

Carleton University WINTER 2018

RELI 2736B / ANTH 2550B Religion and Society

**Department of Sociology and Anthropology and
the College of the Humanities: Religion**

Mondays 18:05 - 20:55
University Centre Room: 182

Instructor: Alyshea Cummins

Office Location: 310A Paterson Hall

Email: alyshea.cummins@carleton.ca

Office Hours: Mondays (4pm-5:30pm) and by appointment

Teacher Assistant: Allison Dunne

Email address: allisondunne@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.

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.”

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|---------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Weekly Quizzes | 30% | Weekly |
| Midterm | 30% | February 26 |
| Final Examination | 40% | During Exam Period |
| *BONUS MARKS | 3% | *See below |

Weekly Quizzes:

- Weekly quizzes gauge your attentiveness and monitor attendance
- There will be a total of 11 Quizzes
- The best 10 will count towards the final grade
- Content for the quizzes will be based on the previous lecture and required readings
- Maximum of 10 questions
- Short answer and fill in the blank
- 15-20 mins will be allocated at the beginning of class
- Quizzes will be collected prior to the lecture

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.

Bonus Marks:

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

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)
2. Extra Credit Summary: presenting a summary of the chapter readings for the present lecture to the entire class (1%)
3. Extra Credit Research: researching a lecture topic prior to that class and presenting the material to the class (2%)

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*, 3rd 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. Classes will begin with a Quiz on material from the previous lecture and required reading and then a lecture will follow. After the break, there will be discussions on the lecture and readings for that day. Students may also use the time to ask questions about the course content.

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.

SCHEDULE of CLASSES, READINGS and ASSIGNMENTS

(1) January 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

(2) January 15 **QUIZ #1**

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

(3) January 22 **QUIZ #2**

Stein & Stein chapter 2– “Mythology”

video “The Power of Myth” with Joseph Campbell

(4) January 29 **QUIZ #3**

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

(5) February 5 **QUIZ #4**

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

(6) February 12 **QUIZ #5**

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

READING WEEK – NO CLASS ON FEBRUARY 19

(7) February 26 **BONUS QUIZ (Optional)**

MIDTERM TEST

(8) March 5

QUIZ #6

Video on Huichol shamanism and pilgrimage

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

(9) March 12

QUIZ #7

The **Midterm Test** will be returned.

Stein & Stein chapter 7 – “Magic and Divination”

(10) March 19

QUIZ #8

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

(11) March 26

QUIZ #9

Stein & Stein chapter 9 – “Gods and Spirits”

(12) April 2

QUIZ #10

Stein & Stein chapter 10 – “Witchcraft”

(13) April 9

QUIZ #11

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

FAQs

- 1. Do I have to attend the lectures?** Yes. Attending lectures counts towards your grade.
- 2. Do I need the textbook?** Yes.
- 3. Is there a Midterm Test?** Yes. In Class on February 26th.
- 4. Is there a Final Exam?** Yes. Format will be given closer to date.

5. What is the best way to reach you? By email.



University Regulations for 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.

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 on <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/#AIatCU>.

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).

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 Chart](#)

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 Exams

Students who do not write/attend a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control may apply to write a deferred examination.

1. be made in writing 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](#).

The granting of a deferral also requires that the student has performed satisfactorily in the course according to the evaluation scheme established in the Course Outline, excluding the final examination for which deferral privileges are requested. Reasons for denial of a deferral may include, among other conditions, a failure to (i) achieve a minimum score in the course before the final examination; (ii) attend a minimum number of classes; (iii) successfully complete a specific task (e.g. term paper, critical report, group project, computer or other assignment); (iv) complete laboratory work; (v) successfully complete one or more midterms; or (vi) meet other reasonable conditions of successful performance.

More information can be found [in the calendar](#).

Any questions related to deferring a Final Exam or Final Assignment/Take Home Examination should be directed to: [Registrar's Office](#)

Withdrawal From Courses

Withdrawn. No academic credit, no impact on the CGPA.

NEW FALL 2017: WDN is a permanent notation that appears on the official transcript for students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term. Students may withdraw on or before the last day of classes.

Dates can be found here: <http://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/>

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 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](#)