

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY  
ANTH 2550A / RELI 2550A  
SPRING 2009**

**RELIGION AND SOCIETY**

**Instructor: Holly Thomas**  
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**Office Hours: TBA**  
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**Phone Number: TBA**

**Course meets: Tuesday and Thursday, Tory 342, 2:35 – 5:25pm**

**Pre-requisites & precluded Courses:** Also listed as RELI 2550. Precludes additional credit for SOAN 2403 and RELI 2403. Prerequisites: ANTH 1001 and ANTH 1002, or ANTH 1003 [1.0], or SOCI 1001 and SOCI 1002, or SOCI 1003 [1.0].

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**Course Description and Objectives:**

This cross-cultural survey of religious institutions focuses 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.

This course will incorporate a multidisciplinary approach to the social study of religion and society specifically focusing on contemporary sociological and anthropological approaches to the study of religion. Through this course, students will learn about the ways in which religion interacts with and clashes with modernity by exploring how religion influences and is influenced by various societal institutions. Students will also develop relevant research and writing skills through the course assignments, examinations and participation requirements.

**Required Textbook and Readings:**

All Required Readings will be posted on WebCt. It is your responsibility to download, print and prepare for class accordingly. Please bring copies of your readings to class.

### **Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:**

Participation	15%
Research Assignment	20%
Midterm Examination	30%
Final Examination (take home)	35%

### **Participation:**

Your participation marks are distributed between attendance and in class participation evaluated through written reflections given in class throughout the semester. 5% of your participation grade comes directly from attending class. The additional 10% is allocated to the satisfactory completion of the in class writing reflections, which will be related to required readings, lectures or various discussion questions.

**Research Assignment:** Your research assignment is due **Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009**. This assignment will help you improve your research and writing skills by developing a miniature literature review regarding religion and a contemporary social issue. The assignment will be handed out on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> in class. Students will receive relevant instruction on library research techniques through a library workshop and additional lab time with the course instructor.

**Midterm Examination:** Your midterm examination will be held on **Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009**. The midterm will cover material (lectures, required readings and videos) up to and including Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Final Examination:** Your final examination will be a take home exam. According to the Academic Regulations of Carleton University, **this exam will be assigned to you on the last day of class (THURSDAY, JUNE 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009) and will be due the last day of the official exam period (SATURDAY, JULY 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009)** to the drop box in the main office of the Sociology and Anthropology Department (7<sup>th</sup> Floor Loeb Building). **No extensions will be granted, as per university regulations.**

### **Extensions:**

Extensions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances where supporting documentation will be required. Otherwise, standard late penalties (5% per day late) will apply. No extensions will be granted for the final examination.

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar (p 45), the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 56-59
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:

<http://www.carleton.ca/cu0708uc/regulations/acadregsuniv.html>

### **Requests for Academic Accommodations**

#### *For Students with Disabilities:*

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations are required to contact a coordinator at the Paul Menton Centre to complete the necessary *letters of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss their needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first class or ITV test. This is to ensure sufficient time is available to make the necessary accommodation arrangements.

- The deadlines for contacting the Paul Menton Centre regarding accommodation for final exams for early summer courses is June 12 2009 for all full & late summer courses the deadline is July 31 2009.

#### *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.

Assistance for Students:

Student Academic Success Centre (SASC): [www.carleton.ca/sasc](http://www.carleton.ca/sasc)

Writing Tutorial Services: [www.carleton.ca/wts](http://www.carleton.ca/wts)

Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS): [www.carleton.ca/sasc/pass\\_home/index.html](http://www.carleton.ca/sasc/pass_home/index.html)

Important Information:

- 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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**THIS COURSE WILL FOCUS ON TWO MAIN FIELDS IN THE STUDY OF RELIGION IN SOCIETY:**

- 1. CLASSICAL AND CONTEMPORARY APPROACHES TO THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL/SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF RELIGION.**
- 2. EXPLORING RELIGION AS A SOCIO-CULTURAL INSTITUTION CONFRONTING MODERNITY**

### **COURSE CALENDAR**

**Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009** Introduction to ANTH 2550: Exploring everyday understandings and assumptions about religion in contemporary society

**No Readings**

**Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009** Classical / Contemporary Approaches to the Anthropological/Sociological Study of Religion

**Required Readings:**

1. **Kurtz, L. (2007).** Part of chapter 1: Religious life in the global village. In *Gods in the global village: The world's religions in sociological perspective* (Second ed., pp. 1-21). London, Thousand Oaks, New Delhi: Pine Forge Press.
2. **Warms, R., Garber, J., & McGee, R. J. (2009).** Introduction: What is religion? In R. Warmes, J. Garber & R. J. McGee (Eds.), *Sacred realms: Readings in the anthropology of religion* (Second ed., pp. x-xvii). New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

**Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009** Classical / Contemporary Approaches to the Anthropological/Sociological Study of Religion

**Required Library Workshop:** Research Techniques for the Assignment with Janet Hempstead. Library Rm 102, 4:30 – 5:30pm.

