

Swarthmore College

## Works

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Digital Humanities Curricular Development

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Spring 2020

### Religion 102 Magic Archive

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The purpose of this project is for you to learn to use digital humanities tools and methods, to generate new research, and to curate relevant subject materials for a zone of innovation in Religious Studies. For this assignment you will explore the intersections between Magic-Religion categories and identify primary sources on the same; you will sort and catalog selected items; format visual materials for presentation; collect sources and documents, images, videos, audio, and other types of files; provide research on the origins, sources, and use of these materials by practitioners and institutions.

The resulting project will classify and display an archive of materials for this course.

What is the big argument that readings make each week? What is the question that students should be answering? Restating each author's argument for discussion.

Note the difference in hearing from scholars versus hearing from people/practitioners

One or Two people each week lead, making the argument on behalf of the book's author, restating it, drawing the big picture, marking disagreements, especially the idea that this is magic and not religion; is the problem with category and description? Can we settle the question? Can they argue that magic is in religion? Part of? Distinct? Each week we look at examples.

1. Everyone does weekly responses that answer my prompts and come at the main issue from their own position
2. Everyone curate an online digital museum, contribute 2 items (use book as model)

### 1. Defining Magic

What exactly are we talking about? How have scholars described this thing? How have non scholars described this thing? How have practitioners described this thing?

Does magic even exist?

What are the experiences, expressions, and institutions that are called magic? What do they share? What are their characteristics?

What are some theories of magic? Is there such a thing as a theology of magic?

What about science and magic?

When do these categories come about?

A term that defines the other  
A term that defines the Self  
Always social, embedded in a context  
Magic as Supernatural, supernaturalism  
The problem and issue of presence

2. Magic and Religion, Magical Religions, when magic first appears as a term
3. Practices - healing, harming, rituals, versus thought
5. Folk Magic, local expressions culture forms and values
6. Magic lab: How-To-Do-It
7. Magic today, contemporary styles?
8. Case studies of practitioners and practices- biographies on individuals and persons
9. Material culture artifacts, museum

Papers must be researched with proposal and abstract over the break

creating a digital archive or museum of objects or images - WHEN TO START GATHERING THESE

A Biographical paper that introduces us to a magician WHEN DUE, and what sources?

#### Metadata Guidelines

In terms of metadata guidelines, we talked about the following as \*required\* fields for adding new items; however, feel free to add to or extend using additional fields.

NB: Consider writing up your metadata in a document outside the Omeka interface first, particularly the item description, to lessen the risk of accidentally losing your work.

Title A short, descriptive phrase that identifies the item

Description A narrative write-up that more fully describes the item and provides context and significance, including any references to works cited

Date Date of creation of the item (to the best of your ability)

examples:

- 2019-02-11 (yyyy-mm-dd)
- 175? (sometime in the 1750's)
- 1700-1799 (18th century)

Creator Person, organization, or other entity responsible for creating the item

Source Information regarding where you found the item--be as specific as possible including any persons or organizations, any identifiers (archival collections, item ID), and if applicable any URL

Rights (Optional) If your item has a rights statement associated with it (e.g., from a digitized archival collection), include a link to that language here

Tags (Optional) Your assignment already includes at least three tags--consider what other ways of categorizing or grouping your curated items might highlight connections across your selections

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