

## The College of the Humanities Religion and Society (RELI 2736/ANTH 2550), Summer Term

Online: Asynchronous Web-Based Learning  
Course Requires Reliable Internet Connection

**Instructor:** Alyshea Cummins

Office Hours: by appointment

Office Location: Online via Zoom

Email: [alyshea.cummins@carleton.ca](mailto:alyshea.cummins@carleton.ca)

**Teacher Assistants:**

**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 society. Through the readings, videos, and selected case studies we investigate the role of religion in shaping society and how society, in turn, shapes religion. Students taking this course will have a greater understanding about how religion continues to play an important role in society.

**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 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:**

Discussions	40%	Each Module
Quizzes	25%	Each Module
Final Exam	35%	<b>Take Home</b>
<b>*BONUS MARKS</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>*Due Friday May 29</b>

### ***Discussions (40%)***

- Students will be divided into discussion groups on cuLearn
- Each Module will be followed by a class Discussion (Posts are due the following Sunday, Replies are due on Tuesday)
- There will be 11 Discussions total (relative to the 11 Modules) and the best 10 will count towards your final Discussions grade
- Student posts and replies are graded according to how well you apply the relevant assigned readings & videos, both when answering the discussion questions and when responding to fellow course participants' posts (See guidelines on cuLearn)

### ***Weekly Quizzes (25%):***

- Weekly quizzes gauge your attentiveness and help prepare you for tests
- There will be a total of 11 Quizzes and the best 10 will count towards the final grade
- Found in each Learning Module and Completed on cuLearn
- Available until 23:59 each following Sunday (see Schedule on page 5 of Syllabus)

**NOTE:** There are no makeups for quizzes, however extra credit opportunities might be made available and will be announced (see *bonus marks*).

## ***Final Exam (35%)***

- The final exam will be a written take home exam
- Format will be given closer to the date

## ***Bonus Marks (+3%):***

Each student can earn up to 3% extra towards their final grade and/or makeup for missed Quizzes.

**Extra-Credit Case Study (ECCS):** Students who would like to earn bonus marks are asked to create a 350-500 word Case Study.

- Case Studies must reflect the themes and subjects covered in the course (see schedule on pages 5-7) (for more information, see Instructions on cuLearn)

**NOTE:** Please email the professor if you are doing an ECCS to replace a quiz grade. All ECCS are **DUE Friday May 29, 2020**

## Required Readings

### ***Textbook***

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

### ***Additional Readings***

Additional readings will be posted on cuLearn 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 the lectures?*** There are no live lectures. Video lectures and Multi-Media Readings will be posted weekly on cuLearn.
2. ***Do I need the textbook?*** Yes. The textbook can be ordered online through the University Bookstore (they price match). An e-Book can also be purchased.
3. ***Are there any other activities to complete weekly?*** Yes. Each module requires you to complete a quiz and to contribute to the discussion. Please see cuLearn for a complete list of all required readings, videos, and activities.
4. ***Is there a Final Exam?*** Yes, it is a take home exam. The format will be given closer to the date.
5. ***What if I miss a Quiz?*** There are no makeups for quizzes. If you would like to ensure a good grade you can complete one or more “Extra-Credit Case Study.”
6. ***What is the best way to reach you?*** By email.

# SYLLABUS – RELI2736 / ANTH2550

## SCHEDULE of CLASSES, READINGS, and ACTIVITIES

### WEEK 1

Available: May 4

#### Module 1 *Studying Religion*

Review of the Course Syllabus and Instruments of Evaluation

Stein & Stein chapter 1 – “The Anthropological Study of Religion”

**QUIZ #1** – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 05/10**

**DISCUSSION #1** – Posts are due **23:59, Sunday 05/10**; Replies are due **23:59, Tuesday 05/12**

#### Module 2 *Importance of Myths*

Stein & Stein chapter 2 – “Mythology”

*CUAG Online Module: Uprising: the power of mother earth — Christi Belcourt*

**QUIZ #2** – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 05/10**

**DISCUSSION #2** – Posts are due **23:59, Sunday 05/10**; Replies are due **23:59, Tuesday 05/12**

### WEEK 2

Available: May 11

#### Module 3 *Religious Symbols*

Stein & Stein chapter 3 – “Religious Symbols”

**QUIZ #3** – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 05/17**

**DISCUSSION #3** – Posts are due **23:59, Sunday 05/17**; Replies are due **23:59, Tuesday 05/19**

#### Module 4 *Religious Rituals*

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

*Indigenous Learning Bundles: Cultural Conceptions of the Life Cycle*

**QUIZ #4** – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 05/17**

**DISCUSSION #4** – Posts are due **23:59, Sunday 05/17**; Replies are due **23:59, Tuesday 05/19**

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## WEEK 3

Available: May 19

### Module 5

#### *Religious Experience*

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

**QUIZ #5** – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 05/24**

**DISCUSSION #5** – Posts are due **23:59, Sunday 05/24**; Replies are due **23:59, Tuesday 05/26**

### Module 6

#### *Religious Authorities*

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

*Video: Huichol shamanism and pilgrimage*

**QUIZ #6** – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 05/24**

**DISCUSSION #6** – Posts are due **23:59, Sunday 05/24**; Replies are due **23:59, Tuesday 05/26**

## WEEK 4

Available: May 26

### Module 7

#### *Magic and Society*

Stein & Stein chapter 7 – “Magic and Divination”

