

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY
RELIGION PROGRAM, COLLEGE OF THE HUMANITIES /
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY**

**ANTH 2550 / RELI 2736
2024 SUMMER TERM
RELIGION AND SOCIETY**

Instructor: Alyshea Cummins

Teacher Assistant:

Office Hours: by appointment

Office Location: Online via Zoom

Email: alyshea.cummins@carleton.ca

Online/Blended: Asynchronous Online Learning with Synchronous Class Discussions

Course Content: Available on Mondays (except for holidays)

Live Class Discussions (via Zoom): Tuesdays from 11:35-2:25PM EDT

(NOTE: Course Requires Reliable Internet Connection. See Brightspace for Zoom meeting details)

Description: 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 serves as an introductory exploration into anthropological perspectives on the study of religion. It delves into the historical evolution of this subdiscipline, examines key theoretical frameworks, explores fundamental conceptual terminology, and engages with the various challenges and considerations inherent in research methodology within the field. Throughout the course, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the foundations, theories, and methodological intricacies involved in anthropological investigations of religion.

Learning Outcomes: This course aims to give students a broad understanding of the study of religion in its social context(s). Through the lectures, readings, videos, and selected case studies we will investigate the role of religion in shaping society and how society, in turn, shapes religion. Students taking this course will learn disciplinary vocabulary associated with the religion(s) studied in this course. They will also be able to recognize personal situated-ness and personal bias in confronting religious phenomena. Through class discussions, students will gain confidence in presenting, arguing, and defending their ideas while engaging with course content. Through assignments, students will practice writing at a university level. Further, students taking this course will be able to distinguish different methods of increasing knowledge in the field of the study of religion, including historical (largely based on texts) and social scientific (largely based on field work).

Welcoming Classroom Commitment: We each come from diverse backgrounds and experiences, and we will inevitably approach discussions and the subject matter in unique ways. Throughout the course we will collectively try to make sure that everyone feels safe and respected when presenting their ideas and understandings about course content. We will be respectful towards one another and do our best to reflect on our own biases and assumptions in order to make space for diverse views and ways of thinking.

Class Time: Each class we will meet to discuss the respective modules, lectures, and readings. Through discussions and in-class assignments and activities, students will engage further with class material and gain confidence in expressing their ideas. Participation in class counts towards the participation grade (20%; see details below).

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 three 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:

Participation	20%	Tuesdays 11:35-2:25pm
Quizzes	30%	Each Module
Final Exam	50%	During the exam period
*BONUS MARKS	3%	*Due Friday Aug 2

Participation (20%)

- Every Tuesday the class meets over Zoom for live discussions and activities.
- Students are expected to complete the respective modules prior to each meeting
- Students will earn marks for their active participation in class activities and discussions
- There will be a total of 7 classes and participation is counted for 6
- See the Class Schedule on Page 6 for more details

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

Weekly Quizzes (30%):

- Module 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
- Quizzes can be found in each Learning Module and completed on Brightspace
- Available until 23:59 EST each following Monday (see Schedule on page 6 of Syllabus)

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

Final Exam (50%)

- The final exam is cumulative and closed book
- The final exam will be **online** and will be held during the examination period
- Course readings, lectures, quizzes, discussions, and in-class activities, will help to prepare students for the final exam
- The format will be provided in August
- **NOTE:** The final examination will be proctored using a remote proctoring service provided by Scheduling and Examination Services. You can find more information at <https://carleton.ca/ses/e-proctoring/>.

Bonus Marks (+3%):

Extra Credit Assignment (ECA): The ECA allows students to earn up to 3% on top of their final grade and/or make up for missed quizzes or classes. To participate, students must attend an authorized public university lecture (online or in-person) on the topic of religion and write a short critical reflection on the content (see Instructions and Rubric on Brightspace). Students must submit their ECA one week after the posted event. Eligible events will be posted on the “Extra-Credit Opportunities” discussion forum on Brightspace.

All students are permitted to complete one ECA. Students who miss a quiz or a class are permitted to complete additional ECAs.

