

Anthropology of Religion  
**Chapter 7 Lecture Notes**

## **Religious Ritual**

### **I. Ritual and Meaning**

***Communication without information.***

Reaffirmation through predictability

***Rituals communicate status change.***

**Holy Orders**

### **II. Ritual as Sacred Underwriting of Ideology**

***Ultimate Sacred Postulates***

The most sacred beliefs that define the essential basis of an ideology

***Ritual as ground of sanctity***

Participation transforms nonconformity into hypocrisy

### **III. Ritual as Influence**

***Technology Rituals***

Divination, fertility of crops, protection

***Therapy and Anti-therapy***

***Salvation***

Spirit possession, mystical experience, becoming a shaman or prophet

**Egypt and Mummy**

***Manipulation and Petition***

**Magic: Law of Similarity and Law of Contagion**

Shoshone love magic

Worship

#### IV. Ritual and Social Unity

*Participation is a religious act and an act of loyalty to the values communicated by the ritual.*

Pilgrimage as reenactment