

The College of the Humanities
Religion Program: RELI 3520 Fall 2022
Early Hinduism

A historical survey of Hinduism from the Vedic era to the development of devotional Hinduism. Vedic religion and developments in early Hindu Philosophy and sectarian Hinduism.

RELI 3520 engages with the history of the Hindu tradition in South Asia from its beginnings around three millennia ago to the flourishing of the bhakti movement by the twelfth century. This is a truly great civilization. The course opens with the proto-historical Indus Valley or Harappan culture and moves on to the Vedic period and its literature and the rise of the great Epics. The course focuses on the sacred texts that have shaped classical Hinduism and conveyed its central theological, philosophical, and social ideas. But we will also have opportunity to examine some of the exuberant artistic and architectural instantiations of Hindu mythology. Our weekly three-hour session will be divided between lectures and seminar-style discussions.

Instructor

Prof. Noel Salmond

noel.salmond@carleton.ca

Office hours: Mondays 15:30 – 16:30 (or by appointment) 2A38 Paterson Hall. 613 520 2600 ext. 8162

I can also be available on Zoom.

Lectures

In-person on campus

Mondays 11:35-14:25

St. Patrick's 415

Learning Outcomes:

Religion program expectations for skill development at the 3000 level read as follows:

- Primary and secondary text analysis
- Formulation and defense of a thesis
- Proper citation and bibliography (Chicago Style)
- More advanced library research skills
- Ability to write in coherent English prose with proper grammar and syntax

On completion of RELI 3520 course students should:

- Understand the vocabulary and be able to articulate the central concepts of the Hindu tradition in its formative period
- Be able to engage with primary religious texts and also perceive and evaluate the argument in secondary sources; see how later texts draw on earlier ones; understand something of the history of interpretation
- Be able to understand the influence of social, economic, and political developments in ancient India on the textual material
- Be familiar with the central reference resources, online resources, and scholarly journals in this field
- Have improved their skills in academic writing including development of a thesis and correct use of citations. (As noted, the Religion program follows the Chicago Manual of Style).

Texts and readings:

Students are required to purchase the following three titles in print in paperback:

- Patrick Olivelle, *Upaniṣads*. Oxford: OUP, 1998.
- Barbara Stoler Miller, trans. *The Bhagavad-Gita: Krishna's Counsel in Time of War*. New York: Bantam, 2004
- Wendy Doniger, *Hindu Myths: A Sourcebook Translated from the Sanskrit*. London: Penguin Classics, 2004

[These titles will be available at Octopus Books, 116 Third Ave., Ottawa – open Mon-Fri. 10-6; Sat. Sun. 10-5]

There will also be primary selections from the Law Code of Manu, the Yoga Sūtra, the Bhāgavata Purāṇa, and the Gītāgovinda made available as PDFs on ARES. Further secondary readings for each class are also posted as URLs or PDFs on the course Brightspace site or on ARES

Course Evaluation:

Participation/attendance: **20%**

I anticipate that we will be a relatively small class creating a situation that allows for collective learning through engagement and debate. This has been the model for traditional university education. Each student is expected to attend and will be called upon to respond to questions or to offer comments. Each class session will take attendance or will have a very short written exercise or reflection (or a quiz) on the day's

reading. These will be assessed as a measure of engagement. Note: This class meets only once a week for three hours over twelve weeks. To miss more than four classes is effectively to miss a third of the course and therefore forfeit credit for the semester.

Term research paper: **40%**

Paper proposal **due Oct. 17** 5%

Annotated bibliography **due Oct. 31** 10%

Detailed paper outline **due Nov. 14** 10%

Completed paper **due Dec. 5** 15%

All papers must comply with this stage process. No paper will be accepted without completing each of these components. More details on the paper, the above required stages for completion, and suggested topics will be provided on Brightspace. Late components are marked down one grade point per day.

In-class Test: **Monday, October 17** 15%

Final take-home exam: **25%**

In two parts: 1) short paragraph commentaries 2) two short essays

Due December 22

Note: Students must attend regularly, complete the paper (including its stages), the midterm test, and final take-home exam to obtain credit.

Key Resources in the Study of Hindu Tradition:

A Dictionary of Hinduism. W.J. Johnson. Oxford: OUP, 2009

<http://www.oxfordreference.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/view/10.1093/acref/9780198610250.01.0001/acref-9780198610250>

The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Hinduism, ed. Gavin Flood. Hoboken NJ: John Wiley and Sons, 2022

The Hindu World, ed. Sushil Mittal, Gene Thursby. New York and London: Routledge, 2004

The Oxford History of Hinduism: Hindu Practice, ed. Gavin Flood. Oxford: OUP, 2020

.....
The Indology website [a source for classical Indian texts used by professional scholars]

<http://indology.info/>

Philosophy in India podcast series co-authored by Prof. Jonardon Ganeri (U of T) and Prof. Peter Adamson (King's College London). Full of episodes on South Asian religious ideas.