NOTE: Please email the professor if you are doing an ECA to replace a missed class or quiz grade. Late Assignments are subject to a -.5-point penalty each day they are late and will not be accepted for grading 5 days after the deadline. The final day to submit an ECA is **Friday August 2nd, 2024.**

Required Readings

Textbook

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

Note: The Textbook is available online through the Library or for purchase at the University Bookstore

Additional Readings

Additional readings will be posted on Brightspace 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 live meetings?*** Yes. Students are expected to attend live class meetings over Zoom every Tuesday at 11:35am EDT. Participation in class counts towards your participation grade (20%). Lecture videos, notes, and Multi-Media Readings will be posted weekly on Brightspace to be completed asynchronously.
2. ***Do I need the textbook?*** Yes. There is a free online version available through the Carleton Library, but access is limited to 6 students. The textbook can also be ordered online through the University Bookstore (they price match).
3. ***Are there any weekly activities that I need to complete?*** Yes. Each module requires you to complete a quiz. See Brightspace for a complete list of all required readings, videos, and activities.
4. ***Is there a final exam?*** Yes. The final exam is cumulative and closed book and will be held during the exam period. The exam will be administered online and will be e-proctored. More details will be given closer to date.
5. ***Can I earn bonus marks in this class?*** Yes, students can complete one Extra-Credit Assignment (ECA) to earn up to 3% on top of their final grade. Students can also complete additional ECA if they missed a class or quiz. See Brightspace for more details.

6. ***What if I miss a quiz or a class?*** If a student misses a quiz or a class, they can complete an ECA to replace the missed quiz or class. See details on Brightspace.
7. ***What is the best way to reach you?*** Email, Office Hours, or the “Ask the Instructor Q&A” online forum on Brightspace.

SCHEDULE of CLASSES, READINGS, and ACTIVITIES

<p>WEEK 1 Available: July 2nd</p> <p>CLASS MEETING: Tuesday 07/02 at 11:35 (Welcome and Syllabus)</p>	
<p>Module 1</p>	<p>Studying Religion</p> <p>READ: Stein & Stein chapter 1 – “The Anthropological Study of Religion” COMPLETE: Module 1 on Brightspace QUIZ #1 – Due at 23:59, Monday 07/08</p>
<p>Module 2</p>	<p>Importance of Myths</p> <p>READ: Stein & Stein chapter 2 – “Mythology” COMPLETE: Module 2 on Brightspace QUIZ #2 – Due at 23:59, Monday 07/08</p>

<p>WEEK 2 Available: July 8</p> <p>CLASS MEETING: Tuesday 07/09 at 11:35 (Modules 1 & 2)</p>	
<p>Module 3</p>	<p>Religious Symbols</p> <p>READ: Stein & Stein chapter 3 – “Religious Symbols” COMPLETE: Module 3 on Brightspace QUIZ #3 – Due at 23:59, Monday 07/15</p>
<p>Module 4</p>	<p>Religious Rituals</p> <p>READ: Stein & Stein chapter 4 – “Ritual” – rites of passage COMPLETE: Module 4 on Brightspace QUIZ #4 – Due at 23:59, Monday 07/15</p>

WEEK 3

Available: July 15

CLASS MEETING: Tuesday 07/16 at 11:35 (Modules 3 & 4)

Module 5 Religious Experience

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

COMPLETE: Module 5 on Brightspace

QUIZ #5 – Due 23:59, Monday 07/22

Module 6 Religious Authorities

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

COMPLETE: Module 6 on Brightspace

QUIZ #6 – Due 23:59, Monday 07/22

WEEK 4

Available: July 22

CLASS MEETING: Tuesday 07/23 at 11:35 (Modules 5 & 6)

Module 7 Magic and Society

READ: Stein & Stein chapter 7 – “Magic and Divination”

COMPLETE: Module 7 on Brightspace

QUIZ #7 – Due 23:59, Monday 07/29

Module 8 Death and the Afterlife

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

COMPLETE: Module 8 on Brightspace

QUIZ #8 – Due 23:59, Monday 07/29

SYLLABUS – RELI2736 / ANTH2550

WEEK 5

Available: July 29

CLASS MEETING: Tuesday 07/30 at 11:35 (Modules 7 & 8)

Module 9 **God(s) and Society**

READ: Stein & Stein chapter 9 – “Gods and Spirits”

COMPLETE: Module 9 on Brightspace

QUIZ #9 – Due 23:59, Monday 08/05

Module 10 **Witchcraft and Society**

READ: Stein & Stein chapter 10 – “Witchcraft”

