

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY /
RELIGION PROGRAM, COLLEGE OF THE HUMANITIES**

**ANTH 2550 / RELI 2736
2022 FALL TERM
RELIGION AND SOCIETY**

Fridays 14:35-17:25

Location: In-person, Tory Building Room 208

Instructor:

Alyshea Cummins

Office Hours: Fridays 1-2pm EST

Office Location: 310A Paterson Hall

Email: alyshea.cummins@carleton.ca

Teaching Assistants:

TBD

Description: (as in the Undergraduate Calendar) 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.

Rationale: This course is an introductory survey of anthropological 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.

Learning Outcomes: This course aims to give students a broad understanding of the study of religion in its social context. Through the lectures, readings, videos, and selected case studies we will investigate the role of religion in shaping society and how society, in turn, shapes religion. Students taking this course will learn disciplinary vocabulary associated with the religion(s) studied in this course. They will also be able to recognize personal situated-ness and personal bias in confronting religious phenomena. Through class discussions, students will gain confidence in presenting, arguing, and defending their ideas while engaging with course content. Through

assignments, students will be able to write coherent English prose at a university level. Further, students taking this course will be able to distinguish different methods of increasing knowledge in the field of the study of religion, including historical (largely based on texts) and social scientific (largely based on field work).

Welcoming Classroom Commitment: We each come from diverse backgrounds and experiences, and we will inevitably approach discussions and the subject matter in unique ways. Throughout the course we will collectively try to make sure that everyone feels safe and respected when presenting their ideas and understandings about course content. We will be respectful towards one another and do our best to reflect on our own biases and assumptions in order to make space for diverse views and ways of thinking.

Instruments of Evaluation: The Evaluation Procedures of the university are described in the Undergraduate Calendar. Final grades are subject to the Dean's approval and are not official until that approval has been received. There are three instruments of evaluation plus potential bonus marks. As stated in the Academic Regulations of the University, Section 2.1: “To obtain credit in a course, students must meet all the course requirements for attendance, term work and examinations as published in the course outline.”

Instruments of Evaluation Summary:

Participation	20%	Fridays (14:35-17:25)
Assignments	45%	Oct 3 Nov 7 Dec 5
Final Exam	35%	During Exam Period
*BONUS MARKS	2%	*Dec 2

Participation (20%)

- Every Friday the class meets for class
- Students are expected to complete the readings prior to each meeting
- Students will earn marks for their participation in class activities and discussions (not attendance)
- See the Class Schedule on Page 5 for more details

Assignments (45%)

- There will be a total of three assignments, **each worth 15%**
 - Critical Reflection Essay (due Monday Oct 3 at 11:59pm EST)
 - Infographic (due Monday Nov 7 at 11:59pm EST)
 - Case Study (due Monday Dec 5 at 11:59pm EST)
- Assignment Instructions and Rubrics can be found on Brightspace

NOTE: Late Assignments are subject to a **-.5-point** penalty each day they are late and will not be accepted for grading 5 days after the deadline.

Final Exam (35%)

- The final exam is cumulative and will be held during the examination period
- Discussions, in-class activities, and Assignments will help to prepare students for the final exam
- The format will be provided at the end of November
- The exam is closed book. More details will be given closer to the date
- **Please note** that in the event that the final examination has to be administered online due to public health regulations, it will be proctored using a remote proctoring service provided by Scheduling and Examination Services. You can find more information at <https://carleton.ca/ses/e-proctoring/>.

Bonus Marks (+2%):

Extra Credit Assignment (ECA): The ECA allows students to earn up to 2% on top of their final grade. To participate, students must attend a public university lecture (online or in-person) on the topic of religion and write a short critical reflection on the content (see Instructions and Rubric on Brightspace). **NOTE: Students must submit their ECA 1-week after the posted event.**

NOTE: Late Assignments are subject to a **-.5-point** penalty each day they are late and will not be accepted for grading 5 days after the deadline. The final day to submit an ECA is **Friday December 2, 2022.**

Required Readings

Textbook

Stein, Rebecca L. and Philip L. Stein. 2011. *The Anthropology of Religion, Magic and Witchcraft*, 4th edition. Allyn and Bacon, Boston.

