

PAGANISMS PAST & PRESENT

Feb. 5 & 6, 2010 CH 150

WS 410 002, CRN 44013

Dr. Frodo Okulam

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will examine Pagan history and current Neo-Pagan expressions through video, print media, live presentations, and hands-on experience. Those taking the class for credit will have a chance to do further research into a related topic of their choice, culminating in a short paper.

READING MATERIALS: Selections from an unpublished dissertation by Frodo Okulam (13 pp.) Bibliography and list of periodical resources, groups, & shops (3 pp.). Info. & Syllabus (2 pp.). Selected readings in coursepack.

COURSEWORK FOR CREDIT: 5-page research paper with Reference List of 5-10 resources of various formats (books, websites, interviews, videos, periodicals). I am not looking for a recitation of facts about your subject, but for a presentation of what you found and what you think about it. Relate your research findings to your own experience and engagement with the subject. Please cite sources of quotes as they occur either in footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical references. Please use a recognized style for your citations and works cited page (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.)

Subjects for papers: You may choose any subject related to the course subject.

Examples: Research an aspect or period of the history/prehistory of Paganism

Interview members of a local Pagan group and research the group's root traditions

Interview a practicing Pagan and research traditions influencing their practice

Research a Pagan practice and present your own creation (This could be a ritual, spell, daily meditation, rite of passage, invocation to the Goddess, etc.)

Present a Pagan author and discuss their works & beliefs

Research a Pagan tradition and discuss its beliefs and practices

Due date: Mar. 5. Email to me or drop off: WS office, 469 NH

EXPECTATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION: Create a safe and respectful atmosphere for discussion. Treat others with consideration, including ensuring time for all to speak. Agree to keep specifics of class conversations within class. Understand that each person's spiritual experience is sacred to them. Respect one another's traditions. Recognize that no one has "the facts" about spirituality. Respect others' wisdom and your own. Acknowledge that sexism, racism, classism, homophobia, etc., exist. Recognize that this class is taught from an eclectic, feminist perspective.

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SYLLABUS

Fri. Feb. 5

- 5:30 Welcome, attendance, distribution of coursepacks, overview of the course, grounding.
- 6:00 Video clip: Beginning of *Halloween is for Witches Too*.
- 6:30 Overview of Paganism
- 7:10 Break
- 7:30 Current Paganisms: Z. Budapest, Oberon Zell, Reclaiming, more? (on You Tube)
- 9:00 Further questions about the course. 9:10 Break for the evening.
(Try to read the coursepack before reconvening. Bring a question for tomorrow)

Sat. Feb. 6

- 9:00 Welcome, sign-in. Grounding, reading of the Charge.
- 9:15 Discussion of questions from the reading. Further historical background.
- 10:00 Pagan History: from the advent of Christianity to the Burning Times
- 11:00 Video clip: *Burning Times*
- 11:50 Grounding, centering, self-blessing.
- 12:00 Break for lunch
- 1:00 Guest Speaker: Anne Newkirk Niven, publisher of *SageWoman* and *Witches and Pagans* (formerly *newWitch* and *PanGaia*).
- 2:00 Break
- 2:10 Info. & questions re. research paper .
- 2:30 Ritual experience
- 3:00 Hail and Farewell