of the person that becomes possessed (believed that if you are chosen to be possessed you are of higher value within the religion)
- Possession may not be all bad
 - Ex. Possession by a Muse
- What can possess a person?
 - Incarnate

- “In the flesh”
 - A soul that had or has a physical body
 - Ex. Jesus, uncle or aunt, famous politician, etc.
- Discarnate
 - Does not have a physical body or has never been alive
 - Ex. God, Satan, demi-god/goddesses, demons
- Forces of Nature
 - Never had a body
 - No rational thought
 - Common in Asian lore
 - Ex. Energy that is kicked up by a natural force (tsunami, earthquake, tornado, etc.)
- Who gets possessed?
 - Willing
 - You come from a cosmology and axiology where possession may be a good thing
 - You come from a religion that trains you to be a good vessel for possession
 - Ex. A member of the Evangelical church, a priest or priestess of Voudon, members of Santeria
 - More than one person can be possessed BY THE SAME SPIRIT during willing possession
 - People of lower power become possessed
 - Frequently women are more often possessed than men
 - People who are under poverty
 - Being possessed raises your status within your marginalized community
 - Unwilling
 - Many people have made a fortune telling stories about unwilling possession
 - Ex. Stephen King

- Doesn't bring the same transfer of power within the community
- People that are extremely vulnerable are more likely to be unwillingly possessed
 - Happens frequently after an emergency to the individual or within the community
 - Ex. Karen Kingston (the Devil and Karen Kingston)
- Most often religions where possession is common, they are relatively new and syncretic
 - Distinctly unique religions that have syncretic roots
 - Syncretic – characterized or brought about by a combination of different forms of belief or practice
 - Religion A and religion B mix to form religion C
- Voudon
 - A willing religion about possession, where members are trained to be able to get possessed
 - You get possessed by people who want to give a message
 - Devine figure is called Lua/Loa
 - Syncretic religion
 - Sikhs = Punjab on cusp of Hinduism and Islamic faith
 - Guru tried to find which path was better
 - Said both paths were good and took the best of both
 - Started in Haiti and spread to other countries
 - Tension on island between Evangelical society and Voudon society
 - Each blamed each other for the massive earthquake
 - Petro and Rada = sub religions of Voudon
- Santeria
 - West African enslaved people with Spanish and Roman Catholic and little Indigenous practices
 - Almost the same as Voudon
 - Turned to religion in time of unknown

- Comes from Cuba = location where slaves were dropped off
 - To escape Castro, Cubans went to Florida so there is a large population there
- Worships Orisha
- Shango = St. Barbara
 - Worship her on day of St. Barbara
- Where are possession religions found?
 - Voudon is alive and well within Haiti, Louisiana, Benin, Montreal, Ottawa, Niagara Falls
 - Tends to be found within French speaking communities
 - Santeria is mainly found in Cuba but quickly moved to the United States to escape Fidel Castro
 - Southern Florida, Dominican Republic, New York
 - Found in areas of high Spanish speaking populations
- It is highly unlikely that you will become possessed should you attend a Voudon or Santeria ceremony
 - Initiates spend a large part of their lives learning how to be the best vehicle for their possessive spirits
- Each of these systems may seem the same to outsiders however they are not the same
 - Some sort of shell of Christianity to practice in public
 - All willing possession
 - All have been heavily influenced by Western Africa
- Zombies are they real or fiction?
 - According to the religions in Western Africa and the Voudon religion they are real
 - Wade Davis is an anthropologist who worked in Haiti during his PhD studying zombies and ethnobotany
 - Wrote *The Serpent and the Rainbow*
 - Honfor – temple
 - Hougan – priest
 - Mambo – priestess
- In Haiti there is a pufferfish that has an extremely toxic organ that is deathly should it be ingested (neurotoxin)

