



COURSE INFORMATION:

Title: Dealing with Demons and Death Magic in the Ancient World

-F193 (CRN 35735)

¥ Credits: 1 (one)

¥ Prerequisites: None

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Name: Dr. Paul Korchin

Office Location: none (adjunct faculty)
Telephone: 907-374-8870 (before 10pm)

Office Hours: by appointment
E-Mail: pdkorchin@alaska.edu

COURSE READINGS / MATERIALS:

<u>Course Textbook</u>	Reading Packet (photocopied & provided by instructor)
Author:	various
Publisher:	various

Supplementary Readings Primary texts, journal articles, media sources, and iconography will be provided via photocopied handouts and/or the internet.

Supplies Required: Personal computer with internet access.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An exploration into ancient traditions of magic via Egyptian, Mesopotamian, Graeco-Roman, and Biblical texts as well as artifacts, focusing upon their rationales, methods efficacy, and legitimacy for variously preventing, mitigating, or invoking dangerous forces such as demons, ghosts, illnesses and curses.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES:

By the conclusion of this course, the diligent student will be capable of broadly sketching the functions and purposes of magic within core ancient cultures of the Near Eastern and Mediterranean worlds (Egyptian, Sumerian, Assyrian-Babylonian, Israelite, Greek-Roman). The attentive student will gain insight into the underlying notions of cosmology and causality that animated ancient magical rites. The dedicated student will also be able to reflect critically upon how the magical relates to the religious and the scientific.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:

Within the classroom, this course will be conducted in a lecture-discussion format, featuring presentations and questions by the instructor designed to engage the students in conversations about the material and topics at hand. Visual media will be incorporated (chiefly PowerPoint and photographs) to provide a more vivid context for reflection and engagement. Beyond the classroom, this course will maintain social networking and micro-blogging sites in order to foster a more sustained and vibrant intellectual dialogue about the subject matter. Postings will include (links to) relevant multimedia sources, class discussion threads, and course logistics.

COURSE CALENDAR:**MAR 2: CLASS 1: LIVING AMID THE DEMONIC AND DEATHLY**Assignment:

Articles

! R. Stark, *Reconceptualizing Religion, Magic, and Science* (2001)! D. Hammond, *Magic: A Problem in Semantics* (1970)! P. Raffaele, *Sleeping with Cannibals* (2006)

Online postings (+ comments)

MAR 9: CLASS 2: REACTIVE MAGICAssignment:

Online postings(+ comments)
Final Project assi

SUPPORT SERVICES:

UAF Community and Technical College Student Assistance and Academic Advising Center:
 (phone) 907-455-2800;(toll-free) 877-882-8827;(e-mail) fytvc@uaf.edu

DISABILITIES SERVICES:

UAF has a Disability Services office that operates in conjunction with the College of Rural and Community Development campuses and UAF's Center for Distance Education (CDE). Disability Services, a part of UAF's Center for Health and Counseling, provides academic accommodations to enrolled students. (UAF) 500 m12