

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
College of the Humanities - Religion Program

RELI 1720A: Indigenous Religions in Global Contexts
Fall 2016

Course Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:35-3:55 pm

Room: River Building 1200

Professor: Véronique Béguet

Office: 3A60 PA

Email: Veronique.Beguet@carleton.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 4-4:30 pm, or
by appointment (I am available after classes, but
always inform me that you want to see me).

Description of the course

This course illuminates a recent category of “World Religions” by examining cases from all five continents, as well as in diaspora (e.g., Brazilian Candomblé, Roma/Sinti religion). Key considerations include the study of minority religions, religion in oral cultures, myth and ritual studies, colonialism, globalization.

Required readings

- Bahr Ann Marie B., 2005, *Religion of the World: Indigenous Religion*. Philadelphia: Chelsea House Publisher.

[http://www.e-](http://www.e-reading.club/bookreader.php/135005/Religions_of_the_World._Indigenous_Religions.pdf)

[reading.club/bookreader.php/135005/Religions_of_the_World._Indigenous_Religions.pdf](http://www.e-reading.club/bookreader.php/135005/Religions_of_the_World._Indigenous_Religions.pdf)

- Articles available online through Carleton library and links to book's chapters on CULearn.

Evaluations

1. 1st assignment: will be an exercise to be done visiting one exhibition at the Canadian Museum of History, 100 Laurier, Gatineau. (Given on September 22; due on October 6, 20% of the course grade; can be done in teams of two). Note: the entrance of the Museum is free every Thursday from 4 to 8 pm.
2. In-class mid-term evaluation: The mid-term exam will consist of a mixture of multiple choices and written\essay answers. (November 3; 35% of the course grade).
3. Take-home final exam: essay. The final exam is cumulative (i.e. all the material covered in the course will be subjected to examination) (Due December 22 at the latest –details forthcoming - 45%).

IMPORTANT NOTE: Students are not allowed to record the course nor to post any of its content.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 Introduction to the course

Sept. 8

Information about course organization and evaluations will be explained in class and won't be repeated. Please, do attend the class.

Week 2 Defining "Indigenous Religions"

Sept 13 & 15

Reading:

- Bahr A.M., 2005, Pp: 2-9; 11-15; 36-40; 61-66.

Complementary readings:

- Tafjord B.O., 2013, "Indigenous Religion(s) as an Analytical Category", *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion*, 25: 221-243

Week 3 & 4 "Our story is in the land" (Bill Neidjie, Kakadu Elder in Bahr: 62)

Sept. 20 & 22

Sept. 27 & 29

Reading week 3:

- Bahr, 2005: pp.15-19; 40-43; 66-70; 87-94

Reading week 4:

- Basso K., 1988, "Speaking with Names", *Cultural Anthropology*, 3(2): 99-130.
 - o Read the ethnographic part: pp. 103 II – 124.

http://www.jstor.org.proxy.library.carleton.ca/stable/656347?pq-origsite=summon&seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents

Complementary reading:

- Poirier S., 2004, "Ontology, Ancestral Order and Agencies among the Kukatja of the Western Australian Desert", *In J. Clammer et al. (eds), Figured Worlds*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. Pp.: 58-82

Week 5 A world inhabited by sentient, invisible beings

Oct. 4 & 6

First assignment due on October 6

Reading:

- Howell S., 1996, "Nature in Culture or Culture in Nature? Chewong Ideas of "Humans" and Other Species", *In Descola P. and G. Pàlson (eds), Nature and Society*. London & New York: Routledge. Pp.: 127-144.

Complementary reading:

- Hallowell I., 1960, "Ojibwa Ontology, Behavior, and World View", *In S. Diamond (ed.), Culture and History: Essays in Honor of Paul Radin*. New York: Columbia University Press. Pp. 19-52.

Week 6 **The transformative power of rituals**

Oct. 11 & 13

Reading:

- Bahr, 2005. Pp.: 46-53; 94-96; 125-134.

Complementary reading:

- Twum-Danso I. A., 2012, "Rites vs rights. Female genitals cutting at the crossroads of local values and global norms", *International Social Work*, 56(1): 37-50.

