

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
and the College of the Humanities: Religion

ANTH2550B / RELI 2736B Religion and Society
Early Summer Term (May-June) 2017

Time	Tuesday & Thursday 8:35-11:25	Credit	0.5
Place	431 Tory	Email	tom.sherwood@carleton.ca
Instructor	Tom Sherwood	Phone	613-520-2262
Office	A713 Loeb	Office hours	Tuesday & Thursday 11:30 to 12:30 each day

Prerequisite(s) 0.5 credit at the 1000 level in any of AFRI, ANTH, GEOG, GEOG, HIST, HUMR, INDG, LACS, PSCI, RELI, SOCI, WGST.

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 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.

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 four 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.

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| 1. Assignment One | 5% of the Final Grade, due by May 9 (Class 3) |
| 2. Term Test | 15% of the FG, in class on May 18 (Class 6) |
| 3. Essay on Research | 40% of the FG, due by Wednesday May 31 |
| 4. Final Examination | 40% of the FG, to be scheduled in June |

Separate postings on cuLearn will describe the requirements for Assignment One and the Essay on Research.

Text – Required Reading

Stein, Rebecca L. and Philip L. Stein

2011 The Anthropology of Religion, Magic and Witchcraft, 3rd edition

Allyn and Bacon, Boston.

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. It is weak in its presentation of theory and issues of methodology. The lectures will compensate for this and add a Canadian perspective.

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 and to add Canadian perspective;
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 shorter “Second Hour” will normally be a discussion of the readings for that day, although students may use the time to ask questions about the lectures or the essay they are working on. There is a very strong positive relationship between class attendance and success in this course.

SCHEDULE of CLASSES, READINGS and ASSIGNMENTS**INTRODUCTION – THE SOCIAL SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF RELIGION**

1. May 2
 - 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
- ASSIGNMENT ONE** – Exercise toward “Methodological Agnosticism”
(Stein & Stein, p 26) – short essay due by the 3rd class – 5% of Final Grade

PART ONE – DEVELOPMENT OF MAJOR THEORETICAL APPROACHES

2. May 4
 - 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
2nd Hour Method	Stein & Stein chapter 1 – “The Anthropological Study of Religion”
3. May 9	ASSIGNMENT ONE is due.
1st Hour Theory	Durkheim's theory of religion and society positivism, functionalism and social cohesion
2nd Hour Method	Stein & Stein chapter 2 – “Mythology” (video “The Power of Myth” with Joseph Campbell)
4. May 11	Assignment One will be returned (5% of Final Grade)
1st Hour Theory	Weber's contributions to understanding religion and society Weber's sociology, Protestant ethic thesis, disenchantment, Verstehen, leadership, authority, Ideal-type, church-sect typology
2nd Hour Method	Stein & Stein chapters 3 – “Religious Symbols” sacred art, space and time; music and dance
5. May 16	
1st Hour Theory	Marx and Freud
2nd Hour Method	Stein & Stein chapter 4 – “Ritual” – rites of passage
6. May 18	
1st Hour Review	Stein & Stein chapter 4 – “Ritual” – rites of passage continued
2nd Hour	TERM TEST (at 10 am, 45 minutes, 15% of FG)
PART TWO	THE SOCIAL ORGANIZATION OF BEING RELIGIOUS
7. May 23	
1st Hour	The Term Test will be returned (15% of Final Grade) In-class workshop on the ESSAY on RESEARCH (40% of Final Grade) – This is the deadline for choosing a topic for the essay, either pre-approved or an original topic approved by the instructor. Video on Huichol shamanism and pilgrimage Stein & Stein chapters 5 & 6 – “Altered States of Consciousness” and “Religious Specialists” – shamanism
2nd Hour Theory	Institutionalization of religion: typologies of religious organization; religious forms in contemporary society; from church-sect to NRMs
8. May 25	
1st Hour Theory	Religiosity: measuring the religious variable; religion as a social variable Becoming religious: socialization and conversion, considering the individual

2nd Hour Method **Stein & Stein chapter 7** – “Magic and Divination”

PART THREE RELIGION, SOCIAL CHANGE, TRADITION, MODERNITY

9. May 30 The **ESSAY is DUE** either in class or by 4 pm Wednesday June 3

1st Hour Theory Religion and social integration – beyond Durkheim
Robert N. Bellah and the Civil Religion thesis

