

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
and the College of the Humanities: Religion
ANTH2550B / RELI 2736B Religion and Society
Winter Term 2017

Time Tuesday 11:35 to 2:25 pm **Credit** 0.5
Place TBA **Email** tom.sherwood@carleton.ca
Instructor Tom Sherwood **Course Assistant** TBA
Office hours Tuesdays before and after class by appointment
Office A713Loeb

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 January 24, Class 3 |
| 2. Term Test | 15% of the FG, in class February 14, Class 6 |
| 3. Literature Review | 40% of the FG, due by Thursday March 16, Week 9 |
| 4. Final Examination | 40% of the FG, as scheduled in April. |

Separate cuLearn postings will describe Assignment One and the Literature Review.

Text – Required Reading

Stein, Rebecca L. and Philip L. Stein

2011 The Anthropology of Religion, Magic and Witchcraft
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, about 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 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. January 10 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, p 26) – short essay due by the 3rd class – 5% of Final
Grade

PART ONE – DEVELOPMENT OF MAJOR THEORETICAL APPROACHES

2. January 17
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 chapters 1 & 2** – introductory and basic material
3. January 24 **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. January 31 **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. February 9
- 1st Hour Theory Weber cont'd; Marx, Freud and their theories of religion and society
- 2nd Hour Method **Stein & Stein chapter 4** – “Religious Ritual” – rites of passage
6. February 14
- 1st Hour Review review, preparing for the Term Test
- 2nd Hour Theory 2nd Hour **TERM TEST** (at 1 pm, 45 minutes, 15% of FG)

There is no class on February 21 because of the Winter Study Break.

PART TWO THE SOCIAL ORGANIZATION OF BEING RELIGIOUS

7. February 28
- 1st Hour Method The **Term Test** will be returned (15% of Final Grade)
Workshop on the **ESSAY** (40% of Final Grade) – This week is the deadline for choosing a topic for the Literature Review, either pre-approved or an original topic approved by the instructor. Video on Huichol shamanism and pilgrimage
- 2nd Hour Theory **Stein & Stein chapters 5 & 6** – “Altered States of Consciousness” and “Religious Specialists” – shamanism
Institutionalization of religion: typologies of religious organization; religious forms in contemporary society; from church-sect to NRMs
8. March 7
- 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”
Stein & Stein chapter 8 – “Souls, Ghosts, and Death”

PART THREE RELIGION, SOCIAL CHANGE, TRADITION, MODERNITY

9. March 14
 1st Hour Theory Religion and social integration – beyond Durkheim
 Robert N. Bellah and the Civil Religion thesis
 2nd Hour Method **Stein & Stein chapter 9** – “Gods and Spirits”
 The **ESSAY is DUE** either in class or by 4 pm Wednesday Mar. 16
10. March 21
 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 10** – “Witchcraft”
11. March 28
 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 11** – “The Search for New Meaning”
- CONCLUSION SUMMARIZING AND LOOKING AHEAD**
12. April 4
 Completing the lecture series and the review of the text.
 Comments about careers in anthropology of religion and the state of the
 art.
 Review Session prior to the **Final Examination** (40% of the FG)
 The Literature Review will be returned, and students will know their “Term
 Marks” – 60% of the Final Grade.

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, video or full-text lectures on cuLearn; but the Course Assistant’s notes 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 such as Canada. For many students, the lectures 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 14.

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

5. Are there any Essays? Yes. Two. More information is provided in separate cuLearn postings.

6. Can I have an extension on the Literature Review assignment, the one worth 40%?

No. Notice that it is due on Thursday March 16, at the end of the day. In a sense, everyone has a two day extension. 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? 7 Loeb, A Tower, A713

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

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, 2016**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 7, 2017**.

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. 11, 2016** for the Fall term and **March 10, 2017** 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 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 a final assignment or take home, in courses without a final examination, 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 **3 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 & Career Development Services 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-6632	4 th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 th Floor Library