

College of the Humanities
Religion Program: RELI 1715 A
South Asian Religions

Professor: Richard Mann

Office: Paterson Hall 300 (the FASS Dean's Office)

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:35-2:30PM, or by appointment

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Classroom: 342 Tory Building

Class time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:35-12:55

TA: TBA

TA Office Hours: TBA

TA e-mail: TBA

Course Description: This course is an introductory survey of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism as they are found and practiced in South Asia and Canada. The course takes an historical approach to each tradition as does it examine important texts, practices and contemporary themes from each tradition.

Course Objectives:

1. To become familiar with the academic study of religion at a secular university.
2. To gain an introductory knowledge of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism as historical religious traditions and as they are currently practiced.
3. To develop research and writing skills appropriate for a first year class in a faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
4. To gain an introduction to some of the traditions that are part of Canada's multicultural society, and the importance of developing a knowledge of the various aspects of Canadian society.

Required Texts:

World Religions: Eastern Traditions (Fourth Edition). Eds. Willard G. Oxtoby, Roy C. Amore and Amir Hussain. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2014. ISBN 978-0-19-900281-8 the text is available through the Carleton University bookstore. A series of readings will also be made available through the library's online system of reserve readings (ARES) and also posted to CULearn

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

1. In class test on Hinduism (20%) October 2
2. In class test on Buddhism (20%) October 18
3. In class test on Jainism (20%) November 15
4. Final exam (40%) to be scheduled by Carleton and written during the Fall term final exam period.

Please note that all of the tests and the exam are primarily composed of written answers both short answers (a few paragraphs) and longer answers (essays).

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 quizzes, 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.
3. While attendance will not be taken in the course, student attendance at lectures and student success on tests and exams are closely linked. You are far more likely to pass and do well in this course if you attend all the lectures and do all of the assigned readings.

Class Reading and Lecture Schedule:

Week One (Sept. 6)

Topics: Course Introduction and the Indus Valley and Hinduism

Readings: 1. From *World Religions: Eastern Traditions*, pgs. 28-32

Week Two (Sept. 11 & 13)

Topics: Hinduism – The Vedas and the Upanishads (Jan. 13&15)

Readings: 1. From *World Religions: Eastern Traditions*, pgs. 32-40

2. Rigveda 10.90 (posted to ARES)

3. Rigveda 10.129 (on page 36 of the *World Religions: Eastern Traditions* textbook)

4. Selections from the *Brihadaranyaka* and *Chandogya Upanishads* from *Upanishads*. Trans. Patrick Olivelle. New York: Oxford University, 1996, pages 34-36, 39-44 and 148-156 (posted to ARES)

Week Three (Sept. 25 & 27)

Topics: Classical Hinduism, and bhakti (devotional) Hinduism and Hindu worship and practice, modern Hinduism and Hinduism in Canada

Readings: 1. From *World Religions: Eastern Traditions*, pgs. 41-66

2. Selections from the *Bhagavad Gita* (ARES)

3. “The Songs of the Saints of Medieval Hinduism” in *Sources of Indian Tradition* (ARES) Volume 1. Eds. Wm. Theodore de Bary et al. New York : Columbia University Press, 1988, pages 348-361.

Week Four (Oct. 2 & 4) **Hinduism test in class Oct 2.**

Topics: for Oct 4 Buddhism – The life of the Buddha

Readings: 1. From *World Religions: Eastern Traditions*, pgs. 186-210

2. “The Buddha Biography Told by a Narrator” and “Buddha’s Intrinsic Nature” in *Readings In Eastern Religions*. 2nd ed. Eds. H. Coward, R. Neufeldt and E. K. Neumaier. Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2007, pages 139-151. (ARES)

Week Five (Oct 9 & Oct. 11)

Topics: Buddhism – Basic Teachings

Readings:

1. “The Four Noble Truths” in *Sources of Indian Tradition*. Volume 1. Eds. Wm. Theodore de Bary et al. New York : Columbia University Press, 1988, pages 98-99. (ARES)

2. “The Three Jewels” in *Buddhist Scriptures*. Ed. Donald S. Lopez, jr. London: Penguin, 2004, pages 101-104. (ARES)

Week Six (Oct. 16 & 18)

Topics: Buddhism – Basic Teachings (continued), Buddhism – Mahayana Buddhism

Readings: 1. From *World Religions: Eastern Traditions*, pgs. 217-222

2. “Wisdom and Compassion” in *Buddhist Scriptures*. Ed. Donald S. Lopez, jr. London: Penguin, 2004, pages 350-360. (ARES)

3. “The Heart Sutra” in *Buddhist Scriptures*. Ed. Edward Conze. London: Penguin, 1959, pages 162-164. (ARES)

Week Seven (Oct. 16 & 18) **Second in class test on the 18th**

Topics: Buddhist worship and practice, modern Buddhism, Buddhism in Canada

Readings: 1. From *World Religions: Eastern Traditions*, pgs. 241-248.

Week Eight (Oct. 20 & 22) **Reading week, no classes: spend it reading!!!**

Week Nine (Oct. 30 & Nov. 1)

Jainism – Jinas and Mahavira and Basic Teachings

Readings: 1. From *World Religions: Eastern Traditions*, pgs. 148-162

2. “The Kalpa Sutra, The Life of Mahavira” (web-link posted to CUlearn)

3. Selections from Jain texts taken from *Sources of Indian Tradition*. Volume 1. Eds. Wm. Theodore de Bary et al. New York : Columbia University Press, 1988, pages 53-63. (ARES)

Week Ten (Nov. 6 & 8)

Topics: Jainism – Basic Teachings continued; Digambara and Svetambara Jainism; monastics (monks and nuns) and lay people (men and women)

Readings: 1. From *World Religions: Eastern Traditions*, pgs. 162-178

2. “Jain Stories Inspiring Renunciation” by Phyllis Granoff in *Religions of Asia in Practice*. Ed.

