

Religion and Culture
LECTURE 12
Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
April 28, 2004

The Function of Religion in Anthropology

I. Types of Religions

1. Shamanistic
2. Communal Religions
3. Olympian Religions
4. Monotheistic Religions

II. Types of Supernatural Beings

1. Non-human Spirits (animism / animatism)
2. Ancestral Spirits
3. Superior Gods
4. High Gods

Swanson's Theories (The Birth of the Gods, 1960)

III. Types of Religious Practitioners

1. Shaman
2. Priest
3. Mediums
4. Sorcerers and Witches

IV. Rituals and Ceremonies

1. Rites of Passage
2. Rites of Intensification

V. Magic as a Primitive Science

1. Defining Magic
2. Frazer's Study of Magic
3. Two types of Magic
 - a. Law of Similarity (Sympathetic Magic)
 - b. Law of Contagion (Contagious Magic)
4. Sorcery and Witchcraft
 - a. Function of Witchcraft
 - b. Social Control