

24EN813 Occult and the Modern World: Analysis of the Works of Anton Szandor LaVey
4-0-0 4

Year of introduction: 2024

Objectives: This course provides an in-depth examination and critical analysis of the life, teachings, and impacts of Anton Szandor LaVey, the founder of LaVeyan Satanism. Through a multidisciplinary approach drawing from religious studies, sociology, psychology, and cultural studies, students will explore LaVey's writings, rituals, and philosophy, as well as their broader cultural and historical contexts. Topics covered include LaVeyan ethics, ritual practices, cultural representations, and the influence of LaVeyan Satanism on modern occultism and popular culture. This course will help develop a nuanced understanding of LaVey's work and its significance within contemporary socio-cultural movements, popular art, and social discourse.

Learning Objectives: The course helps to study the life, works, and impact of the works of Anton Szandor Lavey and how it has influenced modern occult, culture, literature, and art through various ideologies present in his works.

Pedagogy: The course will cover all the written works of Anton Szandor LaVey, some major works that reference his ideologies, literature that were influenced by his works, and the theoretical works that help support his claims. Along with primary text analysis and secondary source engagements, the close reading of the reference materials, and an analysis of the works of Anton Szandor LaVey this can be well established and be made into a project article that will help explain the primary objectives and the secondary hidden ideologies thus uncovered through this.

Syllabus

Unit 1: LaVey's Magnum Opus

The Satanic Bible – Anton LaVey

The Satanic Rituals – Anton LaVey

Unit 2: Other Major Works of Anton LaVey

The Devil's Notebook – Anton LaVey

Satan Speaks! – Anton LaVey

The Compleat Witch (originally *The Satanic Witch*) – Anton LaVey

Unit 3: About LaVey

The Secret Life of a Satanist: The Authorized Biography of Anton LaVey – Blanche Barton

The Church of Satan: A History of the World's Most Notorious Religion – Blanche Barton

Unit 4: Support Works

Theories of Religion: A Reader – edited by Seth D Kunin

Satanic Panic: The Creation of a Contemporary Legend – Jeffrey S Victor

Cultural Sociology: An Introduction – Les Black and Andy Bennet

Psychology and the Occult – Carl Jung

Course Outcome:

After the Completion of the course, the student will be able to –

CO1 – Get a firm base about the ideologies of LaVeyan Satanism.

CO2 –Analyze the different approaches and reactions to and against Anton LaVey and how it has impacted the dissemination of LaVeyan Satanism.

CO3 –Acquire knowledge of clandestine occult tenets present in popular culture, art, and literature.

CO4 – Gain awareness regarding the use of language in occult practices, and how language plays a role in occult literature.

CO5 –Analyze the psychological and socio-cultural impacts of LaVeyan Satanism in modern society.

Evaluation Pattern:

Category	Marks
Continuous Assessment	20
Mid-Term	30
End Semester	50
Total	100