<https://historyofphilosophy.net/series/classical-indian-philosophy>

Encyclopedia of Religion. Lindsay Jones, ed. 2nd edition. Detroit: Macmillan Reference, 2005
[The electronic version of the classic 15 volume encyclopedia of world religions. Also available in hardcopy in our library, **BL31 .E46 2005**]

http://go.galegroup.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/ps/infomark.do?type=aboutBook&docId=CX3424599999&tabID=T002&actionString=DO_DISPLAY_ABOUT_PAGE&version=1.0&source=library&userGroupName=ocul_carleton&prodId=GURL&authCount=1&u=ocul_carleton

Print:

A Concise Dictionary of Indian Philosophy: Sanskrit Terms Defined. Albany: SUNY Press, 1996
Floor 2 Reference **B 131.G67 1996**

A.L. Basham, *The Wonder that was India: A Survey of the History and Culture of the Indian Sub-continent Before the Coming of the Muslims*. N.Y.: Taplinger, 1967. [A classic survey, dated but still useful] **DS425.B33 1967**

The Encyclopedia of Eastern Philosophy and Religion. Boston: Shambhala, 1994.
BL 1005.L4813

On University Health Policy:

It is important to remember that COVID is still present in Ottawa. The situation can change at any time and the risks of new variants and outbreaks are very real. There are [a number of actions you can take](#) to lower your risk and the risk you pose to those around you including being vaccinated, wearing a mask, staying home when you're sick, washing your hands and maintaining proper respiratory and cough etiquette.

Feeling sick? Remaining vigilant and not attending work or school when sick or with symptoms is critically important. If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms do not come to class or campus. If you feel ill or exhibit symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately. In all situations, you must follow Carleton's [symptom reporting protocols](#).

Masks: Carleton has paused the [COVID-19 Mask Policy](#), but continues to strongly recommend masking when indoors, particularly if physical distancing cannot be maintained. It may become necessary to quickly reinstate the mask requirement if pandemic circumstances were to change.

Vaccines: Further, while proof of vaccination is no longer required as of May 1 to attend campus or in-person activity, it may become necessary for the University to bring back proof of vaccination requirements on short notice if the situation and public health advice changes. Students are strongly encouraged to get a full course of vaccination, including booster doses as soon as they are eligible, and submit their booster dose information in [cuScreen](#) as soon as possible. Please note that Carleton cannot guarantee that it will be able to offer virtual or hybrid learning options for those who are unable to attend the campus.

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow requirements and guidelines regarding health and safety which may change from time to time. For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and health and safety requirements please see the [University's COVID-19 website](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca.

Carleton Academic Accommodations Policy:

<https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline/>

Carleton Support Resources:

Health and well-being

<https://carleton.ca/covid19/students/mental-health-and-well-being/>

Centre for Student Academic Support

<https://carleton.ca/csas/>

Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>

Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>

Writing Services

<https://carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>

SCHEDULE

RELI 3520 Early Hinduism

Fall, 2022

Note: This schedule is deliberately tentative as I am prepared to adjust some of the course content on ascertaining student backgrounds, previous courses in South Asian religions, and particular student interests as determined in our first class session.

Mon. Sept. 12

Introduction to the course. The syllabus. Sources and resources

	The Indus Civilization
Mon. Sept. 19	The rise of Vedic culture. The Ṛg Veda.
Mon. Sept. 26	The Upaniṣads I
Mon. Oct. 3	The Upaniṣads II
Mon. Oct. 10	Thanksgiving Holiday, No class
Mon. Oct. 17	Epics. Rāmāyana Mahābhārata In-class Test
Mon. Oct. 24	BREAK WEEK
Mon. Oct. 31	Bhagavad Gītā chs. 1-10 [potential guest speaker]
Mon. Nov. 7	Bhagavad Gītā chs. 11 -18 Dharma Śāstra (The Law Code of Manu)
Mon. Nov. 14	Philosophical systems: Six <i>darśanas</i> Patañjali Yoga Sūtra
Mon. Nov. 21	Śiva in the Purāṇas
Mon. Nov. 28	Devī, the Devī Māhātmya
Mon. Dec. 5	Viṣṇu and his <i>avātara</i> Kṛṣṇa in Bhāgavata Purāṇa
Fri. Dec. 9	(Classes follow a Monday schedule.) Last class. Gītāgovinda and Review