

Final Review

SRS1110- Witchcraft, Magic, Occult Traditions

Occult

It is the hidden knowledge (supernatural) like the mark on the chocolate bar or soft drinks (COR, MK)

Magic(k)

There is a magic and magic(k).

Magic (k) is a neutral force that is always present and anyone can use. Like electricity it is not good or bad but requires a professional to access it. The person who added the K was Aleister Crowley.

Magic is the stage magic, sleight of hand, entertainment magic.

- Magic doesn't have morals, only the person using it

Witch

There are 5 different and unrelated phenomenon which get called witch or witchcraft

1. Anthropological witchcraft

Small religions and cultures that did not match christianity (spells, curses) evil in part of the practitioner NOT witch doctor but **shaman**: one who masters or guides spirits (tungus people)

- Witch doctor

2. Historical witchcraft

It is the hunting of witches and burning them (it starts in 1400's in Italy not in the medieval ages) the peak of witch hunting is in the 1600's and 1700's way past the middle ages all it took was accusation. Women are called witches and men are called warlocks (war loga- oath breakers)

Tainted word witch

3. Religious witchcraft

People identified as witches to describe belief, they practice pre christianity. Wicca is the religion, and women and men are called witches

- New religious movement after 1930s/40s
- Fastest growing
- Identified as wicca to avoid negative response

4. Feminists/ goddess witchcraft

Women that are not controlled by men. It has nothing to do with religion but more politics. Other religions did not have female figures so they worship female divine beings. Started in North America

- Equal rights, jobs, pay
- 1960s political
- Call themselves witches for shock value

5. Satanism

In christianity-> gods evil opponent

Neo-Satanists worship satan as a divine figure

Narcissistic, self worshipping

- 1960s modern neo satanism
- Call themselves witches for shock value

Classical stereotypes

Central and western europe

Witch

Female, they never chose the title, they get their power from evil cast glamour spell.

Classically: female, old, satanic, evil. **Actual:** female, young, or did spell to appear young

Warlock

Anglo-saxons "war loga" or "oath breakers" not to be trusted, accused of womens miscarriages. Old, bad, evil

Shamen

Mastered spirits

Magician/ Wizard

Classically: old, men, study, chosen title, good.

Study occulted knowledge, they were employed by nobles. They only serve whoever is paying them. They advise more than use spells. Roots of 3 magi from old testament (astrology). Had to know how to undo spells

- Power comes from knowledge

Sorcerer (ess)

Classically: male or female, age independant, neutral, family knowledge

It comes from a latin word (sorc) and it means fate (read people's fates and tried to counsel). Faux- amis: same word with different meanings (in french sorcerer =witch)

Culture

Society that shares beliefs/ values/ customs/ behaviour/ dresses. Transmitted through learning (taught) not biological. People who study are anthropologists.

Taboo

A tunisian word. Taboo is something you can not do or say. A lot of taboos come from religion (same sex marriage) and culture

Rituals

Not all are religious. Can be a rule that is religiously followed (ex. Scoop scoop pat the cat)

Social construct

Artificial categories to divide people by subsections (race). Race is mutable, it can change. Ex. Apartheid: race law in south africa. 3 categories (white, black and coloured). Could not interact with those outside of category. Un embargoed south africa so no one could trade but since japanese traded with South africa they were counted as white

Metaphor

- Inferred relationship between 2 things

Statement joining 2 things without like/as. As most religious language is metaphoric. The 3 people of the book (christian/jew/muslim) all have abrahamic origin. All 3 faiths use metaphoric language only islam is discreetly in arabic.

Mythology

- The study of sacred origin narratives believed to be true by followers. (the prophet muhammad PBUH is true for all muslims)
- Myth comes from the greek worth muthos which means word
- **Muthos** are not literal words (metaphors) words with multiple meanings, bible.
- **Logos** are literal words and unambiguous (specific) ex. Pen
- Most religious texts are muthos according to greeks

Emic

Personal experience

Etic

Research of experience. See things different than a participant.

Cosmology

Core word cosmo= the world/ universe

Worldview, how and why you believe the world is the way it is. Core of any belief system, derived from origin stories. Small scale worldview: everything is equal.

Axiology

axio= greek word "axis: or centre/ balance. It is your value system. Some things have more value than others. Derived from axios (statements about values) from religion, culture, teaching

Example of axiology and cosmology: abortion, both axiology and cosmology will never agree on that topic. It is different of how you view things. (is it a life from the day it starts or is it a life after the 8th week etc.)

Immanent

Location of the divine within the world. Not completely separated, god can send angels. Holy locations

Transcendent

Location above, beyond, outside the living world; all knowing, powerful. Ex. olympus, heaven

Abrahamic faith

Single term to discuss judaism, islam, and christianity at the same time. Have commonalities (holy books). All trace back to abraham

Liminality

- someone/ something/ somewhere that is in between or at the edge (blur categories)
- It is also the minority; people who are liminal in a community are often considered dangerous/ scary/ powerful in a negative way
- When we talk about liminal, we have to mention fear and power

Ex. new years eve and new years day, puberty, life and death. In africa, you do not become a man until you kill your first lion, you can be in a liminal location (hallway), being engaged and then married

Holidays

Serious, fasting, periods of deprivation

Festivals

Joyus, food, colour, music, drinks

Different ways society are constructed -

Small scale society (hunter/ gatherers) - sometimes known as witch doctors

This is not evolutionary, people don't have to start here.

They own what they can pack up and take with them. Live on ranges, move every 4-6 weeks depending on food source. Art doesn't exist just functional equipment.

Smallest unit = small groups of extended families of 10-15 people, usually related by marriage or blood

Spiritual beliefs

- They have celebrations few times a year (wedding) where they trade food and handcrafts
- They do not recognize hierarchy spirituality. Equal basis belief. human= tree= bear. Ask for spirits
- Shamanic relation; bridge the human and non human world more personal

Medium scale society (agrarian/ agriculturalist)

Make their own food, domesticate animals. Cannot move in order to take care of their crops; the weather is extremely important because their plants and food rely on it

- Clan membership; non direct relatives (100s of them)
- breeding/ agriculture: breed animals to help humans. Make tastier/ more food

Spiritual beliefs

- Anthropomorphize: begin to have a god/goddess of wind, river, rain in order to pray to gods that suited their needs (female rain= nurturing. Male rain= disaster)

Commerce

- People begin to specialize and trade due to extra time

Large scale society (urban)

- Large numbers of unrelated people living together (1k-10k)
- People specialize and there is a hierarchy (your job, class, name)
- God- king- royalty- priest

Spiritual beliefs

- Must give offerings to priest who prays for you
- Supplication: inferior to a superior relationship, no guarantee of answered prayers

Time

Linear- mytho historical, beginning to end, one direction

Cyclical- small scale societies, origin point. Aligned with weather, seasons.

Syncretic religion

It is its own religion but has 2 or more religious roots

Ex. SIKH= mix of islam/ hinduism, the founder studied both and found wisdom in both

Ex. christianity: satan was not always god's enemy, comes from zoroastrians who had 2 divine beings; a good and bad

Theism

Belief in gods/ something beyond human

Monotheism

Believe in only one god, followed/ worshiped, can have others just none above the one

Polytheism

Believe in many gods/ goddesses with religious flexibility, not only your god but other gods too. Romans adopted other gods (isis, myhris)

Pantheism

Believes in many gods/ goddesses but ONLY your set of gods (greek gods)

All pantheists are polytheists, but not vice versa

All pantheists believe in many gods (poly) they can worship many gods. But not all polytheists are pantheists meaning polytheism believe in multiple gods even outside of their locale. Ex. hinduism believe in multiple gods but they don't believe in the gods in buddhism

Aminist

Spirit in all things. Ex, rocks, cows, people

Atheist

No belief in divine

Agnostic

Not sure, not 100% convinced

Video: The Burning Time (about 1450s)

- Also known as the women's holocaust
- Witches were seen as worshipers of the devil - deemed by christians
- Witch craze dated back to the renaissance
- witch= fear of women's power associated with darkness and death
- Wick means to bend or shape
- 85% of those killed were women
 - Joan of arc burned for different beliefs
 - minerva= earth goddess (pagans worship nature)
- Women who cured/ healed without study of medicine= witches and were killed
 - It was mostly men in medical school
 - Wise women targeted for threats to catholic church fear of women's power and control of bodies; abortion, contraception goes against god's will
- Halloween was a pagan tradition (women celebrated to remember)
- **Fear** associated with the term witch propaganda and it was seen as evil
 - Burnings were profitable
 - Punishments were public
 - Enforced by the inquisition (execution to heretics)
 - Blaming witches relieve pressure off churches
- **Misogyny:** hate for feminine characteristics so sexulaity and passion seen as being in league with the devil
- **Black plague** was seen as god's punishment for sin
 - Female population increased at this time; women immune to the plague?
 - Women did not find husbands and became independent
- **Scapegoats** are victims who were blamed for every bad event in community
 - beggars/ widows/ old people
 - Life expectancy was 40 years above, that was suspicious
- **Levels of torture:** 1st, 2nd, 3rd degree
 - Most confessed to being witches by 2nd, everyone confessed by 3rd
- **Malleus maleficarum**
 - One of the very first printed books, a guide for hunting witches. It was very faulty, "hammer of witches"
 - Roman catholic church vs. protestant
 - Diabolism- people are quick to kill others but do not admit to it because it was done by the government

Film: Nazi Occult Conspiracy

Lebensborn

- It is the foundation of life
- The systemic breeding of pure aryan children by heinrich himmler
- SS had many wives and children

Rune : lettering system in nordic culture

- Germans used letters as their numbers a=1 etc
- Could imbue items with runes (Swords)
- Anything with runes showed aryan were there (reason for russian invasion)
- Used for spells and other occult matter
- Ex * means danger

Blood/ Sacred blood

Concept that somehow aryan blood was superior to other races. Nazis socialized to believe they were better

Tibet

The location the nazis believed that aryan super race had gone to after the sinking of atlantis. Nazis searched for traces of aryan from blavatsky's book

Blood flag

The flag, which was bathed in the blood of the sacred nazi martyrs whole ceremony on this where each new flag must touch the blood flag

Thule society

Occult organization, which hitler jointed in the 1920s, rich individuals

Change of holidays

Christian holidays replaced by things such as hitler's mom birthday as mothers day and ostara (germanic)

Night of the blood knives

When hitler executed the SA in one night with the help of the SS (elite) . SA were rowdy, uncontrollable

Richard wagner

World famous orchestra and opera composer who greatly inspired hitler with nationalist tales of great mythic hero's "holy grail"

Heinrich himmler

Viewed himself as the reincarnation of a 13th century hero king. Master architect of nazi religion, SS leader

Pendulum dowsing (occult activity)

Using a pendulum on a map to know the next move of your enemy. Next attack by nazi were random based on occult decision. US (allies) couldn't predict attacks so made their own occult counter intel. UK (Ian Fleming) James Bond M15 Inspired lots of occult beliefs. Canada (Mackenzie King) table wrapping contracting spirits of dead presidents

Black propaganda:

Made up prophecies to threaten the enemies (Germans used this, and the British used it)

Sacred Nazi martyrs:

16 of Hitler's men were killed and are known as the Sacred Nazi Martyr

Blavatsky (Russian princess)

Minor German noble. Joined Cyrus after divorce, went to India

- **Hoot Khoomis:** Indian spirit that talked to Helena
- **Founder of Theosophical Society:** Christian + Indian philosophy
- **Doctrine of Isis:** contact with super beings (Aryan race)
- **Darwin:** origin of species started battle religion vs. science
- Aryans from Atlantis bred with humans and lost powers (Hitler believed)
- **Hitler Aryan:** pale, blue eyed, blonde hair, 5'9 (req for SS)
 - Further from this is a degraded person
 - Social construct by Hitler
 - Blavatsky said other races were offshoots Hitler wanted to get rid of
- **Real Aryans:** Persians

13 heroes/ immortals

- Period at the end of World War One
- Start of propaganda
- Before World War 2 was nationalism in many places in the world

Kabbalah (occult documents)

- Medieval Jewish mysticism
- Collection of books
- Macgregor Mathers (polyglot translated to English)

- Zohar (first of many books of wisdom)
 - Didn't get translated till 1800
 - Esoteric system (occult/ mysticism knowledge)
 - Based on what god was thinking when he put the world together
 - What is key to universe god has if we knew could be god

3 prerequisites to study kabbalah

1. Male (wife did work men study)
2. 40+ (overwhelming knowledge for the young)
3. Have children (carry on lineage if you die)

Neo pagan (modern paganism) (religionist witches)

- This is a general term
- There is no wrong way to practise
- pagan= someone from rural area out of touch and land based- country blumpkin
- Not monotheistic can be all 3 subsets
- Underground, not in public
- Movements starting to rise to surface
- Practice or recreating or reconstructing pre christian religious rituals/ practice from western europe

Wicca - most common

- Large subgroup
- Folk religion of celted people
- Based on celtic religion of british isle
- Most common is solitary (covenant run by woman)
- Locus of power is myself, us spells as prayers
- If spell doesn't work you made a mistake

Asatru ®

- Legal standing in iceland
- Worship of nordic figures (thor)
- Common in scandinavian countries/ germanic
- Very literate so recorded religious practices
- Established, recreation
- Fastest growing
- Don't refer to themselves as pagans
- Devil worshipers, no religion

Druidry

- Druids were priests of British Isles
- Pagan and Christian
- Focused on oral teachings so not much history of it
- Accused of practising human sacrifice

Spells

- Work metaphorically must use right words
- **Semiotics:** study of signs/ symbols in symbolic language
- **Signs:** univocal 1 meaning no interpretations (stop sign)
- **Symbols:** multivocal, more than one meaning- red heart= love/ black heart= jealousy
- **Steps:** intention/ colour/ personalise (name, dob, astral, symbols)/ dress candle (oils)/ write wish/ light candle

Candle spell

1. Focus on what the situation is/ the issue
2. Work on assumption of magical technology- get white/ black candle
3. Spell for increasing or decreasing something- don't be greedy, it's about need
4. Scribe your name (any language), birth date, draw picture (astrological sign) - intention and focus of what you're doing
5. Would oil candle from centre outwards while thinking about the spell
6. Say words/ sing a song, then light candle
 - If you want something to increase, do it during the full moon at 11:59 (biggest)
 - To decrease, do it during a new moon at 00:01 (smallest)
 - Never blow a candle out for a spell
 - If you need to put out flame, use a snuffer because the speaking empowers the spell thus blowing will diminish it
 - Usually need to let it continue to burn until the end
 - At the symbolic/ psychological level it is powerful
 - Semantics work at psych, cultural, social level

Satanism

- Not about historical Satanism
 - Post 1960s and recently- new religious movement
 - People who study this have 3 classifications
1. Solitary Satanists
 - Work alone and i.d self as worshipers of Satans

- Usually male between 15-16, 19-20 years old
- Personal gratification

2. Outlaw groups

- 3-4 people involved w charismatic leaders typically male
- 15/16-21- a bit older
- Get involved with petty crime- break ins, pick pocket
- The leader would get a part of the stolen item
- 2-3 years they'll leave that group
- People at the top don't get in trouble usually
- Not many get arrested

3. Neo Satanic churches

- Use word church as in larger organization
- Cult seat church
- Cult not bad but small group with charismatic leader
- Form cult into sect- larger and break from religion
- New satanists

1966 start for western modern neo satanic churdons - Anton szandor lavey claims he had a dream about satan

- Church of satan founded by him (1966)
- During this time the vietnam war in usa ; era of the hippies, peace and love
- Changes in attitudes is occuring
- Anton said this peace and love is ridiculous- message from satan
- The church of satan did not treat satan as literal
- Satan is a metaphor for the acquisition for what you want
- Not an anti god figure
- God is the most powerful ally to satan because he keeps the fear in people to stay in business

