

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
and the College of the Humanities: Religion
ANTH2550A / RELI 2736A Religion and Society
Fall Term 2010
Credit: 0.5

Instructor: Tom Sherwood
Office hours: TBA and by appointment
Time: Tuesday, 8:35 to 11:35 am.
Place: SA 415
Email: through WebCT only, please
Office : TBA

Prerequisite: SOCI 1001 and SOCI 1002, or ANTH 1001 and ANTH 1002, and second-year standing, or permission of the Department.

Description (as in the Undergraduate Calendar, 2008-2009, page 219)

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.

(as in the Undergraduate Calendar, 2008-2009, page 415)

Cross-cultural survey of religious institutions, with attention to theories and methodologies in the study of religion. Topics include myth, totemism, cults, ritual, altered states of consciousness and the relationship of religion with other social institutions and processes.

Rationale This course is an introductory survey of anthropological and sociological 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.

Text – Required Reading

Stein, Rebecca L. and Philip L. Stein

2008/2005 The Anthropology of Religion, Magic and Witchcraft
Allyn and Bacon, Boston.

This was a new text in 2005, designed for courses like this. It is very strong in ethnography, case studies, and the presentation of the conceptual vocabulary of anthropology of religion. It is weak in its presentation of theory and issues of methodology. The lectures will compensate for this.

Note: The second edition (2008) of this text is required. There are significant differences between the two editions, and the instructor will be using the second edition for class and examination purposes.

Instruments of Evaluation

The Evaluation Procedures of the university are described in the Undergraduate Calendar beginning on page 39 in the 2008-2009 printed edition. 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. As stated in the Academic Regulations of the University, Section 2.1, students must complete all term papers and examinations to obtain credit for this course.

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|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Personal Statement | 5% of the Final Grade, due by September 28 |
| 2. Term Test | 15% of the FG, in class October 19 |
| 3. Research Essay | 40% of the FG, due by 4 pm Thursday November 18 |
| 4. Final Examination | 40% of the FG, as scheduled in December. |

Separate handouts will describe the Personal Statement and the Research Essay.

The Final Examination will be given in the regular university time slot for exams. You must write the examination at the scheduled time (unless you have an official conflict with another exam at the same time). Only illness or other such formal reason will allow you to write at a different time. When you take this course you contract to be available for the examination at the scheduled time. If you miss the examination, please follow the usual procedures for illness, etc. An individual or "make-up" examination cannot be accommodated.

There are no supplemental and grade-raising examinations allowed in the Arts and Social Sciences Faculty at this time.

Lectures – Required “Reading”

The lectures review the major theoretical understandings of religion and society, a number of methodological issues and other essential material not contained in the text.

Class Time

The course is presented in one three-hour class with one break each week. Normally the “First Hour” will be a lecture, 75 to 90 minutes long. After the break, the “Second Hour” will normally be a discussion of that week’s readings, although students may use the time to ask questions about the lectures or the research essay they are working on.

SCHEDULE of CLASSES, READINGS and ASSIGNMENTS

INTRODUCTION – THE SOCIAL SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF RELIGION

1. September 14

Introduction, orientation, organizational matters

Review of the Course Outline and Instruments of Evaluation

Introduction of the textbook and lectures.

What is religion? – the problems and opportunities of definition

What is anthropology of religion? – anthropological approaches to religion

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

ASSIGNMENT ONE – Exercise toward “Methodological Agnosticism”

(Stein & Stein, page 26) – short essay due by Week 3 – 5% of Final Grade

PART ONE – DEVELOPMENT OF MAJOR THEORETICAL APPROACHES

2. September 21

1st Hour Theory the historical development of the anthropology of religion
Comte and positivism; Spencer, Muller, Tylor, Marett, Frazer;
origins-of-religion theories

2nd Hour Method

Stein & Stein chapters 1 & 2 – introductory and basic material
ASSIGNMENT ONE is due.

3. September 28

1st Hour Theory Durkheim's theory of religion and society
positivism, functionalism and social cohesion

2nd Hour Method

Stein & Stein chapter 2 & 3 – “Mythology”
and “Religious Symbols”

4. October 5

1st Hour Theory **Assignment One** will be returned (5% of Final Grade)
Weber's contributions to understanding religion and society
Weber's sociology, Protestant ethic thesis, disenchantment, Verstehen,
leadership, authority, Ideal-type, church-sect typology

2nd Hour Method

Stein & Stein chapters 3 & 4 – “Religious Symbols” and “Ritual”
sacred art, space and time; music and dance

5. October 12

1st Hour Theory Marx and Freud

2nd Hour Method

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

6. October 19

1st Hour Method **Stein & Stein chapters 5 & 6** – “Altered States of Consciousness”
and “Religious Specialists” – shamanism

2nd Hour

TERM TEST at 10:15 am (45 minutes, 15% of FG)

PART TWO

THE SOCIAL ORGANIZATION OF BEING RELIGIOUS

7. October 26

The **Term Test** will be returned (15% of Final Grade)

RESEARCH ESSAY (40% of Final Grade) – This week is the deadline
for choosing a topic for the research essay, either a pre-approved topic or
an original topic which must be approved by the instructor by 2 pm on
Thursday February 25.

