

Introduction to South Asian Religions

RELI 1715A (Summer 2017)

Religion Program

College of the Humanities

Monday, Wednesday 6:05- 8:55 pm 202 Tory

Professor Noel Salmond

Paterson Hall 2A38

613 520 2600 ext. 8162

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Office Hours: Wed. 3:30 – 5:00 (or by appointment)

Course Description

This course is an introductory survey of the religious traditions originating in South Asia. These include Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism. We will survey their historical development and their major beliefs, practices, and social formations. Lectures are supplemented by slide and video material to convey some sense of the living reality of these traditions. We will also be able to consider very briefly other religions found in the Indian sub-continent today.

Learning Objectives

- To develop knowledge of the history and fundamental concepts, vocabulary and visual symbols of each religion and a knowledge of its central practices
- To acquire an introductory facility with the critical and historical study of religion
- To attain some familiarity with the cultural achievements (both literary and artistic) of South Asian civilization which are so often informed by religion or inseparable from it
- To be acquainted with insights and practices from these traditions that may or may not be applicable to personal life

Texts

Theodore M. Ludwig, *The Sacred Paths of the East*, 3rd edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2006.

Barbara Stoler Miller, trans. *The Bhagavad-Gita*. New York: Bantam, 2004.

These will both be available in new and used copies in the University Bookstore. Other short readings of primary sources will be posted to cuLearn.

Evaluation

Course Introduction quiz: 5% (conducted online through cuLearn and open *only* from Tue. July 11, 6:00 am until Wed. July 12, 5:00 pm based on first lecture and Ludwig, chs. 1 and 2.

In-class Test 1: 25% (Mon. July 24)

Participation based on attendance and by regular in-class assignments. There will typically be a very short assignment in each half of the evening class: 25%

In-class Test 2: 25% (Wed. Aug. 9)

Living Religion Exercise: 20% (to be uploaded to cuLearn by midnight, Wed. Aug. 16)

Note: Tests will be based on required texts *and* lecture material

The two in-class tests and written report are mandatory and *must be fulfilled to receive credit*

Living Religion Exercise

Write a report based on one (1) of the following experiments or site visits. Maximum three double-spaced pages. Detailed instructions will be provided for each exercise. Due by Wed. Aug. 16 on cuLearn. *No extensions without medical documentation.*

- Live 48 hours inspired by the ethical guidelines of the first two ‘limbs’ of the Yoga Sutra of Patanjali
- Live 48 hours following the ethical guidelines of the Five Precepts incumbent on all Buddhists. You may take on Eight Precepts – if you’re ambitious
- Live for 48 hours attempting to internalize the values of Mahatma Gandhi with a focus on the Jain-inspired focus on *ahimsa* or non-harming
- Attempts over three days to practice three brief periods (ten minutes is adequate) of sitting meditation or mindfulness
- An analysis of a Hindu temple in North America as presented in the temple website
- A site visit to a place of worship in the Ottawa area belonging to Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, or Jain practice

Weekly Schedule

These are three hour classes with a break in the middle. Typically, the break will precede the start of a new topic.

(Please note: with the exception of the test dates, this schedule is subject to revision)

Wed. July 5	Introduction to the course and to the academic study of religion. Introducing Hinduism READ Ludwig, ch. 1, ch. 2
Mon. July 10	Hinduism: Historical overview. Indus Valley to the Vedas. READ Ludwig, ch. 3
Wed. July 12	Hinduism: The Upanisads. The Bhagavad Gita READ Ludwig, ch. 4; Miller, trans., <i>The Bhagavad-Gita</i>
Mon. July 17	Hinduism: Myths of the deities. Hindu philosophy and practice. Yoga READ Ludwig, ch. 5; Miller, trans., <i>The Bhagavad-Gita</i>
Wed. July 19	Hinduism: The aims and stages of life The practice of pilgrimage Review READ Ludwig, ch. 5
Mon. July 24	In-class test on Hinduism Gandhi and modern India
Wed. July 26	Buddhism: History. The life of the Buddha READ Ludwig, ch. 6
Mon. July 31	Buddhism: Doctrines READ Ludwig, ch. 7
Wed. Aug. 2	Buddhism: Practice READ Ludwig, ch. 8
Mon. Aug. 7	Civic Holiday
Wed. Aug. 9	In-class test on Buddhism Sikhism READ Ludwig, ch. 10
Mon. Aug. 14	Jainism Minority religions in India READ Ludwig, ch. 9

Wed. Aug. 16 Religions of India in South Asia and the diaspora today
READ Ludwig, Epilogue, ch. 17
(Assignment due)

SELECTED RESOURCES

“Key Words in the *Bhagavad-Gita*” an appendix (pp. 155-162) in Barbara Stoler Miller, trans., *The Bhagavad-Gita: Krishna’s Counsel in Time of War*. New York: Bantam, 2004 [This edition required for the course]

A Concise Dictionary of Indian Philosophy: Sanskrit Terms Defined. Albany: SUNY Press, 1996 Floor 2 Reference **B131.G67 1996**

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>

A Dictionary of Buddhism. Damien Keown, Oxford: OUP, 2003. **BQ130.K46 2003** [In our library and available online through our library’s portal.]
<http://www.oxfordreference.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/view/10.1093/acref/9780198605607.01.0001/acref-9780198605607>

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

Encyclopedia of Religion. Lindsay Jones, ed. 2nd edition. Detroit: Macmillan Reference, 2005 [The electronic version of the classic 15 volume encyclopedia of 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=GVRL&authCount=1&u=ocul_carleton

The Indology website [a source for classical Indian texts]
<http://indology.info/>

Philosophy in India podcast series co-authored by Prof. Jonardon Ganeri (NYU) and Prof. Peter Adamson (King’s College London)
<https://historyofphilosophy.net/India>

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.

DATES AND DEADLINES

Last date to withdraw (financial): with a full fee adjustment
Early Summer: May 19, 2017, Full Summer May 19, 2017
Late Summer: July 24, 2017

Last date to withdraw (Academic):
Early Summer: June 13, 2017
Full/Late Summer: August 16, 2017 & any other courses that end this term.

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 Menton 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 **June 2, 2017** for the Early Summer & **July 24, 2018** for Late and Full Summer. For more details visit the Equity Services website: 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 a final assignment or take home, in courses without a final examination, 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 made in writing to the Registrar’s Office no later than **3 working days** of the original final exam or the due date of the take home 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 & Career Development Services 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-6632	4 th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 th Floor Library