Donald S. Lopez, Jr. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002, pages 88-93. (ARES)

3. Selections from Jain texts from *Anthology of World Scriptures: Eastern Religions*. Ed. Robert E. Van Voorst. Belmont: Wadsworth, 2007, pages 138-141. (ARES)

Week Eleven (Nov. 13 & 15) November 15, third in class test (Jainism)

Topics: Sikhism – Guru Nanak, the gurus and Basic teachings

Readings: 1. From *World Religions: Eastern Traditions*, pgs. 106-117

2. “The Life of Guru Nanak” by Hew McLeod in *Religions of India in Practice*. Ed. Donald S. Lopez,

Jr. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995, pages 449-461. (ARES)

3. Selections from the *Adi Granth* taken from *Textual Sources for the Study of Sikhism*. Trans. and

ed. W. H. McLeod. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1984, pages 38-53. (ARES)

Week Twelve (Nov. 20 & 22)

Topics: Sikhism – Guru Nanak, the gurus and Basic teachings continued

Readings: 1. From *World Religions: Eastern Traditions*, pgs. 117-126

2. “The Life of Guru Nanak” by Hew McLeod in *Religions of India in Practice*. Ed. Donald S. Lopez,

Jr. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995, pages 449-461. (ARES)

3. Selections from the *Adi Granth* taken from *Textual Sources for the Study of Sikhism*. Trans. and

ed. W. H. McLeod. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1984, pages 38-53. (ARES)

Week Thirteen (Nov. 27 & 29)

Topics: Sikhism – Sikh worship, practice and sects

Readings: 1. From *World Religions: Eastern Traditions*, pgs. 126-132

2. “Sikh Rahit Maryada” in *Textual Sources for the Study of Sikhism*. Trans. and ed. W. H. McLeod.

Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1984, pages 79-85. (ARES)

Week Fourteen (Dec. 4 & 6)

Topics: Sikhism – the modern tradition and Sikhism in Canada, exam review

Readings: 1. From *World Religions: Eastern Traditions*, pgs.



University Regulations for 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.

Academic Integrity at Carleton

Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of others as one's own. Plagiarism includes 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. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, and material on the internet. More information can be found [here](#).

Academic Accommodation Policy

Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to the instructor 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. For more details see the [Student Guide](#)

Religious obligation: write to the instructor 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. For more details see the [Student Guide](#)

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).

Grading System at Carleton University

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion is below. Grade points indicated are for courses with 1.0 credit value. Where the course credit is greater or less than one credit, the grade points are adjusted proportionately.

[Grading System](#)

Course Sharing Websites and Copyright

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

Statement on Class Conduct

The Carleton University Human Rights Policies and Procedures affirm that all members of the University community share a responsibility to:

- promote equity and fairness,
- respect and value diversity,
- prevent discrimination and harassment, and preserve the freedom of its members to carry out responsibly their scholarly work without threat of interference.

Deferred Term Work

In some situations, students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work.

Students who claim illness, injury or other extraordinary circumstances beyond their control as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor and **in all cases this must occur no later than three (3.0) working days after the term work was due.**

The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of term. More information is available [in the calendar](#).

Deferred Final Exams

Students who are unable to write a final examination because of a serious illness/emergency or other circumstances beyond their control may apply for accommodation. Normally, the accommodation for a missed final examination will be granting the student the opportunity to write a deferred examination. In specific cases when it is not possible to offer a deferred examination, and with the approval of the Dean, an alternate accommodation may be made. [More information.](#)

The application for a [deferral](#) must:

1. be made in writing or online to the Registrar's Office no later than **three working days** after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination; and,
2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation and, in cases of illness, by a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination, or by appropriate documents in other cases. Medical documents must specify the date of the onset of the illness, the (expected) date of recovery, and the extent to which the student was/is incapacitated during the time of the examination. The University's preferred medical form can be found at the Registrar's Office [forms and fees page](#).

Any questions related to deferring a Final Exam or Final Assignment/Take Home Examination should be directed to the [Registrar's Office](#).

Withdrawal From Courses

Withdrawn. No academic credit, no impact on the CGPA. WDN is a permanent notation that appears on the official transcript for students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term (noted in the Academic Year section of the Calendar each term). Students may withdraw on or before the last day of classes.

Important dates can be found [here](#):

Financial vs. Academic Withdrawal

Make sure that you are aware of the separate deadlines for Financial and Academic withdrawal!

Making registration decisions in Carleton Central involves making a financial and academic commitment for the courses you choose, regardless of attendance. If you do not attend – you must withdraw in Carleton Central within the published deadlines to cancel your registration. [More information](#)

Department Contact Information

College of the Humanities 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca

Drop box for CLCV, HUMS LATN GREK Term Papers and assignments is outside 300 P.A.

Greek and Roman Studies 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca

Drop Box is outside of 300 P.A.

Religion 2A39 Paterson Hall (613)520-2100

Religion@cunet.carleton.ca

Drop box for RELI Term Papers and assignments is outside of 2A39 P.A.

Registrar's Office 300 Tory (613)520-3500

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

Student Resources on Campus

[CUKnowHow Website](#)

[Academics: From registration to graduation, the tools for your success.](#)