1st Hour Theory

Institutionalization of religion: typologies of religious organization
the study of religious forms in contemporary society
from church-sect to NRMs

2nd Hour Method

Stein & Stein chapter 7 – “Magic and Divination”

8. November 2

1st Hour Theory Religiosity: measuring the religious variable

Becoming religious: socialization and conversion,
considering the individual

2nd Hour Method

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

PART THREE RELIGION, SOCIAL CHANGE, TRADITION, MODERNITY

9. November 9

1st Hour Theory

Religion and social integration – beyond Durkheim
the Civil Religion thesis

2nd Hour Method

Stein & Stein chapter 9 – “Gods and Spirits”

10. November 16

1st Hour Theory

ESSAY DUE by 4 pm on Thursday November 18.

Religion and social transformation – beyond Marx and Weber
fundamentalism, capitalism, liberation theology, social gospel, civil rights,
apartheid; politics, economics, stratification, etc.

2nd Hour Method

Stein & Stein chapter 10 – “Witchcraft”

11. November 23

1st Hour Theory

From Religion to Secularization to Spirituality
Secularization: a typology of theories, the decline thesis, the
transformation thesis, spirituality, NRMs

2nd Hour Method

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

CONCLUSION

SUMMARIZING AND LOOKING AHEAD

12. November 30

The Essay, will be returned, and students will know their “Term Marks” –
60% of the Final Grade.

Completing the lecture series and the review of the text

Review Session prior to the **Final Examination** (40% of the FG)

FAQs

1. Do I have to attend the lectures?

The content of the lectures constitutes “required reading”; so students need to attend or form partnerships. The instructor does not post power-point slides or full-text lectures on WebCT; but lecture outlines are posted.

The lectures constitute the first part of each class. They add essential theoretical and methodological material to the textbook. Some of that material will be on the Term Test and all the lectures are covered in the Final Examination. The lectures include discussion of issues related to religion in pluralist and more developed societies. For many students, they will also resource the Research Essay. They do not duplicate the textbook. The last hour of each class will allow for questions and discussion related to that week’s readings.

2. Do I need the textbook?

Yes.

3. Is there a Term Test?

Yes. It will be given in class on October 19.

4. Is there a Final Exam?

Yes, to be scheduled in December.

5. Are there any Essays?

Yes. Two. More information is provided on separate Handouts.

6. Can I have an extension on the Research Essay, the one worth 40%?

No. As the Handout will say, "The late penalty for this assignment is 5% per day. If you are late due to a medical illness, staple your medical form to your assignment and late charges will not be enforced.

7. Where is your office?

TBA

8. What is the best way to reach you?

Class time, office hours, and WebCT email.

NECESSARY and IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "*presenting, whether intentionally 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 Dean of the Faculty conducts 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.

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 the December 2010 exam period is **Nov 12, 2010**. The deadline for April 2011 examinations is **March 11, 2011**.

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.

Plagiarism and cheating at the graduate level are viewed as being particularly serious and the sanctions imposed are accordingly severe. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the Carleton University Student Academic Integrity Policy (See <http://www2.carleton.ca/graduate-studies/policies-and-guidelines>). The Policy is strictly enforced and is binding on all students. Plagiarism and cheating – presenting another's ideas, arguments, words or images as your own, using unauthorized

material, misrepresentation, fabricating or misrepresenting research data, unauthorized co-operation or collaboration or completing work for another student – weaken the quality of the graduate degree. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Students who infringe the Policy may be subject to one of several penalties including: expulsion; suspension from all studies at Carleton; suspension from full-time studies; a refusal of permission to continue or to register in a specific degree program; academic probation; or a grade of Failure in the course.

Assistance for Students:

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

Writing Tutorial Services: www.carleton.ca/wts

Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS): 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/>

COURSE CALENDAR: due dates of tests, assignments, schedule of classes, instructions on submissions and return of assignments, schedule of classes/tutorials, etc... For information about the various B.A. programs in Sociology and Anthropology, see the Undergraduate Calendar, pages 205-207.

Majoring in Religion

For information about the various B.A. programs in Religion and requirements for a Minor in Religion, see the Undergraduate Calendar, pages 201-202.