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Spring 2020

### Magic: Theory And Practice (RELG 102) Syllabus

Yvonne Patricia Chireau

*Swarthmore College*, [ychirea1@swarthmore.edu](mailto:ychirea1@swarthmore.edu)

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#### Recommended Citation

Yvonne Patricia Chireau. (2020). "Magic: Theory And Practice (RELG 102) Syllabus". *Magic: Theory And Practice*.

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# RELIGION 102 MAGIC: THEORY AND PRACTICE

**The Intersection of Magic and Religion in America**

**SPRING 2020, Mondays 1:15-4:00pm**

**Professor Yvonne Chireau**

The primary goal of this class is for you to achieve a greater understanding of "Magic" through creative engagement in written and discussion-based outlets. This goal can be met by producing intellectually engaging responses to the readings and providing informed and well-researched questions about the source material at hand for our discussion section.

The second goal is to engage with scholarship, literature, and other media to attain a general understanding of American Magic, its forms, material traditions, practices, and practitioners. This goal can be met by showing, through your participation, a developing knowledge of these topics from a variety of perspectives - including that of Religious Studies.

The final goal of this course is that you produce original scholarship on this subject by working on a project that interests you. This goal will be met through the production of contributing materials for the digital archive (as part of our co-curated final research assignment on magic and materiality), and through required papers and written assignments.

Class Requirements: weekly response and reflection papers (25% of the final grade each) biographical essay (25 % of the final grade), attendance and participation in all sessions (20% of the final grade); curating project for digital archive (30% of the final grade)

## **Course schedule by week**

### 1. Defining Magic - Magic versus Religion

Categories that define the other; term that defines the other; theories of magic

### 2. Magic and Religion and Magical Religions

Historical sources from the middle ages to the Enlightenment

### 3. Practice and ritual

healing magic

### 5. Folk Magic in local cultures of the "Folk"

Pennsylvania colonial magic to the present; forms and values in the German Dutch tradition

6. Magic digital lab #1
7. Contemporary styles and practices of magic in the US
8. Science and Magic
9. Magic and material culture; architecture; sigils
10. Magic digital lab #2

**Readings - all books on Honors Reserve at McCabe Library**

Davies, Owen, *Grimoires: A History of Magic Books*, Oxford University Press, 2009

Deslippe, Philip. "The Hindu in Hoodoo: Fake Yogis, Pseudo-Swamis, and the Manufacture of African American Folk Magic." *Amerasia Journal*, vol. 40, no. 1, 2014, pp. 34–56

Dudley, Sandra H. *Museum Objects Experiencing the Properties of Things*. Routledge, 2012

Fabian, Ann V. *Card Sharps, Dream Books, Bucket Shops: Gambling in 19th-Century America*. Cornell Univ. Press, 1990

Harris, LaShawn. "Dream Books, Crystal Balls, and "Lucky Numbers": African American Female Spiritual Mediums in Harlem, 1900-1945." *Journal of Afro-Americans in New York Life and History*, Vol. 35, Issue 1, (January 2011): 1-30

Hazzard-Donald, Katrina. *Mojo Workin': the Old African American Hoodoo System*. University of Illinois Press, 2013

Mccall, George J. "Symbiosis: The Case of Hoodoo and the Numbers Racket." *Social Problems*, vol. 10, no. 4, 1963, pp. 361–371

Morrow, Carolyn Clark. *Spiritual Merchants: Religion, Magic, and Commerce*. University of Tennessee Press, 2001

Murphy, Joseph M. "Objects That Speak Creole: Juxtapositions of Shrine Devotions at Botánicas in Washington, Dc." *Material Religion*, vol. 6, no. 1, 2010, pp. 86–108.

Taylor, Alan. "The Early Republic's Supernatural Economy: Treasure Seeking in the American Northeast, 1780-1830." *American Quarterly*, vol. 38, no. 1, 1986, p. 6.

Bailey, Michael David. *Magic the Basics*. Routledge, 2018. Print.

Bardon, Franz. *Initiation into Hermetics: the Path of the True Adept*. Merkur, 2009.

Burton, Tara Isabella. "The Rise of Progressive Occultism." *The American Interest*, 7 June 2019, [www.the-american-interest.com/2019/06/07/the-rise-of-progressive-occultism/](http://www.the-american-interest.com/2019/06/07/the-rise-of-progressive-occultism/).

Butler, Jon. "Magic, Astrology, and the Early American Religious Heritage, 1600-1760." *The American Historical Review* 84.2 (1979): 317

Chireau, Yvonne Patricia. *Black Magic: Religion and the African American Conjuring Tradition*. U of California, 2006.

Dreher, Rod. "When The Religious Left Is Occult." *The American Conservative*, 7 June 2019, [www.theamericanconservative.com/dreher/religious-left-is-occult-pat-robertson-is-right/](http://www.theamericanconservative.com/dreher/religious-left-is-occult-pat-robertson-is-right/).

Geertz, Hildred. "An Anthropology of Religion and Magic, I." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, vol. 6, no. 1, 1975, p. 71.

Frazer, James George, *The Golden Bough: A Study in Magic and Religion*. Oxford UP, 2009.

Godbeer, Richard. *The Devil's Dominion: Magic and Religion in Early New England*. Cambridge UP, 2002.

Graham, Elizabeth. "Do You Believe in Magic?" *Material Religion*, vol. 14, no. 2, 2018, pp. 255–257.

Greer, Michael. "The Magic Monday FAQ." *Ecosophia*, 2019 [www.ecosophia.net/blogs-and-essays/the-magic-monday-faq/](http://www.ecosophia.net/blogs-and-essays/the-magic-monday-faq/).

Hazzard-Donald, Katrina. *Mojo Workin': the Old African American Hoodoo System*. University of Illinois Press, 2013.

Horowitz, Mitch. *Occult America: White House séances, Ouija Circles, Masons, and the Secret Mystic History of Our Nation*. Bantam Books, 2010.

Joyce, John. "Sigil Magick Essay." John Joyce, 3 Apr. 2018, [www.johnjoyce.co.uk/sigil-magick-essay/](http://www.johnjoyce.co.uk/sigil-magick-essay/).

Kendall, Laurel. "Do You Work with Magic?" *Material Religion*, vol. 14, no. 2, 2018, pp. 253–254.

Kerr, Howard, and Charles L. Crow. *The Occult in America: New Historical Perspectives*. University of Illinois Press, 1986.

Kripal, Jeffrey J. *Religion: Super Religion*. Macmillan Reference, Cengage Learning, 2017.

Lachman, Gary. *Dark Star Rising: Magick and Power in the Age of Trump*. Tarcher Perigee Book, 2018.

Long, Carolyn Morrow. *Spiritual Merchants: Religion, Magic, and Commerce*. University of Tennessee Press, 2001.

Montgomery, Jack G. *American Shamans: Journeys with Traditional Healers*. Busca, Inc., 2008

Murray, David. *Matter, Magic, and Spirit Representing Indian and African American Belief*. U of Pennsylvania, 2013

Quinn, D. Michael. *Early Mormonism and the Magic World View*. Signature Books, 1998.

Radin, Dean I. *Real Magic: Ancient Wisdom, Modern Science, and a Guide to the Secret Power of the Universe*. Harmony, 2018

Styers, Randall. *Making Magic: Religion, Magic, and Science in the Modern World*. Oxford UP, 2004.

Thomas, Keith. *Religion and the Decline of Magic: Studies in Popular Beliefs in Sixteenth and Seventeenth-Century England*, Penguin Global, 2012.

Thomas, Keith. "An Anthropology of Religion and Magic, II." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, vol. 6, no. 1, 1975

