

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
RELIGION PROGRAM, COLLEGE OF THE HUMANITIES
/DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

RELI 2736/ANTH 2550
2021 WINTER TERM
RELIGION AND SOCIETY

Instructor: Alyshea Cummins

Office Hours: by appointment

Office Location: Online via Zoom

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Teacher Assistant: Shannon Helm

Office Hours: by appointment

Office Location: Online via Zoom

Email: Shannon.Helm@carleton.ca

Online: Asynchronous Web-Based Learning

Course Content will be made Available on Mondays (except for holidays)

Course Requires Reliable and High-Speed Internet Connection

Description: (as in the Undergraduate Calendar) 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.

Rationale: This course is an introductory survey of anthropological 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.

Learning Outcomes: This course aims to give students a broad understanding of the study of religion in society. Through the readings, videos, and selected case studies we investigate the role of religion in shaping society and how society, in turn, shapes religion. Students taking this course will learn disciplinary vocabulary associated with the religion(s) studied in this course and be able to recognize personal situated-ness and

personal bias in confronting religious phenomena. Through online discussions, students will present, argue, and defend their ideas using course content. Students will be able to write coherent English prose at a university level. Further, students taking this course will be able to distinguish different methods of increasing knowledge in the field of the study of religion, including historical (largely based on texts) and social scientific (largely based on field work).

Instruments of Evaluation: The Evaluation Procedures of the university are described in the Undergraduate Calendar. 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 plus potential bonus marks. As stated in the Academic Regulations of the University, Section 2.1: “To obtain credit in a course, students must meet all the course requirements for attendance, term work and examinations as published in the course outline.”

Instruments of Evaluation Summary:

Discussions	35%	Each Module
Quizzes	30%	Each Module
Final Exam	35%	During the exam period
*BONUS MARKS	3%	*Due Friday Apr 2

Discussions (35%)

- Students will be divided into discussion groups on cuLearn
- Each Module will be followed by a class Discussion
- There will be 11 Discussions total (relative to the 11 Modules) and the best 10 will count towards your final Discussions grade
- Students choose whether they want to Post or Reply in the Discussion for that week
- Student posts/replies are graded according to how well students apply the relevant assigned readings & videos, both when answering the discussion questions and when responding to fellow course participants’ posts (See Discussion Guidelines on cuLearn)

Weekly Quizzes (30%):

- Weekly quizzes gauge your attentiveness and help prepare you for tests
- There will be a total of 11 Quizzes and the best 10 will count towards the final grade
- Found in each Learning Module and completed on cuLearn

Both *discussions* and *quizzes* are available until 23:59 each following Sunday (see Schedule on page 5 of Syllabus; Please note that there is an exception for Module #4)

NOTE: There are no makeups for quizzes; see *bonus marks* for extra-credit opportunities.

Final Exam (35%)

- The final exam will be online and held during the examination period
- The format will be given closer to the date

Bonus Marks (+3%):

Each student can earn up to 3% extra towards their final grade and/or makeup for missed Quizzes.

Extra-Credit Case Study (ECCS): Students who would like to earn bonus marks are asked to write a 750 word Case Study.

- Case Studies must reflect the themes and subjects covered in the course (see schedule on pages 5-8) (for more information, see Instructions on cuLearn)

NOTE: Please email the professor if you are doing an ECCS to replace a quiz grade. All ECCS are **DUE Friday April 2, 2021**

Required Readings

Textbook

Stein, Rebecca L. and Philip L. Stein. 2011. *The Anthropology of Religion, Magic and Witchcraft*, 4th edition. Allyn and Bacon, Boston.

Note: The Textbook is available online through the Library or for purchase at the University Bookstore

This text was designed for courses like this. It is very strong in ethnography, case studies, and the presentation of the conceptual vocabulary of anthropology of religion.

Additional Readings

Additional readings will be posted on cuLearn and may include PDFs, links to online sources, and Multi-Media Readings. See the respective module for full list of required readings.

