

**The College of the Humanities
Religion Program: RELI 1715 A; Fall Term (201730)
“South Asian Religions” (34695)**

Instructor: Dr. Richard MacPhail
Office: 310A Paterson Hall
Office Hours: Wed. 3:00-3:45 PM; Thur. 12:00-12:45 PM
Class Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 1:05-2:25 PM
Class Location: 3275 Mackenzie Building (ME)
Email: richard.macphail@carleton.ca
TA: Sharon Angnakak

Email policy: We attempt to respond to emails within 24 hours, except on weekends. Please see “Communicating with the Instructor” below.

When emailing me, please state which course you are taking, as I am teaching two courses this session.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course surveys major teachings and social aspects of the religious traditions of South Asia from earliest historical times to the present day through lectures and audio-visual materials. As this is an introductory course, some time must be dedicated to what it means to study religion in general before beginning the study of particular traditions. Religion 1715 thus begins with an overview of the study of religion as a discipline.

Lectures and class discussions treat historical development, basic beliefs, and social and cultural practices of major South Asian traditions, including Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism and Sikhism. Multimedia resources provide some impressions of the geographic, demographic, aesthetic and ritual dimensions of the Indic traditions.

Please Be Aware that, like other technical subjects, the study of Indic religions requires the learning and use of a range of technical terms since English language in common use does not adequately represent the meanings expressed in the original languages. Non-English terms used in this course are primarily Sanskrit terms in Roman transliteration. Some Pali and Tibetan language terms may also be used. **Please consider this linguistic requirement when registering in this course, should you object to it.**

TEACHING AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course is designed so that you will:

- 1) develop an understanding of the **methods and perspectives** proper to the academic study of religion;
- 2) develop an **informed appreciation** for the beliefs, values and practices of people practising the various Asian religions;
- 3) improve your ability to **analyze and interpret** culturally unfamiliar materials;
- 4) become more aware of your own **cultural and personal assumptions, beliefs, and biases**;
- 5) develop skills to **think critically** about your own and others' world-views;
- 6) develop an appreciation for writing as a way both to clarify for yourself the content of the course and to **communicate your understanding** to others.

COMMUNICATING WITH THE INSTRUCTOR

Carleton University policy requires faculty to communicate with students through the **Carleton email system**. I will not respond to students' emails sent through other means such as gmail, hotmail, etc. As a courtesy, I may respond (once) to such non-Carleton emails directing you to find my substantive response at your Carleton account. Expect a 24-hour turn-around on emails; I will respond as soon as possible.

I am not available by telephone or voice mail. Please take advantage of my office hours, as the times posted above are the only times when I have regular access to office facilities at the university.

USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Your focus during our weekly three hours together should be on what is happening in the session. You may use laptop/tablet computers for recording your notes. However, no audio or video recording may be done in class without a Letter of Accommodation from the Paul Menton Centre specifying such a need. **All electronic devices** which may disturb me or other students **must be silent**.

The cuLearn course web page and all its resources may be accessed through your computer, tablet or smart phone.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Victoria Urubshurow, *Introducing World Religions: The eBook*. ISBN: 978-0-980-1633-0-8. It is available for purchase online as a PDF file for US\$ 35.95 at: <http://worldreligionsebooks.com/eBooks/worldReligions/>

A current version of a PDF reader is required, such as Adobe Acrobat Reader.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You must complete all four graded components to receive credit for the course. Do not plan to travel on examination dates.

Discussion Question Forums (20%): See the Lecture and Assignment Schedule below for due dates.

Five brief written assignments (100-150 words—4% each), submitted through forums in cuLearn, meant to explore general themes in religion. These are designed to allow you to both explore and express your ideas freely and to assess your communication skills by engaging in asynchronous conversations with other students through threaded discussions.

Midterm Test (25%): Thursday, October 19

In-class, 60 minutes. Scantron (multiple choice and true/false), covering the topics on early Hindu, Jain and early Buddhist traditions, up to Topic 12. It will assess your familiarity with both terminology and substantive material.

Research Essay (30%): Due Thursday, November 9. at Noon

Approximately 1500 words, submitted electronically through cuLearn. Paper copies are not required. The Chicago style guide is required in the Religion program, and instructions for its proper use will be provided.

In order for me to return your assignment to you with my comments, you must submit your Research Essay electronically through cuLearn in an **editable format**, such as .doc or .docx. Essays in non-editable formats such as .pdf will **NOT** be accepted.

You can learn about Chicago Style at this link:

http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

Comprehensive instructions and a sample essay modeling correct formatting and a list of suggested topics will be provided through cuLearn. If you have some other topic you would like to write on, contact the instructor first for approval. I will be glad to comment on your written research abstract or outline, if you send it me by email attachment by Thursday, November 2, one week before the due date.

Your grade will be adjusted downward for failure to comply with the prescribed Chicago style, and for deficiencies in spelling, and grammar. Late Research Essays will be accepted, but your grade will be reduced by one grade level for each day late (for example, A- to B+).

***** Take note that I do not hesitate to implement the University's regulations on Plagiarism. *****

For clarification of what constitutes plagiarism, please see:

<http://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/>

Final Exam (25%): Scheduled by Scheduling and Exam Services between December 10-22.