- Zombies are created by encountering zombie powder (poudre de zombie)
 - Made with the dried neurotoxic organ and other neutral ingredients
 - From the emic point of view, there is a rhyme and a reason as to what goes into the zombie powder
 - From the etic point of view, it is diluting the toxicity to not kill on contact
- Zombification does not happen within an urban setting
- Who will get zombified?
 - Men will typically become zombified
 - People who become zombies are people who the community does not want to hang around
 - Miserable human-beings
 - The target that will be zombified, the night before the Mambo or the Hougan will take the poudre de zombie and will place the powder on the front steps of the target's house for them to step on
 - Within a few hours the target will begin to feel terrible and will begin to look dead
 - If there is no pulse, then the poudre de zombie has suppressed the autonomic functions of the body to make the target look like a corpse
 - The target is then buried underground during a "funeral", but is then disinterred by the Mambo/Hougan and is spirited off to the temple, where they are kept in the back, where they will consistently be fed poudre de zombie
 - The target will be used to perform specific tasks until they are no longer able to be useful to the Mambo/Hougan
 - The target is poisoned/institutionalized to a point where they are not able to tell someone what happened there for, they essentially die
- This practice is not common, it is institutionalized, and it is illegal to a certain degree
 - It is a form of social control
 - Used as a fear tactic

- Many Haitian people carry sel du zombie (zombie salt), that is said to not turn you into a zombie should you feel someone is going to turn you into a zombie

Module 6 Reading – “Neo-Paganism and the New Age”

- New Age and contemporary Western Pagan movements
 - Two innovative spiritualities developed in second half of 20th century
 - Neither has a central authority that is capable of officially speaking for the movement as a whole
 - Reflected in lack of membership registrars or codified requirements
- New Age, neo-Paganism, vis-à-vis, mainstream/dominant Christianity = natural allies
- Confusion also due to tendency among prominent Pagan figures in 1980s to employ a New Age metaphor if not outright identity
- Throughout 1990s, increasing distancing from and denial of New Age identity by contemporary Western Pagans
- Paganism
 - Neo-Paganism does not speak in New Age terms of Higher Self or an imminent quantum leap in collective consciousness
 - Paganism does not believe in notions of literal apocalypticism or metaphorical millenarianism
 - Paganisms speaks in terms of similes, myths and images derived from pre-Christian and indigenous tribal traditions and construct of nature
 - Paganism subscribes to immanent understanding of godhead that allows/centralizes the natural world as manifest sacrality
 - Look towards extinct civilizations
 - Seek to become inspired by spirit behind practices of others
 - Pagan shamanism concentrates on community healing and to protect and restore unspoiled nature
 - Universal employment of female metaphor as godhead

- Pagans want to be reborn, and reincarnation is a means to come back and cause for celebration
- New Age
 - New Age descends from a competing theological perspective that views nature as an obscuring obstacle to hidden spiritual truth
 - physical world is an illusion or something of secondary and lesser importance
 - Commercialize commodities directly from Native American traditions
 - New Age shamanism focuses on self and personal development
 - Goddess imagery present, but refers more to neglected inner self of both women and men than to cosmic identity
 - Deemphasize or harness material in deference to the transcendental
 - Less ritualistic
 - More techniques of meditation – mainly mental
 - New Age wants to escape rebirth
- Both
 - Both New Age and neo-Paganism place stress on individual exegesis and spiritual right of individuals to decide what they believe and how they wish to practice
 - Both resist institutionalization and external authority that seeks to mandate dogma and doctrine
 - reason for confusion between two movements
 - Both movements express interest in Native American, aboriginal, shamanic culture
 - Seek to augment one's relationship with universe and achieve commonplace goals
 - Both do not pursue the practice of petitionary prayer
 - Accept general concept of reincarnation
- New Age is a spirituality that has emerged from a transcendental and body is a tomb understanding
- Paganisms celebrates divine as immanent along with the possibility of the spiritual being equally tangible

Module 6 Film – “Voodoo”