Course Description and Objectives:
Ritual is one of anthropology's foundational concepts. This course will begin by
exploring the theoretical perspectives on ritual. In the first part of the course we will look
at functionalist, symbolic, and performativ approaches to ritual and define genres of
common rituals studied by anthropologists: rites of passage, rites of affliction/possession,
rituals of exchange, feasts/fasts, festivals and political rites.

In the second part of the course we will explore different ethnographic examples ritual
organized by weekly topics. From funeral rites of Brazilian street-children to the match-
day rituals of women supporters of Turkish football, from the American Thanksgiving to
an Andean indigenous festival, we will investigate how rituals: contribute to the
production of power; how they become opportunities for shared and individual
expression; and, how ritual can be used as a distinct perspective on wider social-cultural
phenomena. We will be exposed to the various ways in which diverse cultural
expressions are ritualized.

By the end of this course you will be able to identify, apply, and critique theoretical
concepts on ritual. You will have developed knowledge of a diversity of ritualized
practices, both secular and sacred. You will be able to develop and defend a research
question on a ritual for ethnographic research.

Prerequisites: ANTH 1001 and ANTH 1002, or ANTH 1003 [1.0], or SOCI 1001 and
SOCI 1002, or SOCI 1003
Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:

Classes will be variably composed of a lecture on background/relevant concepts, short video clips, discussions and a ritual break at half-time.

Each week there will be 40-80 pages of reading in two or three academic articles/selections from books. Plan ahead to complete the readings. Some may be more tedious than others but each will be relevant to our discussions and your success.

Readings will be available on cuLearn.

Graded activities
10% Attendance
20% Five (5) reading responses (Each worth 4 marks)
30% Take-home mid-term
5% Final paper topic and annotated bibliography
35% Final paper

Attendance
Part of each class will include time set aside for discussion on concepts and rituals presented by the course. Participation (active listening and talking) in these discussions will be invaluable to your learning experience. My goal is for this course to be interesting. However, you will also be compelled to attend regularly: 10 % of your mark will be decided by your attendance.

Reading Responses
Every two weeks you will be required to submit a reading response at the beginning of class. Your reading response should engage at least two of the readings from the previous two weeks (including readings from the day of submission). You should include page references and can use short quotes. Strong responses (4 out of 4) will either make creative connections to other relevant examples or put the readings into a coherent dialogue with each other.

Length: 300-500 words (¾ to 1 single spaced page)
Due: Jan. 26, Feb. 9, Mar. 1, Mar. 15, Mar. 29
Value: 4% each (total 20%)

Mid-term exam
You will be given a take home mid-term at the end of class on February 9th. You will be expected to respond to two questions. Your responses will come from the course material on the theoretical foundations of ritual and will require you to demonstrate your knowledge and critical reflections on the course material.

Length: each response 1000-1500 words (four/five double spaced pages)
Due: in class February 23  
Value: 15% each

**Final Paper – A proposal for ethnographic research**

Given the space-time limitations of our course, your final paper will be in the format of a hypothetical/imagined proposal for ethnographic research on a ritual event or ritualized moment. In place of a conclusive argument, you will propose one or two research questions concerning your event/moment that you would (hypothetically) explore during an ethnographic research project. Your proposal will include a discussion of your theoretical approach (developed from course material), a review of academic research on the relevant socio-cultural context and similar rituals, and an analysis suggesting how your theoretical perspective could be used to interpret the event/moment. A strong proposal will demonstrate the relevance of the proposed theoretical concepts to your well informed research question(s).

More details will be presented in class.

Length: 3000-4500 words (10-15 double spaced pages)  
Due: in class April 5  
Value: 35%

Before getting to your proposal, you will submit a short description (one paragraph) of your topic with an annotated bibliography (one paragraph description) of three relevant academic (anthropology or sociology) sources.

Length: ~1 to 2 single spaced pages  
Due: in class March 7  
Value: 5%

**Format**

For all assignments use 12 pt Times New Roman Font and regular 2.54cm (1¼ inch) margins.

You do not need to include a title page unless submitting to the drop box outside Department of Sociology and Anthropology 7th floor Loeb B tower.

*Every submission does, however, need at the top of the first page:*

(Your name)  
Submitted for ANTH 3510  
Instructor: Matthew Hawkins  
Date of submission: (date)  
(Title of your assignment)

**Submitting Assignments and Late Penalties**

Due dates are set to the beginning of class. There will also be a late penalty of 2% per day.
I prefer to mark physical copies of each assignment, however, late reading responses can be sent electronically by email. Mid-terms and the final paper should be submitted as a physical copy unless other arrangements are made.

The final assignment can be submitted no later than April 8.