COMPLETE: Module 10 on Brightspace

QUIZ #10 – Due 23:59, Monday 08/05

EXTRA-CREDIT ASSIGNMENT(S) – Due at 23:59, FRIDAY, AUGUST 2ND

WEEK 6

Available: August 5

CLASS MEETING: Tuesday 08/06 at 11:35 (Modules 9 & 10)

Module 11 **A Changing Landscape**

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

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

COMPLETE: Module 11 on Brightspace

QUIZ #11 – Due 23:59, Monday 08/12

WEEK 7

CLASS MEETING: Tuesday 08/13 at 11:35 (Module 11 & Exam Review)

University Regulations for All College of the Humanities Courses

(Updated December 6th 2023)

Academic Dates and Deadlines

This schedule contains the dates prescribed by the University Senate for academic activities. Dates relating to fee payment, cancellation of course selections, late charges, and other fees or charges will be published in the Important Dates and Deadlines section of the Registration Website.

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.

Online Learning Resources

[On this page](#), you will find resources collected by Carleton Online to help you succeed in your online courses; Learning Strategies and Best Practices, Study Skills, Technology and Online Interaction and Engagement.

Academic Integrity Policy

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, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one's own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Co-operation or Collaboration

An important and valuable component of the learning process is the progress a student can make as a result of interacting with other students. In struggling together to master similar concepts and problems and in being exposed to each other's views and approaches, a group of students can enhance and speed up the learning process. Carleton University encourages students to benefit from these activities which will not generally be viewed as a violation of the Policy. With the exception of tests and examinations, instructors will not normally limit these interactions.

Students shall not co-operate or collaborate on academic work when the instructor has indicated that the work is to be completed on an individual basis. Failure to

follow the instructor's directions in this regard is a violation of the standards of academic integrity. Unless otherwise indicated, students shall not co-operate or collaborate in the completion of a test or examination.

Group Work: There are many cases where students are expected or required to work in groups to complete a course requirement. Normally, students are not responsible for violations of this policy committed by other members of a group in which they participate.

The full Academic Integrity Policy can be found [here](#). More information on the process [here](#).

Academic Accommodation Policy

Carleton University is committed to providing access to the educational experience in order to promote academic accessibility for all individuals.

Academic accommodation refers to educational practices, systems and support mechanisms designed to accommodate diversity and difference. The purpose of accommodation is to enable students to perform the essential requirements of their academic programs. At no time does academic accommodation undermine or compromise the learning objectives that are established by the academic authorities of the University.

Addressing Human Rights Concerns

The University and all members of the University community share responsibility for ensuring that the University's educational, work and living environments are free from discrimination and harassment. Should you have concerns about harassment or discrimination relating to your age, ancestry, citizenship, colour, creed (religion), disability, ethnic origin, family status, gender expression, gender identity, marital

status, place of origin, race, sex (including pregnancy), or sexual orientation, please contact the [Department of Equity and Inclusive Communities](#).

Requests for 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 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. For accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here](#)).

Religious obligation: 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. For more details [click here](#).

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 where 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: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

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 will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/SCCASP-Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-Cleancopy-final-Sept-2022-2.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 can be found [here](#). 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.

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). [More information](#)

Student Rights and Responsibilities at Carleton

Carleton University strives to provide a safe environment conducive to personal and intellectual growth, free of injustice and characterized by understanding respect, peace, trust, and fairness.

The [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#) governs the non-academic behaviour of students. Carleton University is committed to building a campus that promotes personal growth through the establishment and promotion of transparent and fair academic and non-academic responsibilities.

Deferred Term Work

In some situations, students are unable to complete term work because of extenuating circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work. Requests for academic consideration are made in accordance with the [Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical or Other Extenuating Circumstances](#).

1. Students who claim short-term extenuating circumstances (normally lasting up to five days) as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor. If the instructor requires supporting documentation, the instructor may only request submission of the University's self-declaration form, which is available on the [Registrar's Office](#)

[website](#). The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule.

