

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
Religion Program: RELI 4740A - Fall 2010
THEORY AND METHOD
Wednesday 6:05 – 8:55pm

Prof. Kimberly Stratton

Paterson Hall 2a47

520-2600 x1384

kim_stratton@carleton.ca

Office Hours: Wed. 1-2 pm or by appointment

This course engages important theoretical approaches to the study of religion and introduces students to different questions and methodologies in the field. Readings will be from a selection of influential thinkers on religion from a variety of fields, including psychology, sociology, anthropology, and philosophy. Themes considered will include defining 'religion,' understanding the nature of religious experience, decoding the symbolic language of ritual, mapping the social function of religion, and probing the reality behind mystical experience.

Grades will be based on attendance and participation (20%), two papers (one ~4pp (20%) and the other ~8pp (30%)), and a final exam to be scheduled by the registrar (30%). Additionally, you will be required to submit a one-paragraph summary (~5 lines) and four questions on the reading each week. This will *not* be graded, but is required and will serve as a useful study tool in preparation for the exam. **Expect to read ~60 pp/wk (some-times could be a bit more)**. Research papers will be evaluated on the basis of grammatical style and correctness as well as for content, so please take the time to proof-read carefully and edit your work before submission. The exam will test knowledge of the lecture *and* reading material as well as the ability to synthesize ideas and concepts.

The following required texts are on order at Octopus Bookstore, 116 Third Avenue Ottawa, ON K1S 2K1, (613) 233-2589:

Mary Douglas, *Purity and Danger*. Ark 1984.

Emile Durkheim, *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*. Dover, 2008.

Mircea Eliade, *The Sacred and Profane*. Harcourt, Brace, and Janowich, 1959.

William James, *The Varieties of Religious Experience*. Dover, 2002.

Rudolf Otto, *The Idea of the Holy*. Oxford, 1958.

Max Weber, *The Sociology of Religion*. Beacon Hill Press, 1993.

Additional Readings are available on WebCT.

Course Schedule

- Sept. 15 Introduction—what is Religious Studies?
- Psychological Approach
- Sept. 22 William James, *The Varieties of Religious Experience*: lectures: 2, 16-17 (skip footnotes and skim ‘testimony’ because this week’s reading is kind of long).
- Sept. 29 Rudolph Otto, *The Idea of the Holy*: chs. 1-8, 28.
- Sociological Approach
- Oct. 6 Emile Durkheim, *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*: pp. 13-33, 235-272.
- Oct. 13 Max Weber, *The Sociology of Religion*: chs. 1-2, 4-5.
- Phenomenology
- Oct. 20 Mircea Eliade, *The Sacred and the Profane*: ch. 1-2. **(First Paper Due)**
- Structuralism
- Oct. 27 Victor Turner, *The Ritual Process*: ch. 3. (WebCT)
- Nov. 3 Mary Douglas, *Purity and Danger*: Introduction & chs. 3, 6.
- Discourse Theory
- Nov. 10 Bruce Lincoln, *Discourse and the Construction of Society*: chs. 1, 7 (WebCT)
- Nov. 17 Catherine Bell, *Ritual Theory, Ritual Practice*: Part III (WebCT)
- Philosophy of Religion
- Nov. 24 Peter Winch, “Understanding a Primitive Society.” (WebCT)
- Dec. 1 Steven Katz, “Language, Epistemology, and Mysticism.” (WebCT)
- Dec. 6 **Final Paper Due** (in Religion Drop Box 2A PA)

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:

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)

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.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from **FALL TERM** courses is **DEC. 6, 2010**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 5, 2011**.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

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

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 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. For more details visit the PMC website: carleton.ca/pmc/accommodations/

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)

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