In all cases, it is a good policy to let me know by email if you anticipate submitting any assignment after the due date. If I am aware of your situation before the due date, I am more likely to provide different arrangements.

Reading responses and the mid-term will be returned in class. Your final paper will be available for pick-up before the end of April (time and location TBA).

---

Course Outline and Readings:

January 12 **Introduction:** Outline for the course; What do we mean by ritual?

January 19 **Theoretical Foundations:** The sacred and the profane


January 26 **Theoretical Foundations:** Rites of passage and other ritual genres

***1st reading response due***


Suggested:


February 2 **Theoretical Foundations:** Symbols and Speech Acts in Rituals


Suggested:

February 9 **Theoretical Foundations**: Ritualistic performances

***2nd reading response due***


February 16 **READING WEEK – No Class**

February 23 **Theoretical Foundations**: Secular rituals – the state and nation

***Take home mid-term must be submitted before class.***


Suggested Reading:

March 1 **Selected Topic**: Memory, Death, and Power

***3rd reading response due***


Suggested reading:

March 8 **Selected Topic**: Ritualized Violence

***Paper proposal due***


Suggested readings:

March 15 Selected Topic: Resistance and Resilience

***4th reading response due.***


Suggested Reading:

March 22 Selected Topic: Carnivals, festivals, music and identities

(See accompanying translation notes posted to cuLearn)

March 29 Selected Topic: Rituals in the (soccer/rugby) football stadium

***5th reading response due.***


Suggested Reading:

April 5 Selected Topic: Ritual Healing

***Final paper due***

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar (p 34), the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

- A+ = 90-100
- B+ = 77-79
- C+ = 67-69
- D+ = 57-59
- A   = 85-89
- B   = 73-76
- C   = 63-66
- D   = 53-56
- A - = 80-84
- B - = 70-72
- C - = 60-62
- D - = 50-52
- F    = Below 50
- WDN = Withdrawn from the course
- ABS = Student absent from final exam
- DEF = Deferred (See above)
- FND = (Failed, no Deferred) = Student could not pass the course even with 100% on final exam

**Academic Regulations, Accommodations, Plagiarism, Etc.**
University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university’s website, here: http://www.carleton.ca/calendars/ugrad/current/regulations/acadregsuniv.html

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**
The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

- The deadlines for contacting the Paul Menton Centre regarding accommodation for final exams for the December 2015 exam period is November 6, 2015 and for the April 2016 exam period is March 6, 2016.
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.

For Pregnancy:
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.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is the passing off of someone else's work as your own and is a serious academic offence. For the details of what constitutes plagiarism, the potential penalties and the procedures refer to the section on Instructional Offences in the Undergraduate Calendar.

What are the Penalties for Plagiarism?
A student found to have plagiarized an assignment may be subject to one of several penalties including: expulsion; suspension from all studies at Carleton; suspension from full-time studies; and/or a reprimand; a refusal of permission to continue or to register in a specific degree program; academic probation; award of an FNS, Fail, or an ABS.

What are the Procedures?
All allegations of plagiarism are reported to the faculty of Dean of FASS and Management. Documentation is prepared by instructors and/or departmental chairs.

The Dean writes to the student and the University Ombudsperson about the alleged plagiarism.

The Dean reviews the allegation. If it is not resolved at this level then it is referred to a tribunal appointed by the Senate.

Plagiarism and cheating at the graduate level are viewed as being particularly serious and the sanctions imposed are accordingly severe. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the Carleton University Student Academic
Integrity Policy (See http://www2.carleton.ca/sasc/advisingcentre/academic-integrity/). The Policy is strictly enforced and is binding on all students. Plagiarism and cheating – presenting another’s ideas, arguments, words or images as your own, using unauthorized material, misrepresentation, fabricating or misrepresenting research data, unauthorized co-operation or collaboration or completing work for another student – weaken the quality of the graduate degree. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Students who infringe the Policy may be subject to one of several penalties including: expulsion; suspension from all studies at Carleton; suspension from full-time studies; a refusal of permission to continue or to register in a specific degree program; academic probation; or a grade of Failure in the course.

Assistance for Students:
Student Academic Success Centre (SASC): www.carleton.ca/sasc
Writing Tutorial Services: www.carleton.ca/wts
Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS): www.carleton.ca/sasc/peer-assisted-study-sessions

Important Information:
- Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).
- Students must always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted.
- All final grades are subject to the Dean’s approval.
- Please note that you will be able to link your CONNECT (MyCarleton) account to other non-CONNECT accounts and receive emails from us. However, for us to respond to your emails, we need to see your full name, CU ID, and the email must be written from your valid CONNECT address. Therefore, it would be easier to respond to your inquiries if you would send all email from your connect account. If you do not have or have yet to activate this account, you may wish to do so by visiting https://portal.carleton.ca/