

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
and the College of the Humanities: Religion
ANTH2550B / RELI 2736A Religion and Society
Spring Term 2014

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|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Time | Tuesday & Thursday, 12:05 to 2:55 pm | Credit | 0.5 |
| Place | 304 Southam Hall | Email | tom.sherwood@carleton.ca |
| Instructor | Tom Sherwood | Office hours | Tuesday & Thursday TBA |
| Office | A711 Loeb Building | | and by appointment |

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 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 AFRI, JOUR, 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. 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.

1. Assignment One 5% of the Final Grade, due by May 13
2. Term Test 15% of the FG, in class May 22
3. Essay on Research 40% of the FG, due by Wednesday June 4
4. Final Examination 40% of the FG, to be scheduled June.

Separate handouts, to be posted on cuLearn, will describe Assignment One and the Essay on Research.

Text – Required Reading

Stein, Rebecca L. and Philip L. Stein

2008/2011 The Anthropology of Religion, Magic and Witchcraft
Allyn and Bacon, Boston. Second (2008) or third edition (2011)

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: Read the textbook chapters before the classes when they will be discussed.

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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 6
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 8
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 13
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 15
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

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| 2nd Hour Method | Stein & Stein chapters 3 & 4 – “Religious Symbols” and “Ritual” sacred art, space and time; music and dance |
| 5. May 20 | |
| 1st Hour Theory | Marx and Freud |
| 2nd Hour Method | Stein & Stein chapter 4 – “Ritual” – rites of passage |
| 6. May 22 | |
| 1st Hour Method | Stein & Stein chapters 5 & 6 – “Altered States of Consciousness” and “Religious Specialists” – shamanism |
| 2nd Hour | TERM TEST (45 minutes, in class, 15% of FG) |
| PART TWO | THE SOCIAL ORGANIZATION OF BEING RELIGIOUS |
| 7. May 27 | |
| 1st Hour | Term Test 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 |
| 2nd Hour Theory | Stein & Stein chapter 7 – “Magic and Divination” Institutionalization of religion: typologies of religious organization; religious forms in contemporary society; from church-sect to NRMs |
| 8. May 29 | |
| 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 3 | |
| 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 by 4 pm on Wednesday June 4. It can be submitted in class on the Tuesday, handed to the instructor, or placed in the departmental drop boxes. |
| 10. June 5 | |
| 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 10

Religion and Modernity: Fundamentalisms, Secularization, Spirituality
Fundamentalism, Secularization: a typology of theories, the decline thesis,
the transformation thesis, spirituality, NRMs. Video on fundamentalism

CONCLUSION

12. June 12

SUMMARIZING AND LOOKING AHEAD

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,
a Review Session will be held to resource students for the Final Exam.

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 cuLearn; 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 Essay on Research. 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, in Class 6 on May 22.

4. Is there a Final Exam? Yes, worth 40%, to be scheduled in June.

5. Are there any Essays? Yes. Two. A short personal statement (5%) and a major essay on research (40%). More information will be posted and provided on separate Handouts.

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

No. As the Posting/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? A711 Loeb Building

8. What is the best way to reach you? Class time, office hours, and email.

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL 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.

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentional 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 Deans of the Faculty conduct 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

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

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| A+ = 90-100 (12) | B = 73-76 (8) | C - = 60-62 (4) |
| A = 85-89 (11) | B- = 70-72 (7) | D+ = 57-59 (3) |
| A- = 80-84 (10) | C+ = 67-69 (6) | D = 53-56 (2) |
| B+ = 77-79 (9) | C = 63-66 (5) | D - = 50-52 (1) |

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| F | Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points |
| ABS | Absent from final examination, equivalent to F |
| DEF | Official deferral (see "Petitions to Defer") |
| FND | Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline. |

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

DATES AND DEADLINES

Last day to withdraw (financial): with a full fee adjustment

Early Summer: May 23. Full Summer May 23.

Late Summer: July 23.

Last Day to withdraw (Academic):

Early Summer June 17. Full/Late Summer: August 15.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term.

<http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/academic/>

For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: contact 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

Religious obligation: contact 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.

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).

PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please contact the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

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| College of the Humanities 520-2809 | 300 Paterson |
| Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809 | 300 Paterson |
| Religion Office 520-2100 | 2A39 Paterson |
| Registrar's Office 520-3500 | 300 Tory |
| Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850 | 302 Tory |
| Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937 | 501 Uni-Centre |
| Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125 | 4 th Floor Library |
| Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125 | 4 th Floor Library |