Note: The Textbook is available online through the Library or for purchase at the University Bookstore

This text was designed for courses like this. It is very strong in ethnography, case studies, and the presentation of the conceptual vocabulary of anthropology of religion.

Additional Readings

Additional readings will be posted on Brightspace and may include PDFs, links to online sources, and Multi-Media Readings. See the respective module for full list of required readings.

FAQs

1. ***Do I have to attend live meetings?*** Yes. Students are expected to attend class every Friday from 14:35-17:25.
2. ***Do I need the textbook?*** Yes. There is a free online version available through the Carleton Library, but access is limited to 6 students. The textbook can also be ordered online through the University Bookstore (they price match).
3. ***Is there a Final Exam?*** Yes. The final exam will be held in-person during the exam period. In the event that the university has to close due to public health regulations, it will be administered online and will be e-proctored. It is closed book. More details will be given closer to date.
4. ***Can I earn bonus marks in this class?*** Yes, students can complete one Extra-Credit Assignment (ECA) to earn up to 2% on top of their final grade. See Brightspace for more details.
5. ***What if I miss an Assignment?*** Late Assignments will be subject to a late penalty of -.5 points each day it is late. Late Assignments will not be accepted after 5 days.
6. ***What is the best way to reach you?*** Email, Office Hours, or the “Ask the Instructor Q&A” online forum on Brightspace.

SCHEDULE of CLASSES, READINGS, and ACTIVITIES

WEEK 1 September 9	
<i>Welcome!</i> Review of the Course Syllabus and Instruments of Evaluation Student Introductions: In-class introductions COMPLETE: Syllabus Quiz	
WEEK 2 September 16	
Module 1	<i>Studying Religion</i> READ: Stein & Stein chapter 1 – “The Anthropological Study of Religion” See Brightspace for Multimedia Reading.
WEEK 3 September 23	
Module 2	<i>Importance of Myths</i> READ: Stein & Stein chapter 2 – “Mythology” Film: The Power of Myth

SYLLABUS – RELI2736 / ANTH2550

WEEK 4

September 30

Module 3

Religious Symbols

READ: Stein & Stein chapter 3 – “Religious Symbols”

See Brightspace for Multimedia Reading.

ASSIGNMENT #1 – Due at 23:59, Monday October 3

WEEK 5

October 7

Module 4

Religious Rituals

READ: Stein & Stein chapter 4 – “Ritual” – rites of passage

WEEK 6

October 14

Module 5

Religious Experience

READ: Stein & Stein chapter 5 – “Altered States of Consciousness”

WEEK 7

October 21

Module 6

Religious Authorities

READ: Stein & Stein chapters 6 – “Religious Specialists” – shamanism

Film: Virarica: Huichol Shamanism

WEEK 8

READING WEEK: October 24-28

SYLLABUS – RELI2736 / ANTH2550

WEEK 9

November 4

Module 7

Magic and Society

READ: Stein & Stein chapter 7 – “Magic and Divination”

ASSIGNMENT #2 – Due at 23:59, Monday November 7

WEEK 10

November 11

Module 8

Death and the Afterlife

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

WEEK 11

November 18

Module 9

God(s) and Society

READ: Stein & Stein chapter 9 – “Gods and Spirits”

WEEK 12

November 25

Module 10

Witchcraft and Society

READ: Stein & Stein chapter 10 – “Witchcraft”

FILM: The Burning Times

WEEK 13

December 2

Module 11

A Changing Landscape

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

READ: Stein & Stein chapter 12 – “Religion, Conflict, and Peace”

See Brightspace for Multimedia Reading.

Final Class Meeting

Exam Discussion

ASSIGNMENT #3 – Due at 23:59, Monday December 5

SYLLABUS – RELI2736 / ANTH2550

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar Regulations, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50	WDN = Withdrawn from the course		DEF = Deferred

Academic Regulations, Accommodations, Plagiarism, Etc.

