

Carleton University

2019-2020

The College of the Humanities
RELI 2736B / ANTH 2550B Religion and Society; Winter Term

Mondays 11:35 - 14:25

Location: Mackenzie Building 3275

Instructor: Alyshea Cummins

Office Location: 310A Paterson Hall

Email: alyshea.cummins@carleton.ca

Office Hours: Mondays 14:30-15:00

& by appointment

Teacher Assistants:

Leah Rasmussen:

leahrasmussen@cmail.carleton.ca

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nadaalamri@cmail.carleton.ca

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, class lectures, 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:

Weekly Quizzes	20%	Weekly
Midterm	30%	February 24
Final Examination	35%	During Exam Period
Participation	15%	Participation & Class Assignments
*BONUS MARKS	3%	*See below

Weekly Quizzes (20%):

- Weekly quizzes gage your attentiveness and help prepare you for tests
- Completed on cuLearn
- Available after class until 23:59 each following Sunday.
- There will be a total of 11 Quizzes
- The best 9 will count towards the final grade
- Content for the quizzes will be based on the previous lecture and required readings
- 4 - 10 questions
- Format: Multiple Choice, True/False, Short Answer, and Fill in the Blank
- Time limitations to prevent cheating

NOTE: There are no makeups for quizzes, however extra credit opportunities might be made available and will be announced (see *bonus marks*). In addition, if special events relevant to the course arise, your attendance and a short written report could also earn extra credit.

Midterm (30%)

- The in-class midterm will be 1.5 Hours
- Potential Format: Multiple Choice, True/False, Short Answer, Long Answer
- Lectures, Textbook Readings, Guest Lectures, Films as listed on your syllabus are all worth studying

Participation Grade (15%):

- Earned by attending, participating in class, and completing class activities or assignments
- Class activities will be random and can happen during any class
- There will be 6 in-class activities or assignments, each worth 2.5% of your grade (2.5 x 6 = 15%)
- Participating in class 3 different times over the semester can replace a missed activity

Final Exam (35%)

- The final exam will be 2 hours and will take place during the exam period
- Potential Format: Multiple Choice, True/False, Short Answer, Long Answer
- Lectures, Textbook Readings, Guest Lectures, Films as listed on your syllabus are all worth studying

Bonus Marks (+3%):

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

OPTION 1: Extra Credit Assignment: attending public lectures on religion at any university in Ottawa and writing a short critical summary on the content (3%) (see separate form on cuLearn)

OPTION 2: Extra Credit Research Presentation: students will be required to do a short 5-7 mins research presentation on topics relevant to any class. Presentations will happen during class time and will be graded out of 10. This option can be done alone or in small groups of 2-3 students. (3%) (see separate form on cuLearn)

NOTE: If you are doing extra credit to makeup for a missed quiz, you must let the instructor know in writing (email preferably).

Text – Required Reading

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.

Class Time

The course is presented in 12 three-hour classes, one break per class. Each class will include a lecture on new content and group discussions on the lecture and readings for that day. In addition, there will be various in-class assignments and activities to engage further with class material; these will count towards your participation grade.

Come to class. Attending class is the single most important thing you can do to achieve good results and attendance will be used in assigning a grade.

“Talking” is prohibited. “Participation” is encouraged.

FAQs

1. ***Do I have to attend the lectures?*** Yes. Attending lectures and participation counts towards your grade (15%).
2. ***Do I need the textbook?*** Yes. They will also be on reserve in the library.
3. ***Is there a Midterm Test?*** Yes. In Class on **February 24**.
4. ***Is there a Final Exam?*** Yes. The final format will be given closer to 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 Bonus Assignments or Presentations.
6. ***What if I miss a participation exercise?*** Participating in class discussions 3 different times over the semester can replace a missed participation exercise.
7. ***What is the best way to reach you?*** Office hours or by email.

SCHEDULE of CLASSES, READINGS and ASSIGNMENTS

(1) 01/06

Studying Religion

Review of the Course Outline and Instruments of Evaluation

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

QUIZ #1 – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 01/12**

(2) 01/13

Importance of Myths

Stein & Stein chapter 2 – “Mythology”

Video: “The Power of Myth” with Joseph Campbell

QUIZ #2 – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 01/19**

(3) 01/20

Religious Symbols

Stein & Stein chapter 3 – “Religious Symbols” sacred art, space and time; music and dance

QUIZ #3 – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 01/26**

(4) 01/27

Religious Rituals

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

Video: “The Power of Myth” with Joseph Campbell

QUIZ #4 – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 02/02**

(5) 02/03

Religious Experience

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

QUIZ #5 – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 02/09**

(6) 02/10

Religious Authorities

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

Video: Huichol shamanism and pilgrimage

QUIZ #6 – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 02/16**

SYLLABUS – RELI2736 / ANTH2550

**READING WEEK – No classes between February 17-21*

(7) 02/24

MIDTERM TEST

(8) 03/02

Magic and Society

Stein & Stein chapter 7 – “Magic and Divination”

QUIZ #7 – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 03/08**

(9) 03/09

Death and the Afterlife

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

QUIZ #8 – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 03/15**

(10) 03/16

God(s) and Society

Stein & Stein chapter 9 – “Gods and Spirits”

QUIZ #9 – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 03/22**

(11) 03/23

Witchcraft and Society

Stein & Stein chapter 10 – “Witchcraft”

Video: The Burning Times

QUIZ #10 – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 03/29**

(12) 03/30

A Changing Landscape

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

QUIZ #11 – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 04/05**

(13) 04/06

Final Exam Review



University Regulations for All College of the 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.

Academic Integrity at Carleton

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

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 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 information](#)

Department Contact Information

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

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

Drop Box is outside of 300 P.A.

Religion 2A39 Paterson Hall (613)520-2100

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

[CUKnowHow Website](#)

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