FAQs

1. ***Do I have to attend the lectures?*** No, there are no live lectures. Lecture videos, notes, and Multi-Media Readings will be posted weekly on cuLearn.
2. ***Do I need the textbook?*** Yes. There is an online version available through the Carleton Library. The textbook can also be ordered online through the University Bookstore (they price match).
3. ***Are there any activities to complete weekly?*** Yes. Each module requires you to complete a quiz and to contribute to the discussion. Please see cuLearn for a complete list of all required readings, videos, and activities.
4. ***Is there a Final Exam?*** Yes. There will be an online final exam during the exam period. Format and details will be given closer to date.
5. ***What if I miss a Quiz?*** There are no makeups for quizzes. If you would like to ensure a good grade you can complete one or more “Extra-Credit Case Study.”
6. ***What is the best way to reach you?*** By email or the “Ask the Instructor Q&A” online forum

SCHEDULE of CLASSES, READINGS, and ACTIVITIES

WEEK 1 Available: January 11	
<i>Welcome!</i> Review of the Course Syllabus and Instruments of Evaluation Syllabus Quiz: Must be completed to access course modules Online Student Forum: Introduce yourself in the Student Forum on cuLearn	
WEEK 2 Available: January 18	
Module 1	<i>Studying Religion</i> Review of the Course Syllabus and Instruments of Evaluation Stein & Stein chapter 1 – “The Anthropological Study of Religion” QUIZ #1 – Open on cuLearn until 23:59, Sunday 01/24 DISCUSSION #1 – Posts/Replies are due 23:59, Sunday 01/24
WEEK 3 Available: January 25	
Module 2	<i>Importance of Myths</i> Stein & Stein chapter 2 – “Mythology” <i>Video: “The Power of Myth” with Joseph Campbell</i> QUIZ #2 – Open on cuLearn until 23:59, Sunday 01/31 DISCUSSION #2 – Posts/Replies are due 23:59, Sunday 01/31

WEEK 4

Available: February 1

Module 3

Religious Symbols

Stein & Stein chapter 3 – “Religious Symbols”

QUIZ #3 – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 02/07**

DISCUSSION #3 – Posts/Replies are due **23:59, Sunday 02/07**

WEEK 5

Available: February 8

Module 4

Religious Rituals

Stein & Stein chapter 4 – “Ritual” – rites of passage

QUIZ #4 – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Friday 02/12**

DISCUSSION #4 – Posts/Replies are due **23:59, Friday 02/12**

WEEK 6

READING WEEK: February 15-19

WEEK 7

Available: February 22

Module 5

Religious Experience

Stein & Stein chapter 5 – “Altered States of Consciousness”

QUIZ #5 – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 02/28**

DISCUSSION #5 – Posts/Replies are due **23:59, Sunday 02/28**

WEEK 8

Available: March 1

Module 6

Religious Authorities

Stein & Stein chapters 6 – “Religious Specialists” – shamanism

Video: Huichol Sacred Pilgrimage to Wirikuta

QUIZ #6 – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 03/07**

DISCUSSION #6 – Posts/Replies are due **23:59, Sunday 03/07**

WEEK 9

Available: March 8

Module 7

Magic and Society

Stein & Stein chapter 7 – “Magic and Divination”

QUIZ #7 – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 03/14**

DISCUSSION #7 – Posts/Replies are due **23:59, Sunday 03/14**

WEEK 10

Available: March 15

Module 8

Death and the Afterlife

Stein & Stein chapter 8 – “Souls, Ghosts, and Death”

QUIZ #8 – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 03/21**

DISCUSSION #8 – Posts/Replies are due **23:59, Sunday 03/21**

WEEK 11

Available: March 22

Module 9

God(s) and Society

Stein & Stein chapter 9 – “Gods and Spirits”

QUIZ #9 – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 03/28**

DISCUSSION #9 – Posts/Replies are due **23:59, Sunday 03/28**

WEEK 12

Available: March 29

Module 10

Witchcraft and Society

Stein & Stein chapter 10 – “Witchcraft”

Video: The Burning Times

QUIZ #10 – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 04/04**

DISCUSSION #10 – Posts/Replies are due **23:59, Sunday 04/04**

WEEK 13

Available: April 5

Module 11

A Changing Landscape

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

Stein & Stein chapter 12 – “Religion, Conflict, and Peace”

QUIZ #11 – Open on cuLearn until **23:59, Sunday 04/11**

DISCUSSION #11 – Posts/Replies are due **23:59, Sunday 04/11**



Humanities

University Regulations for All College of the Humanities Courses

Academic Dates and Deadlines

This schedule contains the dates prescribed by the University Senate for academic activities. Dates relating to fee payment, cancellation of course selections, late charges, and other fees or charges will be published in the Important Dates and Deadlines section of the Registration Website.

Online Learning Resources

While online courses offer flexibility and convenience, they also present unique challenges that traditional face-to-face courses do not. [On this page](#), you will find resources collected by Carleton Online to help you succeed in your online courses; Learning Strategies and Best Practices, Study Skills, Technology and Online Interaction and Engagement.

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.

