

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY**

**ANTH 2550 / RELI 2736  
FALL 2015  
RELIGION & SOCIETY**

**INSTRUCTOR: HOLLY THOMAS**

**Course Meets:** Mondays, 6:05 – 8:55pm, Southam Hall 417 (room locations are subject to change throughout September, please check Carleton Central for current classroom information).

**Instructor's Office:** Loeb Building A713, **Office Hours:** Mondays, 4:00 – 5:00pm

**Teaching Assistant:** TBA, **Office Hours:** TBA

**Contact Information:** ALL course correspondence (with your instructor and your teaching assistant) will be conducted through cuLearn discussion boards and the cuLearn email function. Correspondence sent to (or from) alternate email accounts will not receive a response. We will do our best to respond to posts and emails within 48 hours (not including weekends) so please plan accordingly – especially in advance of assignment deadlines and examination dates.

*\*The full course syllabus is available online through our cuLearn course page.  
Knowledge of the content of the complete syllabus is your responsibility\**

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**Course Description and Objectives:**

*Is religion still important to today's youth?  
Why is there so much religious conflict in the world?  
Is atheism more prevalent today in Canada?  
Why do all societies have some form of religion?*

Despite claims that religion is no longer a dominant force in contemporary Canadian society, many of us have thought about these questions from time to time. Questions like these (and many others) ask about the very nature of religion's relationship with any given society in any given time. All of these questions feed into the central question that organizes our exploration of religion and society this semester: how is religion a social phenomenon?

Throughout this course we will strive to answer this question each week by exploring the many ways in which religion exists as a key social institution across history and culture. By incorporating classical and contemporary sociological and anthropological approaches to the study of religion, students will examine the ways in which the contours of the modern religious landscape have evolved in Canadian and global society. By thoroughly engaging the ever-changing, and often complex, relationships between religion, culture, society, and other

key social institutions, students will be well-prepared to tackle the complex issues that surround any meaningful study of religious expression and will have ample opportunity to develop relevant research interests and writing skills through the various evaluations.

As you probably know by now, sociologists and anthropologists are a vibrant bunch of people who are passionate, and inquisitive about the social religious world. We all bring our own unique perspectives, histories, religious attitudes, non-religious beliefs, and worldviews to the classroom each week. By opening up our minds and thinking reflexively about old and new ideas about the nature of the religious expression in the world today, this course will allow us to continually engage with respectful debate during (and perhaps beyond) the fall semester. I hope this course will spark your passion for exploring the world from new perspectives and enhance understanding of your own social position within our global society.

**Prerequisites:** Also listed as RELI 2550. Precludes additional credit for SOAN 2403 and RELI 2403. Prerequisites: ANTH 1001 or ANTH 1002, or ANTH 1003 [1.0], or 1.0 credit at the 1000-level in SOCI, ENGL, GEOG, HIST, HUMR, INDG, PSCI, RELI or WGST.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS & METHODS OF EVALUATION**

<b>EVALUATION</b>	<b>WEIGHT</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>
<b>Participation:</b> - Syllabus Review Quiz - Class attendance & participation - Written Reflections	2%  5% 10%	SEPTEMBER 25 <sup>TH</sup>  WEEKLY ONGOING
<b>Term Assignment:</b> - Stage 1: Research Proposal - Stage 2: Critical Analysis	15% 20%	OCTOBER 19 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 7 <sup>TH</sup>
<b>Exams:</b> - Midterm Examination - Final Examination	20% 28%	NOVEMBER 2 <sup>ND</sup> *DECEMBER 9 <sup>TH</sup> – 21 <sup>ST</sup>