

RITUAL

Key Terms:

ritual	liminal	FGM /genital cutting
rite of passage:	Wicca	
neophyte	Neo-Pagan	

Intro

1. Define ritual. What are its social and psychological functions?
2. What are the five major categories of ritual identified by Anthony Wallace? Contrast rites of passage from rites of intensification, etc.

Orion

1. Define Wicca. Describe a coven. What does ritual serve to accomplish in wiccan terms? What is the role of magic?
2. Explain the importance of the circle, the elements, symbolism.
3. What is the 3-Fold Law?

Magliocco

1. What do neo-pagans say is the purpose of ritual? What does Magliocco say is the attraction of ritual for the participants and creators?
2. How do most neo-pagans learn about rituals?
3. Explain the concept of "invented tradition" coined by Hobsbawm and used by Magliocco to describe neo-paganism.

Vodun: Brown

1. What is vodun? What does it mean to say that voodoo is a syncretic religion? Why does it have such a bad and inaccurate image outside of Haiti?
2. What is the role of spirit possession in voodoo?
3. What is the role of magic in voodoo? What is the meaning of the term "work of the left hand"?

The Secret's of Haiti's Living Dead: del Guercio & Voodoo Science: Booth

1. What is Wade Davis' explanation of zombies - what are they, are they real or a figment of Haitian imagination? Is this view widely accepted?
2. How do psychology and chemistry relate to zombies?
3. What does Booth mean by the term "voodoo science"?

Miner

1. Who are the Nacirema, and how do they benefit from their use of magic?
2. What is Miner saying about how we view societies different from our own, and the role of anthropology in depicting "otherness"?

Turner

1. Explain what a rite of passage is and how it is important in society and for social order.
2. Discuss Victor Turner's concept of "Betwixt and Between."
3. Describe the characteristics of the liminal stage of the rite of passage. Why are people in this stage called "initiates" or neophytes?
4. What is the role of symbol in ritual? Why are there often bizarre, even terrifying images in ritual masks?
5. What is the significance of the phrase "growing a girl"?

Gordon

1. What is female genital cutting (sometimes referred to as "female circumcision", "female genital mutilation" or FGM)? Where is it practiced? How many women have undergone this procedure? At what age?
2. What are some of the health implications for women who have endured female genital cutting?
3. What explanations do people in the Sudan give for female genital cutting? What explanation does Gordon give?
4. What does Gordon say anthropologists should do about female genital cutting?

HEALING

Bass

1. How does Lambo view the efficacy of traditional healing in Nigeria compared with Western psychiatry? How does he see the relationship between the two in the future?

Bergman

1. Name the three types of Navajo medical practitioners described in Bergman's article and describe their respective techniques. (Bergman)
2. What is the role of the family in healing amongst the Navajo and other traditional cultures.

RELIGIOUS SPECIALISTS

Shaman	subsistence strategy	centralized political system
Priest/priestess	division of labor	helping spirits, power animal,
Prophet	office	familiar
charisma	bureaucracy	
Medium	hierarchy	

Articles by Vitebsky, Narby, Kalweit, Myerhoff, Brown, Video: The Split Horn

1. Explain the role of the shaman in society. How do shamans work? What is the role of familiar (helping, or tutelary) spirits?
2. Explain the role of drugs, drumming, rattling, dance in the shamans work.
3. What does Kalweit say is the role of the observer in shamanic ritual?
4. What does Brown say about the dark side of shamanism?

Turner, Furer-Haimendorf, Barkun, Video: Islam: Empire of Faith

1. Explain the role of priests and priestesses in society. Distinguish them from shamans.
2. Distinguish between the shaman, priest, prophet, and medium. Include a description of the type of societies in which they are found, how they work, and how individuals become each type of specialist.
3. Are women and men equally represented in the roles of specialists? How does it vary?
4. What is the relationship between the social structure (scale), subsistence strategy, and the type of religious specialists?