Course: ANTH / RELI 2550B Religion and Society

Carleton University
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
and College of the Humanities: Religion
Day Division, Winter Term 2009

Instructor: Tom Sherwood
Telephone: 520-4449
Office: T21 Tory Tunnel
Email: tom_sherwood@carleton.ca
Office hours: Monday to Thursday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.
An appointment is usually a good idea, but not always necessary.

Time: Monday 2:35 to 5:25 pm
Place: 446 Tory Building

Credit: 0.5

Description: (as in the Undergraduate Calendar, 2008-2009, page 219)
Cross-cultural survey of religious institutions, focussing 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.

(As in the Undergraduate Calendar, 2008-2009, page 415)
Cross-cultural survey of religious institutions, with attention to theories and methodologies in the study of religion. Topics include myth, totemism, cults, ritual, altered states of consciousness 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: SOCI 1001 and SOCI 1002, or ANTH 1001 and ANTH 1002, and second-year standing, or permission of the Department.

Instruments of Evaluation

The Evaluation Procedures of the university are described in the Undergraduate Calendar beginning on page 39. 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. 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. Term Test 20% of the Final Grade, in class February 9
2. Research Essay 40% of the Final Grade, due by noon March 19
3. Final Examination 40% of the Final Grade, as scheduled in April.

The Term Test will be given in class on February 9.
There will be a separate handout describing terms of reference for the Research Essay.

The Final Examination will be given in the regular university time slot for exams. You must write the examination at the scheduled time (unless you have an official conflict...
with another exam at the same time). Only illness or other such formal reason will allow
you to write at a different time. When you take this course you contract to be available
for the examination at the scheduled time. If you miss the examination, please follow the
usual procedures for illness, etc. An individual or “make-up” examination cannot be
accommodated.
There are no supplemental and grade-raising examinations allowed in the Arts and Social Sciences Faculty
at this time.

**Text – Required Reading**
Stein, Rebecca L. and Philip L. Stein
2008/2005 The Anthropology of Religion, Magic and Witchcraft
Allyn and Bacon, Boston.
This was a new text in 2005, designed for courses like 2550. 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:** The second edition (2008) of this text is highly recommended. There are
significant differences between the two editions, and the instructor will be using the
second edition for class and examination purposes.

**Lectures – Required “Reading”**
The lectures review the major theoretical understandings of religion and society, a
number of methodological issues and other essential material not contained in the text.

**Class Time**
The course is presented in one three-hour class with one break each week. Normally the
“First Hour” will be a lecture, 60, 75 or 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.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Introduction**

The Social Scientific Study of Religion
1. January 5

Introduction, orientation, organizational matters
Review of the Course Outline and Instruments of Evaluation
Introduction of the textbook and lectures.
What is religion? What is anthropology of religion?
– anthropological approaches to religion
– the problems and opportunities of definition
Stein & Stein chapter 1 – “The Anthropological Study of Religion”

**Part One**

Development of Major Theoretical Approaches
2. January 12
First Hour
the historical development of the anthropology of religion
Comte and positivism; Spencer, Muller, Tylor, Marett, Frazer;
origins of religion theories
Second Hour
Stein & Stein chapters 1 and 2 – introductory and basic material
3. January 19
First Hour    Durkheim's theory of religion and society
              positivism, functionalism and social cohesion
Second Hour   Stein & Stein chapter 2 and 3 – “Mythology”
              and “Religious Symbols”

4. January 26
First Hour    Weber's contributions to understanding religion and society
              Weber's sociology, Protestant ethic thesis, disenchantment,
              Verstehen, leadership, authority, Ideal-type, church-sect typology
Second Hour   Stein & Stein chapters 3 and 4 – “Religious Symbols” and “Ritual”
              sacred art, space and time; music and dance

5. February 2
First Hour    Marx and Freud
Second Hour   Stein & Stein chapter 4 – “Ritual” – rites of passage

6. February 9
First Hour    TERM TEST
Second Hour   Stein & Stein chapters 5 and 6 – “Altered States of Consciousness”
              and “Religious Specialists” – shamanism

WINTER BREAK
THERE IS NO CLASS ON FEBRUARY 16

Part Two
The Social Organization of Being Religious

7. February 23

RESEARCH ESSAY -- 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 noon on
Thursday October 29.