**Required Readings:**

1. **Durkheim, E. (1995).** Chapter 1: Definition of religious phenomena and of religion (K. Fields, Trans.). In *The elementary forms of religious life* (pp. 21-44). New York: The Free Press.
2. **Weber, M. (2007).** The Protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism. In J. Macionis, N. Benokraitis & B. Ravelli (Eds.), *Seeing ourselves: Classic, contemporary, and cross-cultural readings in sociology* (Second Canadian ed., pp. 280-285). Toronto: Pearson Education Canada.

**Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009** Classical / Contemporary Approaches to the Anthropological/Sociological Study of Religion

**Required Research Lab:** Computer Lab Assistance for the Assignment. Southam Hall Rm 509, 4:30 – 5:30pm.

**Required Readings:**

1. **Scupin, R. (2008).** Contemporary anthropological perspectives on religion. In R. Scupin (Ed.), *Religion and culture: An anthropological focus* (Second ed., pp. 40-64). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.
2. **Winkelman, M., & Baker, J. R. (2010).** Anthropology and the study of religion. In *Supernatural as natural: A biocultural approach to religion* (pp. 5 - 14). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

**Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009** **CLASSES SUSPENDED BY UNIVERSITY**

**Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009** **CLASSES SUSPENDED BY UNIVERSITY**

**Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009** **RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT DUE**

Exploring emergent forms of religious practice in modern societies:  
Addressing Secularization and Modernization

**Required Readings:**

1. **Kurtz, L. (2007).** Chapter 6: Religious movements for a new century. In *Gods in the global village: The world's religions in sociological perspective* (Second ed., pp. 211-242). London, Thousand Oaks, New Delhi: Pine Forge Press.
2. **Bibby, R. (2007).** Canada's mythical religious mosaic: Some census findings. In J. Macionis, N. Benokraitis & B. Ravelli (Eds.), *Seeing ourselves: Classic, contemporary, and cross-cultural readings in sociology* (pp. 286-290). Toronto: Pearson.

**Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009** Exploring emergent forms of religious practice in modern societies: Cults, Sects, Spiritualities and New Religious Movements

**Video: Holy Ghost People (1967)**

**Required Readings:**

1. **Hunt, S. (2003).** Quasi-religions. In *Alternative religions: A sociological introduction* (pp. 221-230). Bristol: Ashgate.
2. **Lelwica, M. M. (2000).** Losing their way to salvation: Women, weight loss, and the salvation myth of culture lite. In B. D. Forbes & J. H. Mahan (Eds.), *Religion and culture in America* (pp. 180-200). Berkeley: University of California Press.

**Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009** Exploring emergent forms of religious practice in modern societies: Fundamentalisms, secularism and atheism in contemporary global society

**Required Readings:**

1. **Davie, G. (2007).** Globalization and the study of religion. In *The sociology of religion* (pp. 202-223). London: Sage.
2. **Bowen, J. R. (2008).** Religion, radicalism, and violence. In *Religions in practice: An approach to the anthropology of religion* (Fourth ed., pp. 210-228). Boston: Pearson.

**Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009** **MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

**No Readings**

**Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009** Religion, Culture and Politics

**Video: Jesus Camp (2006)**

**Required Readings:**

1. **Wallach Scott, J. (2007).** Introduction. In *The politics of the veil* (pp. 1-20). Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
2. **Boyer, P. (2005).** Biblical prophecy and foreign policy. In C. H. Badaracco (Ed.), *Quoting god* (pp. 107- 122). Waco, Texas: Baylor University Press.

**Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009** Religion, media and culture: Exploring mediated religion today

**Required Readings:**

1. **Lundby, K. (2002).** Between American televangelism and African Anglicanism. In S. M. Hoover & L. S. Clark (Eds.), *Practicing religion in the age of the media. Explorations in media, religion, and culture*. New York: Columbia University Press.
2. **Helland, C. (2000).** Online-religion/religion-online and virtual communitas. In J. K. Hadden & D. E. Cowan (Eds.), *Religion on the Internet: Research prospects and promises* (pp. 205-223). New York: Elsevier Science, Inc.

**Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009** Religion, media and culture: Exploring new forms of religious practice and ritual

**Guest Speaker: Nick Scott, Department of Sociology and Anthropology – Carleton University**

**Required Readings:**

1. **Campbell, H. (2001).** A new forum for religion: Spiritual pilgrimage online. *The Bible in Transmission, summer 2001*, 1-3.
2. **Peterson, G. (2005).** The Internet and Christian and Muslim communities. In B. D. Forbes & J. H. Mahan (Eds.), *Religion and popular culture in America* (pp. 103-138). Berkeley, Los Angeles and London: University of California Press.

**Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009** **REVIEW CLASS**

**TAKE HOME EXAMINATION HANDED OUT**

**No Readings**