COURSE DETAIL

WITCHES, VAMPIRES, AND ZOMBIES: ANTHROPOLOGY OF THE SUPERNATURAL

Country
Canada

Host Institution
University of British Columbia

Program(s)
University of British Columbia

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
Anthropology

UCEAP Course Number
127

UCEAP Course Suffix

UCEAP Official Title
WITCHES, VAMPIRES, AND ZOMBIES: ANTHROPOLOGY OF THE SUPERNATURAL

UCEAP Transcript Title
ANTH: SUPERNATURAL

UCEAP Quarter Units
6.00

UCEAP Semester Units
4.00

Course Description

This course examines the different ways in which people experience and explain supernatural phenomena across the globe. It will look at these varied understandings and people's experiences of witches, witchcraft, vampires, zombies, and other supernatural phenomena across time and space. This course will address various questions, including how "the supernatural" is a category of beliefs, phenomena and experiences that did not fit within the narrative of a dualistic, scientific paradigm developed in the West as a result of the so-called "Enlightenment" era. It will also look at how this itself was "a myth of modernity" which ignored the fact that not infrequently magic and science coexist. As part of a process of decolonizing knowledge, we will also examine supernatural and occult traditions as they appear in the context of religion, narrative, healing, ritual and media accounts and representations in Western cultures. The primary focus in this course is not belief, but practice, and not what people say they do, but what they do and why they do it. This course seeks neither to prove or disprove the existence of supernatural phenomena, nor to make value judgments about people's praxes. Rather, it takes an ethnographic, phenomenological approach, recognizing people's lived supernatural experiences and the many different ways in which people inhabit and perceive this world.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
ANTH 206

Host Institution Course Title
WITCHES, VAMPIRES, AND ZOMBIES: ANTHROPOLOGY OF THE SUPERNATURAL

Host Institution Course Details

Host Institution Campus
Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department
Course Last Reviewed 2023-2024

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