

### The Occult: What Is it?

- **Occult** (*occultus*) means “hidden” or “secret”
- Three main characteristics:
  - Study of the esoteric
  - Supernatural or paranormal
  - Action at a distance

“A set of mostly unrelated divination and/or spiritual practices or activities which appear to tap into forces that have not been explained by science, and which are not conventional practices seen in traditional religions.” (<http://www.religioustolerance.org/occult1.htm>)

### The Occult: What Is it?

- Mystery religions taught man was divided
- Right side = light/spiritual
- Left side = darkness/material
- Today occult is known by left hand path

### The Occult: What Is it?

#### Three Kinds of the Occult

1. Divination— fortune telling, spirit guides
2. Magick— Manipulate the circumstance and people to ones will through incantations
3. Spiritism— Communication with spirits or dead

### The Occult: Spiritualism

**The Fox Sisters** (1838-92)

- 1848: Believed they lived in haunted house (NY)
- Communicated by rappings
- Neighbors came for séances
- 1850: Began public séances for wealthy
- Popularized spiritualism
- 1888: Margaret and Kate claimed to be frauds

Margaret, Kate, and Leah

### The Occult: Theosophy

**Helena Blavatsky** (1831–1891)

- Spiritual evolution/ reincarnation
- Anticipation of utopia and Lord Maitreya
- One world religion and government: NWO

### The Occult: Theosophy



- Declared objectives:
  - Form Universal Brotherhood of Humanity
  - Encourage the study of Comparative Religion
  - Investigate the powers latent in man

### The Occult: Thelema



- Aleister Crowley** (1875–1947)
- English occultist, writer, Freemason, Yogi
  - 1887: abandoned Christianity and Church
  - Indulged in sexual Magick and homoerotic experiences
  - Named Great beast, 666
  - Taught female and child sacrifice was the best.

### The Occult: Thelema



- Family was greatest enemy
- 1898: joined Golden Dawn
- 1904: Horus possessed him and he wrote *Thelema*
- “Do what thou wilt”
- 1912: placed in charge of the magical **Ordo Templi Orientis**
- Died alone due to a heroin

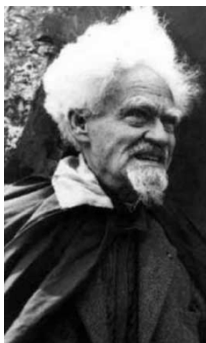
### The Occult: Thelema



“With my hawk's head I pick out the eyes of Jesus as he hangs upon the cross.”

“That religion they call Christianity; the devil they honor they call God. I accept these definitions, as a poet must do, if he is to be at all intelligible to his age, and it is their God and their religion that I hate and will destroy.” (*The World's tragedy*, p. 31.)

### The Occult: Wicca



- Gerald Gardner** (1884–1964)
- Lived in Malaya for years
  - Brought tribal shaman practices to England
  - Mixed it with the druids
  - 1950's developed first official beliefs and practices of Wicca

### The Occult: Church of Satan



- Anton LaVey** (1930–1997)
- Dropped out of high school
  - Worked with traveling circus
  - 1950's gave lectures on occult and paranormal
  - 1966: Church of Satan
  - 1969: *The Satanic Bible*
  - Celebrity in the media
  - Influenced music & movies



### The Occult: Practices



- **Mediums** are individuals who contact spirit entities to facilitate communication with others



### The Occult: Practices



- **Shamans** are tribal intermediaries between the human and spirit worlds
- Treat illness and capable of entering spirit realm



### The Occult: Practices



- **Automatic writing** is when a person is controlled by a spirit to write messages
- **Ouija board** accomplishes the same task



### The Occult: Practices



- **Astral Projection** is traveling outside the body in spirit form
- **Crystals** are objects of worship "charged," "loaded" with spiritual energy



### The Occult: Practices



- **Scrying** or **clairvoyance** is obtaining information through the non-human senses by using a mirror, water, crystal ball, fire
- One can also summon a spirit into the material realm through the use of mirrors