University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university's website, here:

<https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/>

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

For students with disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

*The deadline for contacting the Paul Menton Centre regarding accommodation for December examinations (Fall) is **November 11, 2022** and for April examinations (Winter) is **March 15, 2023**.

For pregnancy: Please contact your instructor 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. For accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here](#)).

For religious obligations: Please contact your instructor 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. For more details [click here](#).

For survivors of sexual violence: As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the

university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

For student activities: Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

Student Mental Health

As a University student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

Emergency resources (on and off campus): <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

Carleton resources:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off campus resources:

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

Plagiarism

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This includes 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. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks,

laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one's own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts 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.

Pandemic Measures

It is important to remember that COVID is still present in Ottawa. The situation can change at any time and the risks of new variants and outbreaks are very real. There are [a number of actions you can take](#) to lower your risk and the risk you pose to those around you including being vaccinated, wearing a mask, staying home when you're sick, washing your hands and maintaining proper respiratory and cough etiquette.

Feeling sick? Remaining vigilant and not attending work or school when sick or with symptoms is critically important. If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms do not come to class or campus. If you feel ill or exhibit symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately. In all situations, you should follow Carleton's [symptom reporting protocols](#).

Masks: Masks are no longer mandatory in university buildings and facilities. However, we continue to recommend masking when indoors, particularly if physical distancing cannot be maintained. We are aware that personal preferences regarding optional mask use will vary greatly, and we ask that we all show consideration and care for each other during this transition.

Vaccines: While proof of vaccination is no longer required to access campus or participate in in-person Carleton activities, it may become necessary for the University to bring back proof of vaccination requirements on short notice if the situation and public health advice changes. Students are strongly encouraged to get a full course of vaccination, including booster doses as soon as they are eligible and submit their booster dose information in [cuScreen](#) as soon as possible. Please note that Carleton cannot guarantee that it will be able to offer virtual or hybrid learning options for those who are unable to attend the campus.

SYLLABUS – RELI2736 / ANTH2550

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow requirements and guidelines regarding health and safety which may change from time to time. For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and health and safety requirements please see the [University's COVID-19 website](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca.

Fall 2022 Dates and Deadlines

August 31, 2022	Deadline for course outlines to be made available to students registered in full fall, early fall and fall/winter courses.
September 5, 2022	Statutory holiday. University closed.
September 6, 2022	Academic orientation (undergraduate and graduate students). Orientation for new Teaching Assistants.
September 7, 2022	Fall term begins. Full fall, early fall, and fall/winter classes begin.
September 20, 2022	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in full fall, late fall, and fall/winter courses.
September 23-25, 2022	Full summer and late summer term deferred final examinations will be held.
September 30, 2022	Last day to withdraw from full fall and fall/winter courses with a full fee adjustment. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
October 7, 2022	December examination schedule (fall term final and fall/winter mid-terms) available online.
October 10, 2022	Statutory holiday. University closed.
October 24-28, 2022	Fall break, no classes.
November 11, 2022	Last day to request Formal Examination Accommodation Forms for December full fall and late fall final examinations and fall/winter midterm examinations to the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities. Note that it may not be possible to fulfil accommodation requests received after the specified deadlines.
November 15, 2022	Last day for academic withdrawal from full fall and late fall courses
November 25, 2022	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in full fall term or fall/winter undergraduate courses, before the official December final examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).
December 9, 2022	Fall term ends. Last day of full fall and late fall classes. Classes follow a Monday schedule (full fall and fall/winter courses only).

SYLLABUS – RELI2736 / ANTH2550

	<p>Last day for final take-home examinations to be assigned, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.</p> <p>Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for full and late fall courses.</p>
December 10-22, 2022	<p>Final examinations in full fall and late fall courses and mid-term examinations in fall/winter courses will be held.</p>
December 22, 2022	<p>Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week. All final take-home examinations are due on this day, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.</p>
December 25, 2022 through January 3, 2023 inclusive	<p>University closed.</p>