

College of the Humanities
Religion Program: RELI 2515A
Myth and Symbol in the Indian Tradition

Professor: Harsha V. Dehejia

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Lectures: Wednesday, 2.35 pm to 5.25 pm.

Required Text:

Leaves of a Pipal Tree (available at the Bookstore)

Lecturers and the material in the pre-recorded interviews is all testable.

Course Description:

The course focuses on mythic images in the Indian tradition from the Indus Valley civilization to Mother India. The emphasis is mainly philosophical and the course investigates poetic truth or how aesthetic experience leads to knowledge of ultimate reality. The first half of the course explores aesthetic theories especially those involving rasa or aesthetic emotion and rupa or aesthetic form. Theories of artha or semantics are examined and Indian Idealism is discussed. This half ends with an exploration of the epistemology of the Tantric tradition.

The second half of the course, which is more visual, takes up the understanding and enjoyment of mythic images, through the rasa that they espouse. These will include Krsna, Siva, Visnu, Parvati, Duran, Kali and Buddha and the architecture of the temple. Various akritis or forms are examined and their relation to Indian culture investigated.

MID-TERM EXAMINATION.

The mid-term examination will be a take home essay. The essay is compulsory. Here are its specifications:

Subject:

Read Chapter 1 of the Leaves of the Pipal Tree and write an essay on Poetic Truth in the Indian Tradition.

Format:

The essay should be in proper essay format, about 3000 words long, with 2 Bibliographical references other than the text. Internet references are not acceptable.

Marking:

The essay is worth 30 marks broken down as follows: 5 marks for format 15 marks for content 10 marks for citing bibliographical references and using them in the body of the text to buttress your argument.

Due:

The essay is due in class on Wednesday October 13, 2010. Submissions by email are not acceptable. You may drop off the essay in the drop box outside the Religion Office, 2A39 Paterson. Late submissions will be penalized at the rate of 5 marks per day.

FINAL EXAMINATION

The examination will have about 200 questions to be answered on the Scantron sheet in three hours.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Lecture 1, September 15, 2010

Origins of Hindu civilization.
Unique features of Hindu thought.
Distinction between Hindu philosophy and Hindu religion,
Sectarian Hinduism
Yoga.

Chapter 1

Lecture 2. September 22, 2010

Doctrine's of Rasa & Rupa
Chapter 2

Lecture 3. September 29, 2010

Epistemology of Aesthetic Experience
Chapter 1

Lecture 4. October 6, 2010

The Indus Valley Civilization
Folk and Popular Art
Akriti to Sanskriti, The Journey of Indian Forms
Chapter 10

Lecture 5. October 13, 2010

Experiencing Knowledge, Visually
Kalasha: The genesis of symbols
Objects Of Beauty
Chapter 11

Lecture 6. October 20, 2010

Shiva and His consorts
Chapter 6

Lecture 7. October 27, 2010

Aesthetics of Boundaries: The Genesis of Ganesha.
The Life and Death of Kama
Chapter 2

Lecture 8. November 3, 2010

Forms of Vishnu
Chapter 8

Lecture 9. November 10, 2010

The Romantic Emotion; Krishna and Radha
Chapter 4

Lecture 10. November 17, 2010

The Romantic Emotion; Krishna and Radha - Continued
Chapter 4

Lecture 11. November 24, 2010

The Mother Goddess
Chapter 7

Lecture 12. December 1, 2010

Buddha
Indian Aesthetic Sensibility
Chapter 3

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. 6, 2010**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 5, 2011**.

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/

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 the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term. For more details visit the PMC website: carleton.ca/pmc/accommodations/

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 th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 th Floor Library