

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
and the College of the Humanities: Religion
ANTH2550 / RELI 2736 Religion and Society
Spring Term 2012

Time	Tuesday & Thursday, 1435 to 1725	Credit	0.5
Place	TB446	Email	through WebCT only, please
Instructor	Tom Sherwood	Office hours	Tuesday & Thursday TBA
Office	2A52 Paterson Hall		and by appointment

Description (as in the Undergraduate Calendar, 2011-12, page 226)

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, 2011-12, page 447)

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.

Prerequisite ANTH 1001 or ANTH1002 or ANTH 1003 or 1.0 credit at the 1000-level in SOCI, ENGL, GEOG, HIST, HUMR, INDG, PSCI, RELI or WGST.

Instruments of Evaluation

The Evaluation Procedures of the university are described in the Undergraduate Calendar beginning on page 39 in the 2011-12 printed edition. Final grades are subject to the Dean's approval and are not official until that approval has been received.

There are five 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.

1. Personal Statement 5% of the Final Grade, due by May 15
2. Term Test 1 15% of the FG, in class May 24
3. Research Essay 40% of the FG, due by Wednesday June 6
4. Term Test 2 20% of the FG, in class June 12
5. Take-home Examination 20% of the FG, due by June 27.

Separate handouts, to be posted on WebCT, will describe the Personal Statement and the Research Essay.

Text – Required Reading

Stein, Rebecca L. and Philip L. Stein

2008/2011 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 (2008) or third edition (2011) of this text may be used, NOT the first.

Lectures – Required “Reading”

The First-Hour Lectures review the major theoretical understandings of religion and society, a number of methodological issues and other essential material not contained in the text. The lectures serve several necessary functions:

1. to summarize material from multiple sources;
2. to clarify difficult concepts;
3. to put the textbook content into a broader context;
4. to allow for the inclusion of material not yet published or not easily accessible;
5. to allow for varied, multimedia teaching and learning, which will include videos, slides, discussion and in-class exercises.

Class Time

The course is presented in 12 three-hour classes with two classes per week, one break per class. 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. There is a positive relationship between class attendance and success in this course.

SCHEDULE of CLASSES, READINGS and ASSIGNMENTS

INTRODUCTION – THE SOCIAL SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF RELIGION

1. May 8 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”
(textbook, page 26) – short essay due by the 3rd class – 5% of Final Grade

PART ONE – DEVELOPMENT OF MAJOR THEORETICAL APPROACHES

2. May 10
1st Hour Theory the historical development of the anthropology of religion, “from armchair Anthropology to the front porch;” Comte and positivism; Spencer, Muller, Tylor, Marett, Frazer; origins-of-religion theories
2nd Hour Method **Stein & Stein chapters 1 & 2** – introductory and basic material

3. May 15
1st Hour Theory **ASSIGNMENT ONE is due.**
Durkheim's theory of religion and society
positivism, functionalism and social cohesion
2nd Hour Method **Stein & Stein chapter 2 & 3** – “Mythology” (video “The Power of Myth” with Joseph Campbell) and “Religious Symbols”
4. May 17
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. May 22
1st Hour Theory Marx and Freud
2nd Hour Method **Stein & Stein chapter 4** – “Ritual” – rites of passage
6. May 24
1st Hour Method **Stein & Stein chapters 5 & 6** – “Altered States of Consciousness”
and “Religious Specialists” – shamanism
2nd Hour **TERM TEST ONE at 1 pm** (45 minutes, 15% of FG)

PART TWO

THE SOCIAL ORGANIZATION OF BEING RELIGIOUS

7. May 29
1st Hour **Term Test 1** will be returned (15% of Final Grade)
In-class workshop on the **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 the end of class on Thursday .
Video on Huichol shamanism and pilgrimage
Stein & Stein chapter 7 – “Magic and Divination”
2nd Hour Theory Institutionalization of religion: typologies of religious organization;
religious forms in contemporary society; from church-sect to NRMs
8. May 31
1st Hour Theory Religiosity: measuring the religious variable; religion as a social 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. June 5
1st Hour Theory Religion and social integration – beyond Durkheim
Robert N. Bellah and the Civil Religion thesis
2nd Hour Method **Stein & Stein chapter 9** – “Gods and Spirits”
Stein & Stein chapter 10 – “Witchcraft”

The **ESSAY is DUE** either in class June 5
or by 4 pm Wednesday June 6 (using one of the departmental drop boxes).

10. June 7

1st Hour Theory Religion and social transformation – beyond Marx and Weber
liberation theology, social gospel, civil rights, apartheid; politics,
economics, stratification, etc. Video on liberation theology
2nd Hour Method **Stein & Stein chapter 11** – “The Search for New Meaning”

11. June 12

1st Hour **Term Test 2** administered in class at 11:35 am
2nd Hour (1 pm) Religion and Modernity: Fundamentalisms, Secularization, Spirituality
Fundamentalism, Secularization: a typology of theories, the decline thesis,
the transformation thesis, spirituality, NRMs. Video on fundamentalism

CONCLUSION

SUMMARIZING AND LOOKING AHEAD

12. June 14 The Essay and Term Test 2 will be returned, and students will know their
“Term Marks” – 80% of the Final Grade.
Completing the lecture series and the review of the text
The Final (Take home) Examination will be distributed (20% of the FG;
due by June 27; may be submitted by WebCT email)
and a Review Session will be held to resource students as they begin it.

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 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. There are two, given in class on May 26 and June 12.

4. Is there a Final Exam? Yes, a take home exam due by June 27th.

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 illness, staple your medical form to your assignment and late charges will not be enforced.

7. Where is your office? 2A52 Paterson Hall

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 Accommodations

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.

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 are 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 the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term. The deadline for contacting the Paul Menton Centre regarding accommodation for final exams for the June 2012 exam period is June 8, 2012.

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>

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.

Academic Services

Students should be aware of such other support services as the Student Academic Success Centre (SASC): www.carleton.ca/sasc; Writing Tutorial Services: www.carleton.ca/wts; and Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS): www.carleton.ca/sasc/peer-assisted-study-sessions

Majoring in Anthropology

For information about the various B.A. programs in Sociology and Anthropology, see the Undergraduate Calendar, pages 210-212.

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 206-207.