CARLETON UNIVERSITY
College of the Humanities: Religion Program
and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology
ANTH2550B / RELI 2736B Religion and Society
Winter Term 2010

Time Thursday, 8:35 to 11:35 am.   Credit 0.5
Place 520 Southam Hall   Email tom_sherwood@carleton.ca
Instructor Tom Sherwood   Office hours Thursday, noon to 2 pm
2A40 Paterson Hall   and by appointment

Description (as in the Undergraduate Calendar, 2008-2009, page 219)
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.

(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 in the 2008-2009 printed edition. Final grades are subject to the Dean's approval and are not official until that approval has been received.
There are four instruments of evaluation.

1. Personal Statement 5% of the Final Grade, due by 2 pm January 21
2. Term Test 15% of the FG, in class February 11
3. Research Essay 40% of the FG, due by noon Monday March 22
4. Final Examination 40% of the FG, as scheduled in April.
Separate handouts will describe the Personal Statement and 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 required. 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.

**SCHEDULE of CLASSES, READINGS and ASSIGNMENTS**

**INTRODUCTION – THE SOCIAL SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF RELIGION**
1. January 7
   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
   Stein & Stein chapter 1 – “The Anthropological Study of Religion”
   **ASSIGNMENT ONE** – Exercise toward “Methodological Agnosticism”
   (Stein & Stein, page 26) – short essay due by Week 3 – 5% of Final Grade

**PART ONE – DEVELOPMENT OF MAJOR THEORETICAL APPROACHES**
2. January 14
   1st Hour Theory the historical development of the anthropology of religion
   Comte and positivism; Spencer, Muller, Tylor, Marett, Frazer;
   origins-of-religion theories
   2nd Hour Method **Stein & Stein chapters 1 & 2** – introductory and basic material

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3. January 21  ASSIGNMENT ONE is due.  
1st Hour Theory  Durkheim's theory of religion and society  
positivism, functionalism and social cohesion  
2nd Hour Method  **Stein & Stein chapter 2 & 3** – “Mythology” 
and “Religious Symbols”  

4. January 28  Assignment One will be returned (5% of Final Grade)  
1st Hour Theory  Weber's contributions to understanding religion and society  
Weber's sociology, Protestant ethic thesis, disenchantment, Verstehen, 
leadership, authority, Ideal-type, church-sect typology  
2nd Hour Method  **Stein & Stein chapters 3 & 4** – “Religious Symbols” and “Ritual”  
sacred art, space and time; music and dance  

5. February 4  
1st Hour Theory  Marx and Freud  
2nd Hour Method  **Stein & Stein chapter 4** – “Ritual” – rites of passage  

6. February 11  
1st Hour Method  **Stein & Stein chapters 5 & 6** – “Altered States of Consciousness” 
and “Religious Specialists” – shamanism  
2nd Hour  **TERM TEST at 10:15 am** (45 minutes, 15% of FG)  

**WINTER BREAK**  There is no class on Thursday February 18.  

**PART TWO**  THE SOCIAL ORGANIZATION OF BEING RELIGIOUS  
7. February 25  
The **Term Test** will be returned (15% of Final Grade)  
**RESEARCH ESSAY** (40% of Final Grade) – 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 2 pm on Thursday February 25.  
1st Hour Theory  Institutionalization of religion: typologies of religious organization  
the study of religious forms in contemporary society  
from church-sect to NRMs  
2nd Hour Method  **Stein & Stein chapter 7** – “Magic and Divination”  

8. March 4  
1st Hour Theory  Religiosity: measuring the religious variable  
Becoming religious: socialization and conversion, considering the individual  
2nd Hour Method  **Stein & Stein chapter 8** – “Souls, Ghosts, and Death”  

**PART THREE**  RELIGION, SOCIAL CHANGE, TRADITION, MODERNITY  
9. March 11  
1st Hour Theory  Religion and social integration – beyond Durkheim  
the Civil Religion thesis  

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2nd Hour Method  Stein & Stein chapter 9 – “Gods and Spirits”

10. March 18

ESSAY DUE by noon on Monday March 22.

1st Hour Theory  Religion and social transformation – beyond Marx and Weber

fundamentalism, capitalism, liberation theology, social gospel, civil rights,
apartheid; politics, economics, stratification, etc.

2nd Hour Method  Stein & Stein chapter 10 – “Witchcraft”

11. March 25

1st Hour Theory  From Religion to Secularization to Spirituality

Secularization: a typology of theories, the decline thesis, the
transformation thesis, spirituality, NRMs

2nd Hour Method  Stein & Stein chapter 11 – “The Search for New Meaning”

CONCLUSION  SUMMARIZING AND LOOKING AHEAD
12. April 1

The Essay, will be returned, and students will know their “Term Marks” –
60% of the Final Grade.
Completing the lecture series and the review of the text
Review Session prior to the Final Examination (40% of the FG)

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 11.

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

5. Are there any Essays?
Yes. Two. More information is provided on separate Handouts.

6. Can I have an extension on the Research Essay, the one worth 40%?
No. As the Handout will say, “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.

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7. Where is your office?
In Paterson Hall, Room 2A40, just past the Religion Office and Drop-Box (2A39).

8. What is the best way to reach you?
Class time, office hours, and tom_sherwood@carleton.ca

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.

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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 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 Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100 (12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89 (11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84 (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>57-59 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>53-56 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>50-52 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failure, No academic credit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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WDN Withdrawn from the course
ABS Absent from the final examination
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 November 16, 2009. The last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter (full year) and Winter term courses is March 12, 2010.

REQUESTS FOR 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 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. For more details visit the Equity Services website: http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

Religious obligation: 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. For more details visit the Equity Services website: http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

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 are 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 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 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: http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/acad_accom.html

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

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
Learning Commons 520-1125  4th floor Library

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