First Hour    Institutionalization of religion: typologies of religious organization
              the study of religious forms in contemporary society
              from church-sect to NRMs
Second Hour   Stein & Stein chapter 7 – “Magic and Divination”

8. March 2
First Hour    Religiosity: measuring the religious variable
              Becoming religious: socialization and conversion,
              considering the individual
Second Hour   Stein & Stein chapter 8 – “Souls, Ghosts, and Death”

Part Three
Religion and Social Change, Tradition and Modernity

9. March 9
First Hour    Religion and social integration – beyond Durkheim
              the Civil Religion thesis
Second Hour   Stein & Stein chapter 9 – “Gods and Spirits”
10. March 16

ESSAY DUE by noon on Thursday March 19.

First Hour
Religion and social transformation – beyond Marx and Weber
fundamentalism, capitalism, liberation theology, social gospel,
civil rights, apartheid; politics, economics, stratification, etc.

Second Hour
Stein & Stein chapter 10 – “Witchcraft”

11. March 23

First Hour
From Religion to Secularization to Spirituality
Secularization: a typology of theories, the decline thesis, the
transformation thesis, spirituality, NRM

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

Conclusion
Summarizing and Looking Ahead

12. March 30

First Hour
Completing the lecture series and the review of the text

Second Hour
Review Session prior to the Final Examination

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
WebCT; but lecture outlines are posted.
The lectures constitute the first part of each class. They 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 Research Essay. 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. It will be given in class on February 9.

4. Is there a Final Exam?
Yes, to be scheduled in December.

5. Is there an Essay?
Yes. One. There is more information about this in a separate Handout.

6. Can I have an extension?
No. As the Handout says, “The late penalty for this assignment is 5% per day. If you are
late due to a medical illness, staple your medical form to your assignment and late
charges will not be enforced.

7. Where is your office?
In the Tory Tunnel. It is only hard to find the first time.
NECESSARY and IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is a most serious academic offence. It occurs when a student passes off as one's own idea or product the work of another person without expressly giving credit to that person. This includes electronic plagiarism involving content lifted from the Internet. It is also an offence to present the same work to two or more courses without prior permission. See the Undergraduate Calendar, pages 56-58, for a full description of instructional offenses, and the procedures and penalties attached to them.

Accommodation
Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation are required to contact a coordinator at the Paul Menton Centre (501 UniCentre) to complete the necessary letters of accommodation. The students must then make an appointment to discuss their needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the term test. This is to ensure sufficient time is available to make necessary accommodation arrangements. These will be made as soon as possible. (See the Calendar, page 42.)

Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious observance 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 academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor involved. The instructor will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Students 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 Accommodations policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department (503 Robertson Hall) for assistance. (See the Calendar, page 42.)

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.

Academic Services
Students should be aware of such other support services as the Student Academic Success Centre (SASC): www.carleton.ca/sasc; Writing Tutorial Services: www.carleton.ca/wts; and Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS): www.carleton.ca/sasc/pass_home/index.html.

Majoring in Anthropology
For information about the various B.A. programs in Sociology and Anthropology, see the Undergraduate Calendar, pages 205-207.

Majoring in Religion
For information about the various B.A. programs in Religion and requirements for a Minor in Religion, see the Undergraduate Calendar, " pages 201-202.
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 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>63-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>57-59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>53-56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>50-52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failure. No academic credit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WON 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.

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

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

1. For Students with Disabilities
Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations are required to contact a co-ordinator at the Paul Menton Centre (ext. 6608) to complete the necessary letters of accommodation. The student must then make an appointment to discuss their needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first in-class or CUTV test. This is to ensure sufficient time is available to make the necessary accommodation arrangements. Deadlines for submitting forms for formally scheduled exam accommodation: November 7 for December examinations and March 6, 2009 for April examinations.

2. 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)

3. For Pregnancy
Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services (613-520-5622) 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: (Area Code 613)
- 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 4th floor Library