**QUIZ #7** – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 05/31**

**DISCUSSION #7** – Posts are due **23:59, Sunday 05/31**; Replies are due **23:59, Tuesday 06/02**

### Module 8

#### *Death and the Afterlife*

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

**QUIZ #8** – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 05/31**

**DISCUSSION #8** – Posts are due **23:59, Sunday 05/31**; Replies are due **23:59, Tuesday 06/02**

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## WEEK 5

Available: June 2

### Module 9

#### *God(s) and Society*

Stein & Stein chapter 9 – “Gods and Spirits”

**QUIZ #9** – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 06/07**

**DISCUSSION #9** – Posts are due **23:59, Sunday 06/07**; Replies are due **23:59, Tuesday 06/09**

### Module 10

#### *Witchcraft and Society*

Stein & Stein chapter 10 – “Witchcraft”

*Video: The Burning Times*

**QUIZ #10** – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 06/07**

**DISCUSSION #10** – Posts are due **23:59, Sunday 06/07**; Replies are due **23:59, Tuesday 06/09**

## WEEK 6

Available: June 8

### Module 11

#### *A Changing Landscape*

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

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

**QUIZ #11** – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 06/14**

**DISCUSSION #11** – Posts are due **23:59, Sunday 06/14**; Replies are due **23:59, Tuesday 06/16**



## University Regulations for All College of the Humanities Courses

### Copies of Written Work Submitted

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Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

### Academic Integrity at Carleton

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Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of others as one's own. Plagiarism 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, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, and material on the internet. More information can be found [here](#).

### Academic Accommodation Policy

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#### Academic Accommodation

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

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to the 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 see the [Student Guide](#)

**Religious obligation:** write to the 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 see the [Student Guide](#)

**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](mailto: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).

### **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 is 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: [carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support](http://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support)

### **Accommodation 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 must 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>

## **Grading System at Carleton University**

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Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion is below. Grade points indicated are for courses with 1.0 credit value. Where the course credit is greater or less than one credit, the grade points are adjusted proportionately.

### [Grading System](#)

## **Course Sharing Websites and Copyright**

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Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or

distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

## Statement on Class Conduct

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The Carleton University Human Rights Policies and Procedures affirm that all members of the University community share a responsibility to:

- promote equity and fairness,
- respect and value diversity,
- prevent discrimination and harassment, and preserve the freedom of its members to carry out responsibly their scholarly work without threat of interference.

## Deferred Term Work

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In some situations, students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work.

Students who claim illness, injury or other extraordinary circumstances beyond their control as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor and **in all cases this must occur no later than three (3.0) working days after the term work was due.**

The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of term. More information is available [in the calendar](#).

## Deferred Final Exams

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Students who are unable to write a final examination because of a serious illness/emergency or other circumstances beyond their control may apply for accommodation. Normally, the accommodation for a missed final examination will be granting the student the opportunity to write a deferred examination. In specific cases when it is not possible to offer a deferred examination, and with the approval of the Dean, an alternate accommodation may be made. [More information.](#)

The application for a [deferral](#) must:

1. be made in writing or online to the Registrar's Office no later than **three working days** after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination; and,
2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation and, in cases of illness, by a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination, or by appropriate documents in other cases. Medical documents must specify the date of the onset of the illness, the (expected) date of recovery, and the extent to which the student was/is incapacitated during the time of the examination. The University's preferred medical form can be found at the Registrar's Office [forms and fees page](#).

Any questions related to deferring a Final Exam or Final Assignment/Take Home Examination should be directed to the [Registrar's Office](#).

## Withdrawal From Courses

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Withdrawn. No academic credit, no impact on the CGPA. WDN is a permanent notation that appears on the official transcript for students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term (noted in the Academic Year section of the Calendar each term). Students may withdraw on or before the last day of classes.

Important dates can be found [here](#).

## Financial vs. Academic Withdrawal

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**Make sure that you are aware of the separate deadlines for Financial and Academic withdrawal!**

Making registration decisions in Carleton Central involves making a financial and academic commitment for the courses you choose, regardless of attendance. If you do not attend – you must withdraw in Carleton Central within the published deadlines to cancel your registration.

[More infomation](#)

## Department Contact Information

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**College of the Humanities** 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

[CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca)

Drop box for CLCV, HUMS LATN GREK Term Papers and assignments is outside 300 P.A.

**Greek and Roman Studies** 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

[GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca)

Drop Box is outside of 300 P.A.

**Religion** 2A39 Paterson Hall (613)520-2100

[Religion@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:Religion@cunet.carleton.ca)

Drop box for RELI and SAST Term Papers and assignments is outside of 2A39 P.A.

**Registrar's Office** 300 Tory (613)520-3500

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/>

## Student Resources on Campus

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[CUKnowHow Website](#)

[Academics: From registration to graduation, the tools for your success.](#)