The College of the Humanities  
Seminar in “Religion and Public Life”  
RELI 5802F

RELI 5802F (Fall 2014) Fridays 8:35 – 11:25 PA 2A46  
Professor Noel Salmond  
2A38 Paterson Hall; Telephone: x 8162; email noel.salmond@carleton.ca  
Office Hours: Thursday 10:30 – 12:00 (or by appointment)

A consideration of key thinkers and case studies in the domain of religion and public life from Religious Studies perspectives.

In both popular media and scholarly discourse, much attention has been paid to the apparent resurgence of religion. Academics have tolled the death knell of the ‘secularization thesis’ and public debates in this country and elsewhere have swirled around the place (and limits) of religion in public life. This seminar examines the intersection of the religious and the social and political. We examine the rubrics: ‘religion’, ‘secular’, ‘public’, ‘public vs. private’, ‘public life’, and the ‘public sphere’. Given our location, the course gives considerable attention to the Canadian context and the conceptual development of notions of religion and public life in the European tradition which has informed the Canadian state. However, our consideration is not parochial. It extends to the examination of indigenous re-vitalization in this country, the examination of religious renewal in China, and debates over secularism in India. A unifying thread in the seminar is the question of defining religion and the possibility (or legitimacy) of the category of civil, implicit, or secular religions. Examination of debates surrounding religion and public education (and in particular the case of religious studies as an academic discipline within secular universities) helps us, hopefully, become more self-aware and reflexive about the very exercise represented by the course we are presently engaged in.

EVALUATION

Reading Responses 10 X 2% = 20%  
Five reading response papers, each on the order of 2 double-spaced pages. These are not summaries, rather they should indicate a grasp of the key issues in each reading and a grasp of each article’s central argument or thesis. They should also indicate how the week’s readings relate to each other. Responses may include a question you would like to see addressed by the group. These are to be handed in at the beginning of class, late responses are graded down 50%, i.e., they are graded out of 1 instead of 2. These responses are to promote informed engagement at the weekly meeting which is
the *sine qua non* of success in this seminar. Note: *to miss more than three of the weekly meetings (which would mean, in effect, you had missed a third of the class) is to forfeit credit for the course.*

**Seminar Presentation and Participation 20%**
Each student will be responsible for presenting on the readings for the week once in the semester. This will be worth approximately 5% and will be added to the assessment of your overall engagement with the course material as reflected in your participation (15%) in the seminar.

**Essay Proposal 10%**
Suggested topics will be provided. The proposal indicates your choice from among the topics. It is to consist of a working title, a working bibliography, and a preliminary abstract that details a preliminary thesis statement. The tentative thesis statement should indicate how you intend to focus the chosen topic and the argument to be developed. **Due Oct. 24.** Note: This proposal is an absolutely essential feature of the course. Decisions have to be made early regarding your topic as your research essay will probably necessitate using inter-library loan and other research avenues that necessitate being well underway by mid semester.

**“Conference” presentation of your research essay 10%**
The Paper Conference:
Our final meeting date will be devoted to presentations to the group of your paper. Each student will present on his or her paper for 15 minutes followed by about 5 minutes for questions and discussion. You need to have a completed version of your paper ready for this day. Papers will be amended based on feedback given on this date before final submission.

**Research Essay 40%**
A research essay on the order of 20-25, double-spaced pages. Topics must be approved by the instructor. Essays must have a clearly articulated thesis. Essays must also include an abstract. **Due Dec. 12. Note:** late papers (except with medical documentation) are docked 4 percentage points per day.

*Note: All course requirements listed above must be fulfilled to gain credit for this course*

**SCHEDULE**

**WEEK ONE** Sept. 5
Introduction to the course; directions and questions of definition


**WEEK TWO** Sept. 12
‘Civil Religion’ in the U.S. and Canada

Jean Jacques Rousseau (1762), *The Social Contract or Principles of Political Right*. Book 4 ch. 8 on “Civil Religion”


WEEK THREE  Sept. 19
The question of ‘implicit’ or ‘secular’ religions: Environmentalism and (and as) Religion

Andrew P. Morriss, Benjamin D. Cramer, “Disestablishing Environmentalism.”
*Environmental Law* 39 (2) (Spring 2009): 309-396
http://www.lexisnexis.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/hottopics/lnacademic/?verb=sr&csi=7379

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/commentaries_essays/crichton_three_speeches.html


WEEK FOUR  Sept. 26  [Special topic reflecting the visit of Prof. Arvind Sharma, McGill University]
Case study  Gandhi’s religion: ‘private’ religion as public experiment and the personal as the political

https://www.gandhiheritageportal.org/mahatma-gandhi-books/the-story-of-my-experiments-with-truth#page/24/mode/2up


http://archiv.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/volltextserver/3723/1/hpsACP15.pdf
WEEK FIVE  Oct. 3
Canada and Québec


WEEK SIX  Oct. 10
Case Study  The Canadian churches, the Canadians state, and the residential schools


Various Church apologies (see cuLearn)

WEEK SEVEN  Oct. 17
Religious resurgence: indigenous revitalization and the public sphere


WEEK EIGHT  Oct. 24  Essay Proposal Due

The question of secularism: its trajectory in the West and globally


WEEK NINE  Nov. 7

Re-assessing religion and secularity in contemporary China: the case of Confucianism


http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/dissent/v057/57.1.bell.pdf


WEEK TEN  Nov. 14

Ritual and public spectacle and curating religion in the public gaze


**WEEK ELEVEN** Nov. 21  
Teaching religion: debates over religion as an academic discipline in public universities


Bruce Lincoln, Thirteen Theses on Method

**WEEK TWELVE** Nov. 28  
TBA (to accommodate guest speaker earlier in the semester)

**WEEK THIRTEEN** Dec. 5  
Paper Presentations  [Dec. 12, final papers due]
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Ranges</th>
<th>Number in Class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<td>53-56</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>50-52</td>
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</tbody>
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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. 8, 2014. The last day to withdraw from FALL/WINTER (Full Term) and WINTER term courses is APRIL 8, 2015.

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/

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton 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. 7, 2014 for the Fall term and March 6, 2015 for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: 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 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 Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937 501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125 4th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125 4th Floor Library