

**College of the Humanities  
Religion Program: RELI5852 W  
Religion and the Middleclass in India**

**Professor:** Richard Mann  
**Office:** Paterson Hall 2A51  
**Office Hours:** TBA  
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**Office e-mail:** richard\_mann@carleton.ca  
**Classroom:** Paterson Hall 2A46  
**Class time:** Tuesdays, 6:05-8:55 PM

**Course Description:** This course explores the intersection of class and religion in colonial and modern India/South Asia. Central to the questions this seminar hopes to explore include: What is class and who are the middleclass? Does class have anything to do with religion? How does class, as a social group and as an identity for some individuals, interact with other social formations and markers of individual identity such as religion, gender, caste, political allegiances, nationalist enterprises, urban space and public space? Finally, how has the emergence of the ‘new’ middleclass in India impacted these other considerations?

**Required Texts:**

**None of the texts have been ordered for the university’s bookstore. You will need to order your own texts via Chapters, Amazon etc.**

Fernandes, Leela. *India’s New Middle Class: Democratic Politics in an Era of Economic Reform*. Minneapolis and London: University of Minnesota Press, 2006.

Saavalta, Minna. *Middle-Class Moralities: Everyday Struggle over Belonging and Prestige in India*. Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan, 2010.

Varma, Pavan K. *The Great Indian Middle Class*. Penguin: New Delhi, 2007.

**Not Required, but useful texts:**

Stern, Robert W. *Changing India. Second edition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Waghorne, J., 2005. The Diaspora of the Gods: Modern Hindu Temples in an Urban Middle-Class World. New York: Oxford University Press.

**Course Requirements and Evaluation:**

**Participation/engagement 20%:** A standard element of seminars is your participation in class discussions. As opposed to lecture courses where the onus is on the instructor to provide all of the course content and direct all of the learning objectives, a seminar, ideally, democratizes the learning context so that the responsibility for course content and learning falls equally to the instructor and the enrolled students. As opposed to simply learning from the instructor, a seminar asks you to learn from each other and to take responsibility for your own learning. Central to a seminar, then, is your active participation in class discussions based on careful preparation of the assigned readings.

**Essay proposal 10%:** Each student will submit an essay proposal. The structure of the proposal will be discussed in more detail in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of classes, but it will be a 4-6 page discussion of your proposed major paper topic with a bibliography. **Due Feb. 28**

**Review of *The Great Indian Middle Class* by Varma 15%.** You will receive an outline explaining the book review assignment. **Due Feb. 7**

**Presentations 15%:** Each student will give two presentations to the group. One of the presentations will be on your essay proposal. The other presentation will involve each student leading the seminar in a discussion of assigned readings. A sign-up sheet will be distributed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of class for both presentations.

**Final Essay 40%:** Each student will submit a final essay on the last day of classes. An outline will be provided on the essay structure in week 3 of the term, but it will be a research paper approximately 20 pages in length.

**General Notes on Evaluation:**

1. Please see “Regulations Common to all Humanities Courses” attached to the syllabus for policy on plagiarism, grading systems, requests for academic accommodation and petitions to defer.
2. Missed tests and assignments can only be made up if the student supplies adequate written documentation (i.e., a doctor’s note, an obituary) for the absence.

**Class Reading and Topics Schedule:**

This course has no pre-requisite other than 4<sup>th</sup> year standing in the Religion Program. As such, we will begin the seminar by dividing the first few classes in half. In the first half of class I will lecture on themes in modern Hinduism, the colonial period of South Asian history, and other aspects of general South Asian history and religion that you will need for the course readings. In the second half of class we will engage with various key thinkers related to class and the middleclass. Once this introductory period is over, we will run each class as a seminar.