Week 7 **Healing, trance, possession, and altered states of consciousness**

Oct. 18 & 20

Readings for weeks 7 & 8:

- Stutley M., 2005, *Shamanism. An Introduction*. London & New York: Routledge. Pp. 6-47 (available online)

<http://lib.myilibrary.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/Open.aspx?id=6912>

Reading week

Week 8 **Healing continued**

Nov 1 & 3

Mid-term exam Nov. 3

Week 9 **There is no word for "art" (Brown, 2002, Teaching Spirits)**

Nov 8 & 10

Reading:

- McLean H., 2001, "Sacred Colors and Shamanic Visions among the Huichol Indians of Mexico", *Journal of Anthropological Research*, 57(3): 305-323.

http://www.jstor.org.proxy.library.carleton.ca/stable/3631425?pq-origsite=summon&seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents

Week 10 **They took our land; they gave us their bible (from Desmond Tutu)**

Nov. 15 & 17

Reading:

- Bahr, 2005. Pp.: 27-34; 53-60; 75-83; 119-123.

Week 11 **Diaporas and syncretism: the Brazilian puzzle**

Nov. 22 & 24

Reading:

- Prandi R., 2000, African Gods in contemporary Brazil. *International Sociology*, 15(4): 641-663.

http://wc2pu2sa3d.search.serialssolutions.com/?ctx_ver=Z39.88-2004&ctx_enc=info%3Aofi%2Fenc%3AUTF-8&rft_id=info%3Aid%2Fsummon.serialssolutions.com&rft_val_fmt=info%3Aofi%2Ffmt%3Akev%3Amtx%3Ajournal&rft.genre=article&rft.atitle=African+Gods+in+Contemporary+Brazil&rft.ititle=Int

[ernational+Sociology&rft.au=Prandi%2C+Reginaldo&rft.date=2000-12-01&rft.pub=SAGE+Publications&rft.issn=0268-5809&rft.volume=15&rft.issue=4&rft.spage=641&rft.epage=663&rft.externalDBID=n%2Fa&rft.externalDocID=10.1177%2F0268580900015004005¶mdict=en-US](http://www.sagepub.com/urn:nbn:de:heig:5-1-1177-f0268580900015004005-paramdict=en-US)

Complementary readings:

Ligiéro Z., 2014, "Part 2: The Religion of the Orixà", *Initiation into Candomblé. Introduction to African-Brazilian Religion*. New York: Diasporic Africa Press.

Week 12 Recovering from broken identities through spirituality

Nov. 29 & Dec. 1

Readings:

- Stonechild, B., 2016, "Introduction", *The Knowledge Seeker: Embracing Indigenous Spirituality*. Regina: University of Regina Press.
- Don Good Voice, "Foreword. How You Speak Could Change the World", In Brown J. E., 2001, *Teaching Spirits. Understanding Native American Religious Traditions*. Oxford & New York: Oxford University Press.

Both excerpts can be downloaded as free samples in kindle format (either on your kindle reader or on you computer –in this case download the free kindle software for computer) on amazon.ca (choose "send a free sample" on the right side)

https://www.amazon.ca/Knowledge-Seeker-Embracing-Indigenous-Spirituality-ebook/dp/B01G9JI8CW/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1471885564&sr=8-1

https://www.amazon.ca/Teaching-Spirits-Understanding-Religious-Traditions-ebook/dp/B00556DWKE/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1471885700&sr=8-1&keywords=teaching+spirits

Complementary readings (leaf through):

- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2015, Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future.
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2015, The Survivors Speak.

Both reports can be downloaded at: <http://nctr.ca/reports.php>

Recommended:

- Once Were Warriors (movie): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9-ht_fi5nk

Week 13 Indigenous religions in a global world

Dec. 6 & 8

Readings:

- Hopi Elders' Message to the UN (Thomas Banyacya), 1993.
<http://www.welcomehome.org/rainbow/prophecy/hopi.html>
- Nelson M. K. (ed.), 2008, "Introduction", *Original Instructions. Indigenous Teachings for a Sustainable Future*. Rochester, Vermont: Bear & Company. Pp. 1-20. (free sample on Kindle).

https://www.amazon.ca/Original-Instructions-Indigenous-Teachings-Sustainable-ebook/dp/B004X6WMJY/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1471899573&sr=8-1

Complementary readings:

- Chief Oren Lyons, 2008, "A Democracy Based on Peace", in Nelson M.K. (op. cit.). Pp. 59-65.
- Marlowe S., 2008, "Ethic from the Land", in Nelson M.K. (op. cit.). Pp. 39-41.

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 **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 & 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