2nd Hour Method **Stein & Stein chapter 8** – “Souls, Ghosts, and Death

10. June 1

1st Hour Theory Religion and social transformation – beyond Marx and Weber
liberation theology, social gospel, civil rights, apartheid; politics, economics,
stratification, etc. Video on liberation theology

2nd Hour Method **Stein & Stein chapter 9** – “Gods and Spirits”

11. June 6

1st Hour Theory Religion and Modernity: Fundamentalisms, Secularization, Spirituality
Fundamentalism, Secularization: a typology of theories, the decline thesis, the
transformation thesis, spirituality, NRMs. Video on fundamentalism

2nd Hour Method **Stein & Stein chapter 10** – “Witchcraft”

CONCLUSION SUMMARIZING AND LOOKING AHEAD

12. June 8 The "First Hour Lecture" series will be completed, the Essay will be returned, and
students will know their “Term Marks” – 60% of the Final Grade.

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

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 posts point form notes, quotations, and definitions on cuLearn, but not the
pictures or videos. The lectures add essential theoretical and methodological material to the textbook.
The lectures include discussion of issues, answers to questions and references to current events that will
not be posted. For many students, the lectures also resource the Essay on Research. 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. In Class 6 on Thursday May 18 (15% of the FG).

4. Is there a Final Exam? Yes, to be scheduled in June, 3 hours, format to be outlined in Class 12
(40% of the FG)

5. Are there any Essays? Yes. Two.

More information is provided on cuLearn postings and in class.

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

No. As the posting 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? A713 Loeb

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

Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:

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

ABS = Student absent from final exam

DEF = Deferred (See above)

FND = (Failed, no Deferred) = Student could not pass the course even with 100% on final exam

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/>

Academic Accommodations 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*). **Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.** After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website (www.carleton.ca/pmc) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*). *The deadline for contacting the Paul Menton Centre regarding accommodation for early summer exams is **June 2, 2017**. The deadline for contacting the Paul Menton Centre regarding accommodation for late summer and full summer exams is **July 24, 2017**.

For Religious Obligations:

Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious obligation should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory event.

Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student.

Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton's Academic Accommodation policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance.

For Pregnancy:

Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the passing off of someone else's work as your own and is a serious academic offence. For the details of what constitutes plagiarism, the potential penalties and the procedures refer to the section on Instructional Offences in the Undergraduate Calendar.

What are the Penalties for Plagiarism?

A student found to have plagiarized an assignment may be subject to one of several penalties including: expulsion; suspension from all studies at Carleton; suspension from full-time studies; and/or a reprimand; a refusal of permission to continue or to register in a specific degree program; academic probation; award of an FNS, Fail, or an ABS.

What are the Procedures?

- All allegations of plagiarism are reported to the faculty of Dean of FASS and Management. Documentation is prepared by instructors and/or departmental chairs.
- The Dean writes to the student and the University Ombudsperson about the alleged plagiarism.
- The Dean reviews the allegation. If it is not resolved at this level then it is referred to a tribunal appointed by the Senate.

Plagiarism and cheating at the graduate level are viewed as being particularly serious and the sanctions imposed are accordingly severe. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the Carleton University Student Academic Integrity Policy (<http://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>). The Policy is strictly enforced and is binding on all students. Plagiarism and cheating – presenting another's ideas, arguments, words or images as your own, using unauthorized material, misrepresentation, fabricating or misrepresenting research data, unauthorized co-operation or collaboration or completing work for another student – weaken the quality of the graduate degree. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Students who infringe the Policy may be subject to one of several penalties including: expulsion; suspension from all studies at Carleton; suspension from full-time studies; a refusal of permission to continue or to register in a specific degree program; academic probation; or a grade of Failure in the course.

Assistance for Students:

Student Academic and Career Development Services: <http://carleton.ca/sacds/>

Writing Tutorial Services: <https://carleton.ca/csas/writingservices/>

Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/group-support/pass/>

Important Information:

- Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).
 - Students must always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted.
 - All final grades are subject to the Dean's approval.
 - Please note that you will be able to link your CONNECT (MyCarleton) account to other non-CONNECT accounts and receive emails from us. However, for us to respond to your emails, we need to see your full name, CU ID, and the email must be written from your valid CONNECT address. Therefore, it would be easier to respond to your inquiries if you would send all email from your connect account. If you do not have or have yet to activate this account, you may wish to do so by visiting <https://portal.carleton.ca/>
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Important Dates:

May 22, 2017: Statutory holiday, University closed.