It is now widely accepted that humanity has entered a new epoch, the Anthropocene, where human activity has radically altered the planetary landscape and the very chemistry of the atmosphere. Warnings of possible environmental catastrophe have moved from the periphery to near the centre of public and political discourse. Some skeptical critics have dismissed this as a return of religious apocalypticism. Other voices have taken the opposite view: that what is in fact needed at this historical juncture is a return of religion, at least in the form of reverence for nature and the re-enchantment of the world through recovery of the category of the sacred. This seminar investigates what is meant when humans invoke the term “sacred.” In particular, what does it mean, both theologically and legally, to declare a geographical location a sacred site? How does the secular state respond to claims of sacrality? How are we to adjudicate differing visions of how to create an “ecological civilization”? The seminar engages these questions by focusing on a local and contemporary instantiation of environmental debate: the contestation over the development of the Chaudière Falls and its islands (regarded as an Indigenous sacred site) here in Ottawa at the heart of the national capital.

The course is in two parts divided by the Fall Break. In the first we read theory of the sacred and its loss through disenchantment in the dominant culture. In the second part we turn to the place of the sacred in Canadian Indigenous cultures and our local Ottawa case study.

READINGS
These are available on the cuLearn site and the ARES library platform. They include the readings given in the schedule below as well as links to a variety of websites, primary source documents, and blog posts related to the local Chaudière Falls controversy.
EVALUATION

Reading Responses for 10 weeks = 15%
Each week you are to post a paragraph length reflection on an idea in one or more of the readings for that week. You are also to post a paragraph on either your potential essay topic, or, once that has been decided, on an insight or development in your research for your paper. Responses may include a question you would like to see addressed by the group. These response/reflections are to be posted on the cuLearn site by Wednesday, i.e., the day before our weekly meeting. They will be visible to all in the seminar and will allow me to offer my own feedback. These responses are to promote informed engagement at the weekly meeting which is the sine qua non of success in this seminar. They are also intended to keep you oriented and attentive to your research endeavour.

Seminar Presentation and Participation 25%
Each student will be responsible for presenting on the readings for the week once in the semester. This, along with brief oral presentation of your final paper, will be worth approximately 10% and will be added to the assessment of your overall engagement with the course material as reflected in your participation (15%) in the seminar. Note: to miss more than three of the weekly meetings (which would mean, in effect, you had missed a third of the class) is to forfeit credit for the course.

Essay Proposal 10%
Suggested topics will be provided. The proposal indicates your choice from among the topics. It is to consist of a working title, a working bibliography, and a preliminary abstract that details a preliminary thesis statement. The tentative thesis statement should indicate how you intend to focus the chosen topic and the argument to be developed. Due Oct. 20. Note: This proposal is an absolutely essential feature of the course. Decisions have to be made early regarding your topic as your research essay may necessitate using inter-library loan and other research avenues that necessitate being well underway by mid semester.

Editorial Exercise 10%
600 -700 words following the genre required for submission of an opinion piece to a newspaper. This is an exercise in concision, cogency, and communicative style. Due by Dec. 2.

Research Essay 40%
A research essay on the order of 15 -20, double-spaced pages. [M.A. students 20- 25 pages] Topics must be approved by the instructor. Essays must have a clearly articulated thesis. Essays must also include an abstract. Due Dec. 8. Note: late papers (except with medical documentation) are docked 4 percentage points per day.
Note: All course requirements listed above must be fulfilled to gain credit for this course.
SCHEDULE

Note: This schedule is malleable and may be affected by the availability of guest speakers

Part I

1. Thurs. Sept. 8
   **Introduction to the course.**
   Reading: on the concept of the Anthropocene (selected resources)

2. Thurs. Sept. 15
   **Classical theorists of the Sacred**

3. Thurs. Sept. 22
   **Eliade cont., and critical appraisal**

4. Thurs. Sept. 29
   **Disenchantment I**
   Max Weber, “Science as a Vocation”

5. Thurs. Oct. 6
   **Disenchantment II**

   **Reactions to Disenchantment I**
7. Thurs. Oct. 20
Reactions to Disenchantment II

8. Thurs. Oct. 27 FALL BREAK

Part II

9. Thurs. Nov. 3
An Ottawa story
Samuel de Champlain, Journal, 1613

10. Thurs. Nov. 5
Indigenous Lifeways

11. Thurs. Nov. 10
Indigenous Sacred
12. Thurs. Nov. 17
   **Sacred in the Courts I**

   **Sacred in the Courts II**

14. Thurs. Dec. 1
   **Settler and Indigenous Imagination**

15. Thurs. Dec. 8
   **Symposium**
   Fifteen minute oral presentations of research papers
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. 9, 2016. The last day to withdraw from FALL/WINTER (Full Term) and WINTER term courses is APRIL 7, 2017.

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 Nov. 11, 2016 for the Fall term and March 10, 2017 for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

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 due to illness you will be required to contact the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness, you will be required to contact the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept. Deferrals of a final assignment or take home, in courses without a formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by Nov. 11, 2016 for the Fall term and March 10, 2017 for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

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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 & Career Development Services 520-7850  302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937  501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-6632  4th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125  4th Floor Library