**Week One (Jan. 10):**

Topic: British colonial rule in South Asia and orientalism

Reading: Thomas Babington Macaulay’s “Minute on Education” (posted to Web-CT under Web-links)

    Selections from *Orientalism*, by Said (posted to Web-CT under Web-links)

    “Signs Taken for Wonders” by Bhabha (posted to Web-CT under Web-links)

**Week Two (Jan. 17):**

Topic (1<sup>st</sup> half): Hindu ‘reform’ movements and Neo-Hinduism

Reading (1<sup>st</sup> half): selected readings from Rammohan Roy, Dayananda Saraswati and Swami Vivekananda (posted to Web-CT under Web-links)

Topic (2<sup>nd</sup> half): Karl Marx and Class

Reading (2<sup>nd</sup> half): Selections from the *Communist Manifesto* (posted to Web-CT under Web-links)

**Week Three (Jan. 24):**

Topic (1<sup>st</sup> half): the rise of Hindutva groups and the construction of religious boundaries

Reading (1<sup>st</sup> half): Selected readings from Vinayak Damodar Savarkar and M. S. Golwalkar (posted to Web-CT under Web-links)

Topic (2<sup>nd</sup> half): Max Weber on Class and Religion

Reading (2<sup>nd</sup> half): Selections from *The Protestant Work Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (posted to Web-CT under Web-links)

**Week Four (Jan. 31):**

Topic (1<sup>st</sup> half): The middleclass in Colonial India

Readings (1<sup>st</sup> half): “Modern Hinduism and the Middleclass” by Fuller (posted to Web-CT under Web-links)

“Bourgeois Vedanta: The Colonial Roots of Middle-class Hinduism” by Hatcher (posted to Web-CT under Web-links)

The Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, “A Microscopic Minority” (posted to Web-CT under Web-links)

“A Cheap Shoddy Import” by Aurobindo Ghosh (posted to Web-CT under Web-links)

Topic (2<sup>nd</sup> half): Pierre Bourdieu and Social Stratification

Readings: Selections from *Distinction* (posted to Web-CT under Web-links)

**Week Five (Feb. 7): Book review due**

Topics: Aspects of Indian History (partition, religion and politics in the 1980s-2000s)

Readings: Selections from *The Saffron Wave* by Hanson

**Week Six (Feb. 14):**

Topic: The ‘new’ Indian middleclass

Readings: *India’s New Middle Class*, by Fernandes

**Week Seven (Feb. 21): Reading week, no class****Week Eight (Feb. 28): Proposal due**

Topic: The ‘new’ Indian middleclass

Readings: *Middle-Class Moralities*, by Saaval

**Week Nine (Mar. 6):**

Topic: The ‘new’ Indian middleclass and space

Readings: “Permeable Homes” by Dickey (posted to Web-CT under Web-links)

“The Gentrification of the Goddess” by Waghorne (posted to Web-CT under Web-links)

Selected readings on the Swaminarayana Aadhakshadharma complex (posted to Web-CT under Web-links)

**Week Ten** (Mar. 13):

Topic: The ‘new’ Indian middleclass and public contested space

Readings: Selected readings on the Babri Masjid/Ram Janmabhoomi (posted to Web-CT under Web-links)

“Re-publicizing Religiosity” by Joshi (posted to Web-CT)

**Week Eleven** (Mar. 20):

Topic: The ‘new’ middleclass anxieties and critiques of the class

Readings: Selections from *The Great Indian Middle Class* (posted to Web-CT)

“The Pleasures and Anxieties of Being in the Middle” by Dickey (posted to Web-CT)

**Week Twelve** (Mar. 27):

Topic: Gender and Class

Readings: “Grandmother, Mother and Daughter” by Waldrop (Web-CT)

“Paradoxes of Globalization, Liberalization and Gender Equality” by Ganguly-Scrase

**Week Thirteen** (Apr. 3):

Course review and catch-up

## **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 can include a final grade of "F" for the course

### **GRADING SYSTEM**

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B = 73-76 (8)	C - = 60-62 (4)
A = 85-89 (11)	B- = 70-72 (7)	D+ = 57-59 (3)
A- = 80-84 (10)	C+ = 67-69 (6)	D = 53-56 (2)
B+ = 77-79 (9)	C = 63-66 (5)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points

ABS Absent from final examination, equivalent to F

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 **DEC. 5, 2011**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 5, 2012**.

### **REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and 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. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: [carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/](http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/)

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Merton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but 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 your Instructor receives 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 Nov.11, 2011 for the Fall term and March 7, 2012 for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/](http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/)

### **PETITIONS TO DEFER**

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please contact the Registrar's Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

### **ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)**

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809	300 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100	2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500	300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Merton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Library