

SE 322 : Systems of Religion, Value and Belief

Shortly before every final exam students come to advise that someone has stolen, lost, mislaid, eaten or used for toilet paper the Library copies of the text books. This is sure to happen this time too, but perhaps this is fortunate, for anyone who uses them now and takes notes of the main principles involved won't need the books at exam time. They are available on reserve now (and if they're not you can borrow mine). The final exam will assume that have read and learnt the key principles from the following articles in Lessa & Vogt's Reader in Comparative Religion:

Origin of religion section

Introduction
Tylor "Animism"
Durkheim "The elementary forms of religious life".

Function section

Introduction
Homans "Anxiety and ritual".

Myth and Ritual section

Introduction
Kluckhohn "Myth and ritual: a general theory".

Symbol section

Introduction
Geertz (only in 2nd and 3rd editions) "Religion as a cultural system".

Mana Section

Introduction
Codrington "Mana"
Ellis "The Tabu".

Totemism section

Introduction
Goldswasser "Totemism".

Magic section

Introduction
Cannon "Voodoo death"
Evans-Pritchard "Witchcraft explains unfortunate events".

Illness section

Introduction
Ackerneckt "Problems of primitive medicine".

Death section

Introduction
Spiro "Ghosts, Ifaluk and teleological functionalism"
Colson "Ancestral spirits and social structure".

Shamans and priests

Introduction
Thompson "A Maya priest in action".

Dynamics

Introduction

Linton "Nativistic movements"

Barber "Acculturation and messianic movements".

Belshaw "The significance of modern cults in
Melanesian development".

(R.G. Crocombe)