1966- early person who got involved was michael aquino

- Member of COS
- The egyptian god set came to him in a dream
- Found temple of set, 1971
- Views dark gods/goddesses as real and literal
- Dropped reference to satan because anti god figure
- Focus on dark gods and goddesses
- Right hand paths- restraint and control religion-spiritual path of restraint
- Left handed path is about pushing the limits- indulgence
- Hierarchical system
- Called themselves witches for shock value

Individual groups called pylons (pillar)

- Believes in being aware of what is around you

Xeper (ing) - keffer

- To study and improve self to ultimately god like and as powerful as the gods themselves
- What the TOS is all about
- People could theoretically become powerful like gods

Anton lavey's daughter joined the TOS

- Zeena schreck active member of tos
- Her and her ex husband founded the werewolf order
- Focuses on classical imagery of werewolves
- Liminal figure, morph into wolves
- Ability to transform yourself
- About projecting the most advantageous image of yourself to get what you want

Satanism

- The only religion that cannot be practiced behind bars in canada
- Because it is about getting what you want
- Its people who will behave well to get out faster

Neutral

- About humans between supernatural
- <- neopaganism- be in balance w/ the natural world
- -> neostanists- view the natural world as dangerous and not wanted by others/ uncontrolled
- Ceremonies to control things around them
- Most effective way to control world is important

People in Witchcraft

Dr gerald Gardner

- Grandfather of wicca faith
- 1940s met a coven of witches 25k years old
- Ran 2-3 covens and wrote 2 books of wicca
- Gardnerians are people who follow gardeners work
- Study of magic
- Met with aleister crowley
- Founder of wicca

Alexander Shalers

- Ran an occult shop (naked so eco differences not visible)
- Grandma cut off his dick and claimed he was a witch from a long time
- 3 levels of being a witch he learned 1st from grandmother
- Strictly religious, no politics
- Alexandrians: people who follow alex shalers
- Focus on training and ceremonial magic

Doreen Valentine

- mother of modern wicca
- One of gardner's high priestess
- All kinds of paganism written by her
- Told gardner to stop using crowley's work
- Practice in coven with gerald
- Nationally recognized poet

Charles Arnold

- Wiccan high priest sort of gardnerian
- Wanted holiday but denied took humans rights
- US wicca is not a religious must be group, canada must be excluded is accepts

Murray Margaret

- Pioneer to women's rights
- Witchcraft dealt with fertility

Marija Gimbutas

- University professor, archeology
- Did not refer to herself as witch or worshiper of goddess
- Believes that the earliest divine figures were female
- Theory that it wasn't just men such as a god
- Women's movement

Mary Daly

- Roman catholic
- Phd in religious studies
- Wrote "beyond god the father" and " church and the second sex"
- Called herself a witch
- Radical lesbian goddess worshipping scholar

Starhawk

- Straight religion
- Studied being a witch as a religious expression
- Z budapest introduced her to social gender religion
- North to south

- Elders high in hierarchy
- Gallatarian

Morgan McFarland

- 1960s-70s hippies
- Advisor
- Still alive

Mark Roberts

- Social activist
- Tried to create hiram landscape
- Met with Morgan McFarland to craft a framework that would be socially and politically conscious- female or male, no hierarchy

Z Budapest

- Eastern Europe
- Self identified as a lesbian, got divorced from husband
- Own bookstore with feminist books, occult shop
- Palm reading
- Started first coven "Suzanne B Anthony Coven #1"
- Social, gender, religion, looking for strong divine women

Aleister Crowley

- Macgregor Mathers (polyglot)- start occult society together
- Big ego
- Order of Temple Orient
- Attempt to take over Gaden Dawn
- McGregor translates from German to English- causes Kabbalah to be brought to English world
- Golem- no higher control critical thinking

Franz Anton Mesmer

- Study consciousness
- Magnets hand held over patients in attempt to move blood away from desired incision in surgery
- Called animal magnetism
- Notices that patients become relaxed, improving survivability
- 2 levels of awareness - low/ high

