

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF THE HUMANITIES  
RELI 1402 A  
FALL 2008  
VARIETIES OF RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE**

Instructor: Beth Parton  
Office Hours: Fridays 12:00-1:30 pm, 2A35 PA- or by appointment  
E-mail: [parton\\_beth@hotmail.com](mailto:parton_beth@hotmail.com)  
Lectures: Fridays 8:35- 11:25 am, 303 PA

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will explore the variety of religious experiences and their interpretations: myth, literature, art and religious doctrine. Topics include time, self, the Other, journey and wisdom. Examples ranging from shamanistic experience to the abstractions of philosophy will be included. We will begin with a review of various definitions of religion and some ways in which religion is studied in order to understand what “religious experience” can be said to encompass. We will consider differing modes of religious expression, including those classified by scholars as ‘primal’ or shamanic, some soteriological (salvation-oriented) worldviews as found in the major world religions, along with readings about religious use of myth, symbol and doctrine, and the nature of mysticism. The course will include a variety of audio-visual material to supplement the readings, and students will be expected to reflect upon the examples presented and incorporate them in assignments and examinations.

**REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS**

**TEXTS (Available from Carleton University Bookstore)**

William E. Paden, *Interpreting the Sacred: Ways of Viewing Religion* (Beacon Press, 2003).

Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*

**TEXT (Available new or used from Chapters-Indigo.ca or Amazon.ca)**

Bruce Chatwin, *The Songlines*

**COURSE PACK (Available from Laurier Office Mart- 226 Laurier Ave. East {613-744-7409})**

*Varieties of Religious Experience* RELI 1402 Course Pack 2008.

## COURSE CALENDAR

<b>September 5-</b>	Course Introduction
<b>September 12-</b>	Defining Religion and Religious Experience- The Dimensions of Religion
<b>Readings:</b>	Ninian Smart, William James (1)- Course Pack
<b>September 19-</b>	Journeying Inward, Non-literate Religious Expressions
<b>Readings:</b>	Paden ch. 1 & 2, Joseph Campbell- Course Pack
<b>September 26-</b>	Religion in the Ancient World, Social Dimensions of Religion
<b>Readings:</b>	Paden ch. 3, Mary Douglas, James Spickard (Course Pack)
<b>October 3-</b>	Eastern Experiences, Myth, Ritual and Performance
<b>Readings:</b>	Rene Girard, Mircea Eliade (Course Pack)
<b>October 10-</b>	<b>University Day- No Classes</b>
<b>October 17-</b>	<b>Mid-term Examination- in-class (2 hours)</b>
<b>October 24-</b>	Eternal Symbols and the Psyche, Dualism
<b>Readings:</b>	Paden ch. 4, Joseph Henderson (Course Pack)
<b>October 31-</b>	Comparative Methods, Monotheism
<b>Readings:</b>	Paden ch. 5, Jonathan Z. Smith (Course Pack)
<b>November 7-</b>	Religious Interpretations of Religion, Mysticism
<b>Readings:</b>	Paden ch. 6, William James (2) (Course Pack)
	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Assignment Due: <i>Siddhartha</i></b>
<b>November 14-</b>	Western Experiences
<b>Readings:</b>	Paden ch. 7
<b>November 21-</b>	Modernity and Experiential Religion
<b>Readings:</b>	Paden ch. 8.
<b>November 28-</b>	<b>Review</b>
	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Assignment Due: <i>The Songlines</i></b>

## ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

<b>1.</b>	In-class exam on <b>October 17</b>	20%
<b>2.</b>	Book response assignment on <i>The Songlines</i> (approx. 1200 words) due <b>November 7</b>	20%
<b>3.</b>	Book response assignment on <i>Siddhartha</i> (approx 1200 words) due <b>November 28</b>	20%
<b>4.</b>	Final exam (during <b>December exam period</b> )	35%
<b>5.</b>	Attendance and Participation	5%

## 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 “*to use and pass off as one’s own idea or product the work of another without expressly giving credit to another.*” This can include:

- Copying from another person's work without indicating this through appropriate use of quotation marks and footnote citations.
- Lengthy and close paraphrasing of another person's work (i.e. extensive copying interspersed with a few phrases or sentences of your own).
- Submitting written work produced by someone else as if it were your own work (e.g. another student's term paper, a paper purchased from a term paper "factory", materials or term papers downloaded from the Internet, etc.).
- Handing in "substantially the same piece of work to two or more courses without the prior written permission of the instructors...involved." (University Senate)

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 range from a mark of zero for the plagiarized work to a final grade of "F" for the course, and even suspension from all studies or expulsion from the University.

### GRADING SYSTEM

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

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

F	Failure. No academic credit
WDN	Withdrawn from the course
ABS	Absent from the final examination
DEF	Official deferral (see "Petitions to Defer")
FND	"Failed, no Deferral" – assigned when the student is absent from the final exam and has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

### WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from Fall term courses is November 7th, 2008. Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter (full year) and Winter term courses is March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

### REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

#### For Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive 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 require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by November 7, 2008, for December examinations, and March 6, 2009, for April examinations.

#### For Religious Obligations:

Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious obligation should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student.

Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton's Academic Accommodation policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance. (613-520-5622)

#### For Pregnancy:

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.

### PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to complete a **final** term paper or write a **final** examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control or whose performance on an examination has been impaired by such circumstances may apply in writing within five working days to the Registrar's Office for permission to extend a term paper deadline or to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully and specifically supported by a medical certificate or other relevant documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered.

### ADDRESSES

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Classics and 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	500 Unicentre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-6632	4 <sup>th</sup> floor Library