

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

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

3. January 21  
1st Hour Theory  
2nd Hour Method
- ASSIGNMENT ONE is due.**  
Durkheim's theory of religion and society  
positivism, functionalism and social cohesion  
**Stein & Stein chapter 2 & 3** – “Mythology”  
and “Religious Symbols”
4. January 28  
1st Hour Theory  
2nd Hour Method
- Assignment One** will be returned (5% of Final Grade)  
Weber's contributions to understanding religion and society  
Weber's sociology, Protestant ethic thesis, disenchantment, Verstehen,  
leadership, authority, Ideal-type, church-sect typology  
**Stein & Stein chapters 3 & 4** – “Religious Symbols” and “Ritual”  
sacred art, space and time; music and dance
5. February 4  
1st Hour Theory  
2nd Hour Method
- Marx and Freud  
**Stein & Stein chapter 4** – “Ritual” – rites of passage
6. February 11  
1st Hour Method  
2nd Hour
- Stein & Stein chapters 5 & 6** – “Altered States of Consciousness”  
and “Religious Specialists” – shamanism  
**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  
2nd Hour Method
- Institutionalization of religion: typologies of religious organization  
the study of religious forms in contemporary society  
from church-sect to NRMs  
**Stein & Stein chapter 7** – “Magic and Divination”

8. March 4  
1st Hour Theory  
2nd Hour Method
- Religiosity: measuring the religious variable  
Becoming religious: socialization and conversion,  
considering the individual  
**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

2nd Hour Method	<b>Stein &amp; Stein chapter 9</b> – “Gods and Spirits”
10. March 18	<b>ESSAY DUE</b> 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	<b>Stein &amp; Stein chapter 10</b> – “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	<b>Stein &amp; Stein chapter 11</b> – “The Search for New Meaning”
<b>CONCLUSION</b>	<b>SUMMARIZING AND LOOKING AHEAD</b>
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 <b>Final Examination</b> (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.

**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](http://www.carleton.ca/sasc); Writing Tutorial Services: [www.carleton.ca/wts](http://www.carleton.ca/wts); and Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS): [www.carleton.ca/sasc/pass\\_home/index.html](http://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:

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	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](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](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](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	4 <sup>th</sup> floor Library
Learning Commons 520-1125	4 <sup>th</sup> floor Library