Academic Integrity at Carleton

The University Senate defines **plagiarism** as “*presenting, whether intentionally 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 that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts 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

[Academic Integrity Policy](#)

[Academic Integrity Process](#)

Academic Accommodation Policy

Academic Accommodation

Carleton University is committed to providing access to the educational experience in order to promote academic accessibility for all individuals.

Parental Leave: The Student Parental Leave Policy is intended to recognize the need for leave at the time of a pregnancy, birth or adoption and to permit a pause in studies in order to provide full-time care in the first year of parenting a child or for health-related parental responsibilities.

Religious obligation: Carleton University accommodates students who, by reason of religious obligation, must miss an examination, test, assignment deadline, laboratory or other compulsory academic event.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Academic accommodation of students with disabilities is available through the [Paul Menton Centre](#) by evaluations that are carried out on an individual basis, in accordance with human rights legislation and University policy, and with the support of relevant, professional/medical documentation.

Survivors of Sexual Violence

Individuals who disclose that they have experienced sexual violence will be provided support services and will be treated with dignity and respect at all times by the University and its representatives. A person affected by sexual violence is not required to report an incident or make a complaint about sexual violence under the formal complaint process of the Sexual Violence Policy in order to obtain support and services, or in order to receive appropriate accommodation for their needs.

[Supports and services available at the University to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support.](#)

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. [More information.](#)

Grading System at Carleton University

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean."

The [system of grades](#) used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion, is listed below. Grade points indicated are for courses with 1.0 credit value.

Course Sharing Websites and Copyright

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

[More information](#)

Student Rights and Responsibilities at Carleton

Carleton University strives to provide a safe environment conducive to personal and intellectual growth, free of injustice and characterized by understanding respect, peace, trust, and fairness.

The [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#) governs the non-academic behaviour of students. Carleton University is committed to building a campus that promotes personal growth through the establishment and promotion of transparent and fair academic and non-academic responsibilities.

[7 Student Rights and Responsibilities](#)

Deferred Term Work

In some situations, students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work.

1. Students who claim illness, injury or other extraordinary circumstances beyond their control as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the

instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor and in all cases this must occur no later than three (3.0) working days after the term work was due. The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of term. In all cases, formative evaluations providing feedback to the student should be replaced with formative evaluations. In the event the altered due date must extend beyond the last day of classes in the term, the instructor will assign a grade of zero for the work not submitted and submit the student's earned grade accordingly; the instructor may submit a change of grade at a later date. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.

2. In cases where a student is not able to complete term work due to illness or injury for a significant period of time/or long term, the instructor and/or student may elect to consult with the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses) or Graduate Registrar (graduate courses) to determine appropriate action.

[More information of deferred Term Work](#)

Deferred Final Exams

Students who are unable to write a final examination because of a serious illness/emergency or other circumstances beyond their control may apply for accommodation. Normally, the accommodation for a missed final examination will be granting the student the opportunity to write a deferred examination. In specific cases when it is not possible to offer a deferred examination, and with the approval of the Dean, an alternate accommodation may be made.

The application for a deferral must:

1. be made in writing to the Registrar's Office no later than three working days after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination; and,
2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation and, in cases of illness, by a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination, or by appropriate documents in other cases. Medical documents must specify the date of the onset of the illness, the (expected) date of recovery, and the extent to which the student was/is incapacitated during the time of the examination. The University's preferred medical form can be found at the Registrar's Office [here](#).

[More information on Final Exam Deferrals](#)

Financial vs. Academic Withdrawal

Withdrawn. No academic credit, no impact on the CGPA. WDN is a permanent notation that appears on the official transcript for students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term (noted in the Academic Year section of the Calendar each term). Students may withdraw on or before the last day of classes.

Important dates can be found [here](#). Make sure that you are aware of the separate deadlines for

Financial and Academic withdrawal!

Making registration decisions in Carleton Central involves making a financial and academic commitment for the courses you choose, regardless of attendance. If you do not attend – you must withdraw in Carleton Central within the published deadlines to cancel your registration. You can do this via the [MyCarleton Portal](#). A fee adjustment is dependent on registration being canceled within the published [fee deadlines](#) and dependent on your course load.

Department Contact Information

Bachelor of the Humanities 300 Paterson Hall CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca

Greek and Roman Studies 300 Paterson Hall GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca

Religion 2A39 Paterson Hall
Religion@cunet.carleton.ca

Digital Humanities (Graduate) 2A39 Paterson Hall
digitalhumanities@carleton.ca

Digital Humanities (Undergraduate Minor) 300 Paterson Hall
digitalhumanities@carleton.ca

MEMS (Undergraduate Minor) 300 Paterson Hall
CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca