

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY**  
**Department of Sociology and Anthropology**  
**and the College of the Humanities: Religion**  
**ANTH2550B / RELI 2736B Religion and Society**  
**Winter Term 2014      Credit 0.5**

**Time** Tuesday 11:35 am to 2:25 pm **Place** Tory 208  
**Instructor** Tom Sherwood **Email** tom.sherwood@carleton.ca  
**Office hours** Tuesday 2:30 to 4 pm and by appointment **Office** 2A52PA  
**Course Assistant** danamurray@cmail.carleton.ca

**Description** (as in the Undergraduate Calendar, 2012-13, page 313)

Cross-cultural survey of religious institutions, focusing on theories and methodologies in the study of religion. Topics may include myth, totemism, cults, ritual, belief systems, altered states of consciousness, new religious and/or new age movements and the relationship of religion with other social institutions and processes.

(as in the Undergraduate Calendar, 2012-13, page 617)

Cross-cultural survey of religious institutions, with attention to theories and methodologies in the study of religion. Topics include myth, totemism, cults, ritual, altered states of consciousness and the relationship of religion with other social institutions and processes.

**Rationale** This course is an introductory survey of anthropological and sociological approaches to the study of religion. It traces the historical development of the subdiscipline, reviews the major theoretical perspectives, reviews the basic conceptual vocabulary, and discusses some of the issues and problems in research methodology.

**Prerequisite** ANTH 1001 or ANTH1002 or ANTH 1003 or 1.0 credit at the 1000-level in AFRI, SOCI, ENGL, GEOG, HIST, HUMR, INDG, JOUR, PSCI, RELI or WGST.

## **Instruments of Evaluation**

The Evaluation Procedures of the university are described in the Undergraduate Calendar beginning on page 33 in the 2012-13 printed edition. Final grades are subject to the Dean's approval and are not official until that approval has been received.

There are five instruments of evaluation. As stated in the Academic Regulations of the University, Section 2.1, students must complete all term papers and examinations to obtain credit for this course.

1. Personal Statement	5% of the Final Grade, due by January 21
2. Term Test	15% of the FG, in class February 11
3. Research Essay	40% of the FG, due by Thursday March 13
4. Final Examination	40% of the FG, as scheduled in April.

Separate handouts/postings will describe the Personal Statement and the Research Essay.

The Personal Statement is best submitted by email ([tom.sherwood@carleton.ca](mailto:tom.sherwood@carleton.ca)).

There are three acceptable ways to submit the Research Essay:

- (a) hand it personally to the instructor, or
- (b) deposit it in the locked assignment box outside the main office of the Religion Department (2A39 Paterson Hall), or
- (c) in the Drop Box of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology (B750 Loeb).

The Final Examination will be given in the regular university time slot for exams. You must write the examination at the scheduled time (unless you have an official conflict with another exam at the same time). Only illness or other such formal reason will allow you to write at a different time. When you take this course you contract to be available for the examination at the scheduled time. If you miss the examination, please follow the usual procedures for illness, etc. An individual or “make-up” examination cannot be accommodated.

There are no supplemental and grade-raising examinations allowed in the Arts and Social Sciences Faculty at this time.

### **Text – Required Reading**

Stein, Rebecca L. and Philip L. Stein

2008/2011    The Anthropology of Religion, Magic and Witchcraft  
Allyn and Bacon, Boston.

This was a new text in 2005, designed for courses like this. It is very strong in ethnography, case studies, and the presentation of the conceptual vocabulary of anthropology of religion. It is weak in its presentation of theory and issues of methodology. The lectures will compensate for this.

**Note:** The second (2008) or third edition (2011) of this text may be used, NOT the first.

### **Lectures – Required “Reading”**

The First-Hour Lectures review the major theoretical understandings of religion and society, a number of methodological issues and other essential material not contained in the text. The lectures serve several necessary functions:

1. to summarize material from multiple sources;
2. to clarify difficult concepts;
3. to put the textbook content into a broader context;
4. to allow for the inclusion of material not yet published or not easily accessible;
5. to allow for varied, multimedia teaching and learning, which will include videos, slides, discussion and in-class exercises.

### **Class Time**

The course is presented in 12 three-hour classes, one break per class. Normally the “First Hour” will be a lecture, 75 to 90 minutes long. After the break, the “Second Hour” will normally be a discussion of that week’s readings, although students may use the time to ask questions about the lectures or the research essay they are working on.

There is a positive relationship between class attendance and success in this course.

## **SCHEDULE of CLASSES, READINGS and ASSIGNMENTS**

### **INTRODUCTION – THE SOCIAL SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF RELIGION**

#### **1. January 7**

Introduction, orientation, organizational matters

Review of the Course Outline and Instruments of Evaluation

Introduction of the textbook and lectures.

What is religion? – the problems and opportunities of definition

What is anthropology of religion? – anthropological approaches to religion

Stein & Stein chapter 1 – “The Anthropological Study of Religion”

**ASSIGNMENT ONE** – Exercise toward ‘Methodological Agnosticism’

(Stein & Stein, page 26) – short essay due by the 3<sup>rd</sup> class – 5% of Final Grade

## PART ONE – DEVELOPMENT OF MAJOR THEORETICAL APPROACHES

2. January 14

1st Hour Theory

the historical development of the anthropology of religion, “from armchair Anthropology to the front porch;” Comte and positivism; Spencer, Muller, Tylor, Marett, Frazer; origins-of-religion theories

**Stein & Stein chapters 1 & 2** – introductory and basic material

2nd Hour Method

3. January 21

1st Hour Theory

**ASSIGNMENT ONE is due.**

Durkheim's theory of religion and society

positivism, functionalism and social cohesion

**Stein & Stein chapter 2 & 3** – “Mythology” (video “The Power of Myth” with Joseph Campbell) and “Religious Symbols”

4. January 28

1st Hour Theory

**Assignment One** will be returned (5% of Final Grade)

Weber's contributions to understanding religion and society

Weber's sociology, Protestant ethic thesis, disenchantment, Verstehen, leadership, authority, Ideal-type, church-sect typology

**Stein & Stein chapters 3 & 4** – “Religious Symbols” and “Ritual”  
sacred art, space and time; music and dance

5. February 4

1st Hour Theory

Marx and Freud

2nd Hour Method

**Stein & Stein chapter 4** – “Ritual” – rites of passage

6. February 11

1st Hour Method

**Stein & Stein chapters 5 & 6** – “Altered States of Consciousness”

and “Religious Specialists” – shamanism

2nd Hour

**TERM TEST at 1 pm** (45 minutes, 15% of FG)

## PART TWO

7. February 25

1st Hour

## THE SOCIAL ORGANIZATION OF BEING RELIGIOUS

The **Term Test** will be returned (15% of Final Grade)

In-class workshop on the **RESEARCH ESSAY** (40% of Final Grade) – This week is the deadline for choosing a topic for the research essay, either a pre-approved topic or an original topic which must be approved by the instructor by 2 pm on Thursday February 27 – this week.

Video on Huichol shamanism and pilgrimage

**Stein & Stein chapter 7** – “Magic and Divination”

Institutionalization of religion: typologies of religious organization; religious forms in contemporary society; from church-sect to NRMs

2nd Hour Theory

8. March 4

1st Hour Theory

Religiosity: measuring the religious variable; religion as a social variable

Becoming religious: socialization and conversion,  
considering the individual

**Stein & Stein chapter 8** – “Souls, Ghosts, and Death”

2nd Hour Method

**PART THREE**

9. March 11

1st Hour Theory

2nd Hour Method

**RELIGION, SOCIAL CHANGE, TRADITION, MODERNITY**

Religion and social integration – beyond Durkheim

Robert N. Bellah and the Civil Religion thesis

**Stein & Stein chapter 9** – “Gods and Spirits”

The **ESSAY** is **DUE** either in class March 11 or

by 4 pm Thursday Mar. 13 (using one of the departmental drop boxes).

10. March 18

1st Hour Theory

2nd Hour Method

Religion and social transformation – beyond Marx and Weber

liberation theology, social gospel, civil rights, apartheid; politics, economics, stratification, etc. Video on liberation theology

**Stein & Stein chapter 10** – “Witchcraft”

11. March 25

1st Hour Theory

2nd Hour Method

Religion and Modernity: Fundamentalisms, Secularization, Spirituality

Fundamentalism, Secularization: a typology of theories, the decline thesis, the transformation thesis, spirituality, NRMs. Video on fundamentalism

**Stein & Stein chapter 11** – “The Search for New Meaning”

**CONCLUSION**

12. April 1

**SUMMARIZING AND LOOKING AHEAD**

The Essay, will be returned, and students will know their “Term Marks” – 60% of the Final Grade.

Completing the lecture series and the review of the text

Review Session prior to the **Final Examination** (40% of the FG)

**FAQs****1. Do I have to attend the lectures?**

The content of the lectures constitutes “required reading”; so students need to attend or form partnerships. The instructor does not post power-point slides or full-text lectures on WebCT; but lecture outlines are posted. The lectures add essential theoretical and methodological material to the textbook. Some of that material will be on the Term Test and all the lectures are covered in the Final Examination. The lectures include discussion of issues related to religion in pluralist and more developed societies. For many students, they will also resource the Research Essay. They do not duplicate the textbook. The last hour of each class will allow for questions and discussion related to that week’s readings.

**2. Do I need the textbook? Yes.**

**3. Is there a Term Test?** Yes. It will be given in class on February 11.

**4. Is there a Final Exam?** Yes, to be scheduled in April.

**5. Are there any Essays?** Yes. Two. More information is provided on separate Handouts.

**6. Can I have an extension on the Research Essay, the one worth 40%?**

No. As the Handout will say, “The late penalty for this assignment is 5% per day. If you are late due to illness, staple your medical form to your assignment and late charges will not be enforced.

**7. Where is your office?** in the RELI corridor, 2A Paterson Hall

**8. What is the best way to reach you?** email, class time, office hours.

## REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

### COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

### PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.*" This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*"

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course

### GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B = 73-76 (8)	C - = 60-62 (4)
A = 85-89 (11)	B- = 70-72 (7)	D+ = 57-59 (3)
A- = 80-84 (10)	C+ = 67-69 (6)	D = 53-56 (2)
B+ = 77-79 (9)	C = 63-66 (5)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F	Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points
ABS	Absent from final examination, equivalent to F
DEF	Official deferral (see "Petitions to Defer")
FND	Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

### WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from **FALL TERM** courses is **DEC. 9, 2013**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 8, 2014**.

### REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: [carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/](http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/)

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Merton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by **Nov. 8, 2013** for the Fall term and **March 7, 2014** for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/](http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/)

### PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment.

If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please [contact](#) the Registrar's Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

### ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809	300 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100	2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500	300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Merton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Library