- a. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of term. In all cases, formative evaluations providing feedback to the student should be replaced with formative evaluations. In the event the altered due date must extend beyond the last day of classes in the term, the instructor will assign a grade of zero for the work not submitted and submit the student's earned grade accordingly; the instructor may submit a change of grade at a later date. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.
2. In cases where a student is not able to complete term work due to extenuating circumstances lasting for a significant period of time/ long-term (normally more than five days), the instructor and/or student may elect to consult with the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses) or Graduate Registrar (graduate courses) to determine appropriate action.
3. If a student is concerned the instructor did not respond to the request for academic consideration or did not provide reasonable accommodation, the student should follow the appeals process described in the Academic Consideration Policy.
4. If academic consideration is granted, but the student is unable to complete the accommodation according to the terms set out by the instructor as a result of further illness, injury, or extraordinary circumstances beyond their control, the student may submit a petition to the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses)/Graduate Registrar (graduate courses). Please note, however, that the course instructor will be required to submit an earned final grade and further consideration will only be reviewed according to established precedents and deadlines. (More information: [Undergraduate](#) | [Graduate](#)).

Deferred Final Exams

Students who are unable to write a final examination because of extenuating circumstances, as defined in the [Academic Consideration Policy](#), 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.

The application for a deferral must:

1. be made in writing to the Registrar's Office no later than three (3) working days after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination; and,
2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation. In cases of short-term extenuating circumstances normally lasting no more than five (5) days, students must include the University's self-declaration form, which can be found on [the Registrar's Office website](#). Additional documentation is required in cases of extenuating circumstances lasting longer than five (5) days and must be supported by a medical note specifying the date of 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 [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. A fee adjustment is dependent on registration being canceled within the published [fee deadlines](#) and dependent on your course load. A course dropped after the deadline for financial withdrawal will receive a grade of Withdrawn (WDN), which appears on your official transcript.

Even if you miss the deadline for financial withdrawal, you might decide to drop a course to avoid a failure or a poor grade showing up on your student record and

bringing down your CGPA. It is your responsibility to drop the course via Carleton Central within the published [deadlines](#) (see Academic Withdrawal).

If you are considering withdrawing from a course, you may want to talk to an advisor first. Course withdrawal may affect your student status, as well as your eligibility for student funding, immigration status, residence accommodation and participation in varsity sports, etc. Additionally, remember that once you choose your courses, you must use the “Calculate amount to pay” button to determine the correct amount of fees to pay.

Carleton Central is your one-stop shop for registration activities. If you are interested in taking a course, make sure to complete your registration. Simply attending a course does not mean you are registered in it, nor is it grounds for petition or appeal.

Mental Health and Well\ness at Carleton

Discover the tools and resources Carleton offers to help understand, manage and improve your mental health and wellness while at university.

[Counselling](#)

[Residence](#)

[Counselling](#)

[Supporting Your](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Get Help Now](#) **If in crisis call:** Counselling Services: 613-520-6674 (press 2) Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

After Hours

If you need assistance with an urgent situation outside of our regular operating hours, contact:

- [Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region](#): Available 24/7-365 days/year and is bilingual (English/French).

- **Distress:** 613-238-3311 ○ **Crisis:** 613-722-6914 ○ **Text:** 343-306-5550 (available 10:00 am – 11:00 pm, 7 days/week, 365 days/year) ○ **Web Chat:** blue chat icon at the bottom right corner of the website.
- Text Service is available in English only to residents of Ottawa & the Ottawa Region.)
- [Good2Talk](#): Available 24/7-365 days/year and is available in English, French and Mandarin ○ Call: **1-866-925-5454** ○ Text GOOD2TALKON to 686868 ○ [Facebook Messenger](#)
- [Empower Me](#): A 24/7 resource service for undergraduate students. 1-833-628-5589 (toll-free)
- International SOS's Emotional Support: Offers 24/7 access to mental health professionals in more than 60 languages through their dedicated line +1 215-942-8478. Students can call this number collect (the person being telephoned receives the charges) to access services.

The Centre for Indigenous Support and Community Engagement

The Centre for Indigenous Initiatives is proud to offer culturally centered individual counselling to students who self-identify as First Nation, Metis or Inuk. Through this service, Indigenous students [can access confidential, individual sessions for support with personal, mental health or academic challenges.](#)

Department Contact Information

Bachelor of the Humanities 300 Paterson Hall
CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca

Greek and Roman Studies 300 Paterson Hall
GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca

Religion 2A39 Paterson Hall
Religion@cunet.carleton.ca

Digital Humanities (Graduate) 2A39 Paterson Hall
digitalhumanities@carleton.ca

Digital Humanities (Undergraduate Minor) 300 Paterson Hall
digitalhumanities@carleton.ca

MEMS (Undergraduate Minor) 300 Paterson Hall
CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca