Introducing Anthropology of Religion: Culture to the Ultimate

By Jack David Eller

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This lively and readable survey introduces students to key areas of the field and shows how to apply an anthropological approach to the study of contemporary world religions. Written by an experienced teacher, it covers all of the traditional topics of anthropology of religion, including definitions and theories, beliefs, symbols and language, and ritual and myth, and combines analytic and conceptual discussion with up-to-date ethnography and theory.

Eller includes copious examples from religions around the world – both familiar and unfamiliar – and two mini-case studies in each chapter. He also explores classic and contemporary anthropological contributions to important but often overlooked issues such as violence and fundamentalism, morality, secularization, religion in America, and new religious movements.

Introducing Anthropology of Religion demonstrates that anthropology is both relevant and essential for understanding the world we inhabit today.

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Review

'One of the most engaging, comprehensive, and compelling overviews of anthropology of religion ever published. Eller successfully integrates and interprets a wide array of ethnographic information, giving ample attention to both past contributions and contemporary perspectives. Beginning students and specialists alike will learn much from this volume.' - *Stephen D. Glazier, University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

About the Author

Jack David Eller teaches Anthropology at the Metropolitan State College of Denver. His previous publications include *Violence and Culture: An Interdisciplinary and Cross-Cultural Approach* (2005) and *Culture and the Real World: Core Concepts of Cultural Anthropology Applied to Contemporary World Issues* (2006).

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