Marky Puygesar

- Had Andre (peasant) as a patient
- Easier to bring him into a relaxed state
- Used mesmerism

James Braid

- Hypnosis

- Hyper relaxed state of mind

Correspondances

- Like and like
- Appear to be unrelated
- Roman empire - threw lots of parties, alcohol, get you to vote for him
- Amethyst and garnet stones similar to colour of grapes that make wine
- Put stones in wine to prevent people from getting to drunk or hungover
- Like attracts like or like will denature like
- How ancestors discovered witch hazel
- Occasionally work
- God left hints in the world

High and low magic

High:

- Ceremonial magic
- End of witch period, rise of occult societies
- Rules about what/ how you do it
- Follows rules exactly
- Dangerous if not done properly
- Forces we can't see

Low:

- Also called folk magic
- Remedies based on plants you had
- Grandparents knowledge passed down
- Called this after church said that traditional medicine was no good
- traditions/ cures

Alchemy, kabbalah, geomancy joined by god's understanding of transformation

Kabbalah : rabi

- Wear red cotton bracelet around wrist
- Originated in 19th century jewish mistresses
- Not new/ modern
- Jewish traditional teaching
- System of understanding the world
- Mystical, revealed in 1900s
- Men only, must be 40+, have kids, be jewish

Geomancy

- Decoding
- Comes from societies that didn't have a numbering technique
- Roman numerals - used because they didn't have amount or volume
- Arabic numerals 1,2,3...
- Study of meanings of numbers
- Hidden meanings throughout
- Emotional attachment

Alchemy

- Effort to turn lead into gold
- Not about getting rich
- About transformation
- Altering essence/ nature
- Occult technology

Anecdotal evidence

- What people see happen or what they feel
- Queen Victoria: first to use anesthesia

Altered states of consciousness (ASC)

- Daydreaming

Extraordinary human experiences (EHE)

- More than just adrenaline
- Astro Travelling- relaxed state, send consciousness somewhere else

Out of body experience (OBE)

- Put out or sleeping, but you can see your body and are aware of what's going on surrounding you
- Could be by choice

Phase + shift

- Phase consciousness
- Always two states of consciousness

Near death experiences (NDE)

- Anecdotal evidence
- Cannot be effectively measured in a lab
- Part of you is left where you crossed over

Shamanism

- Comes from tungus
- Not a biologically learned thing
- Not one religious / spiritual system
- Need training, small scale people, hunter gatherers

3rd modality

- Pecking order
- Supplication
- Non hierarchical
- Wheel of medicine

2nd modality

- Magical, candle spell
- Technologies for magic
- Not external cause
- Change fate
- witch/ hagens cause magick to happen

Shamanic modality

- Everything is equal, we share everything
- Not transtate or possession
- Aware, conscious interaction between a community
- Agreements between people
- Cooperative, not asking, praying or hoping
- Have specialists

Allopathic medicine

- Medical doctors, western

Possession- willing

- You are not aware of what is going on
- Will not remember anything that happened
- Possession by holy spirit / angel is a blessing
- Glossolalia: being possessed and speaking in a language of angels
- Rum in eyes makes spirit leave

Possession- unwilling

- Church having to do an exorcism
- Grief, pain. Not by choice

What possesses people? 3 options

1. Incarnate entities- has or had a body, ancestors. Good or evil intentions. Joan of arc and 2 saints, virgin mary
2. Discarnate entities- never had a body, god, angels, demons
3. Entity by natural forces- natural disaster. Nonverbal, noises, grunts, screaming, running around

Syncretic religion

- Two or more distinct things come together to create a 3rd distinct thing
- Hindu + islam = sinc

Santeria- worship of saints, cuba. Processing enslaved people- spanish, roman catholicism, yoruba

Vodou- haiti- human processing. French roman catholicism

Zombies;

- Wade davis: studied zombies
- Popular book: serpentinite
- Chemical in puffer fish that can kill you
- Zombie powder does brain damage
- Folk culture about zombies
- Zombies are real!!!