Two hours, Scantron (multiple choice and true/false), covering the topics on later Hindu and Buddhist traditions, Sikhism, plus the introductory and closing sections on “Religion as an Academic Discipline”.

Criteria for writing and standards for grading of the Research Essay will be provided through cuLearn. The Midterm Test and Final Exam will be based on textbook readings, lecture materials, and in-class discussions.

Participation is important and requires consistent, regular attendance, responding to and asking questions, offering comments, and use of cuLearn resources. When grading, I like to give students the “benefit of any doubt”, which will be erased if you do not attend classes.

LECTURE AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE:

This schedule may vary according to class comprehension and pace.

Each reading and media segment is intended to prepare you for the lecture and should be read, heard or viewed in advance of it. For this reason, I have posted these resources to the previous session below, and on cuLearn.

Be sure to check cuLearn for updates to assignments and links to resources for subsequent sessions.

Please prepare two or three questions from each reading for possible discussion in class. Engagement with other students and the instructor is an important part of your learning and is strongly encouraged.

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Session 1 - September 7 - Thursday

Welcome. Outline of the Course. What to expect.

Topic 1 - Religion as an Academic Discipline.

Discussion Question 1(a). Post your response to the Question with a new thread by noon on Tuesday, September 12.

Reading for Next Class on Tuesday, September 12:

Introducing World Religions (IWR), Chapter 1 - “Approaching Religious Traditions”, pp. 1-30.

Session 2 - September 12 - Tuesday

Topic 2 - Religion as an Academic Discipline, continued.

Due Today, at Noon - Discussion Question 1(a).

Discussion Question 1(b). Post your response to at least one other student's thread by noon on Thursday, September 14.

Discussion Question 2(a). Post your response to the Question with a new thread by noon on Thursday, September 14.

Reading for Next Class:

IWR, Ch. 10, p. 357 (On Indus Valley Civilization; Indo-Aryan links to Iran and Zoroastrianism).

Selections on Indus Valley Civilization (**on cuLearn**).

Session 3 - September 14 - Thursday

Topic 3 - South Asian Prehistory; Indus Valley-Saraswati Civilization.

Due Today, at Noon - Discussion Questions 1(b) & 2(a).

Discussion Question 2(b). Post your response to at least one other student's thread by noon on Tuesday, September 19.

Discussion Question 3(a). Post your response to the Question with a new thread by noon on Tuesday, September 19.

Reading for Next Class:

IWR, Ch. 10 - "Key Points" & "Glossary", pages 403-404.

IWR, Ch. 10 - "Timeline", "Brahman", pages 356-358.

IWR, Ch. 10 - "Who were the Āryans and Harappāns?", pages 359-360.

IWR, Ch. 10 - "Foundational Texture", "The Ṛg Veda", "The meaning of 'cow' and 'horse'", pages 384-385.

IWR, Ch. 10 - "Exceptional Players - Ṛṣis, Priests & Renunciates", pages 366-369.

Session 4 - September 19 - Tuesday

Topic 4 - Hinduism: Aryan Advent, Vedic Literature.

Due Today, at Noon - Discussion Questions 2(b) & 3(a).

Discussion Question 3(b). Post your response to at least one other student's thread by noon on Thursday, September 21.

Discussion Question 4(a). Post your response to the Question with a new thread by noon on Thursday, September 21.

Reading for Next Class:

IWR, Ch. 10 - "The Upaniṣads", page 386.

Additional resources to be assigned.

Session 5 - September 21 - Thursday

Topic 5 - Hinduism: Upaniṣad-s.

Due Today, at Noon - Discussion Questions 3(b) & 4(a).

Discussion Question 4(b). Post your response to at least one other student's thread by noon on Tuesday, September 26.

Reading for Next Class:

IWR, Chapter 8 - "Jain Tradition", pages 273-298.

Additional resources to be assigned.

Session 6 - September 26 - Tuesday

Topic 6 - Jainism: Introduction to *Jaina Darśana*.

Due Today, at Noon - Discussion Question 4(b).

Reading for Next Class:

IWR, Chapter 9 - "Key Points", pages 352-353.

IWR, Chapter - "Timeline", pages 300-301.

IWR, Chapter 9 - "Gautama Buddha (563-483 BCE)", pages 305-315.

IWR, Chapter 9 - "Universal *dharma* and *buddha-dharma*", page 302.

Session 7 - September 28 - Thursday

Topic 7 - Buddhism: Approach to *Bauddha Dharma*; Buddhism: Sacred Biography of the Buddha.

Reading for Next Class:

IWR, Chapter 9 - "Supreme *buddhas*", "Arhats" & "Bodhisattvas", pages 304-305.

IWR, Chapter 9 - "Foundational Texture" "Vinaya: Buddhist training for monks and nuns" "", pages 332-335.

IWR, Chapter 9 - "Gautama's Discourses: The poisoned arrow"
"Abhidharma: karma and its fruits" "The Four Noble Truths" "The Noble Eightfold Path", pages 335-339.

IWR, Chapter 9 - "Mahāyāna sūtra literature", pages 339-341.

IWR, Chapter 9 - "Nikāya commentary" "Songs of the early Buddhist nuns", pages 341-345.

IWR, Chapter 9 - "Nikāya Buddhist *satipaṭṭhāna* meditation", pages 345-349.

Session 8 - October 3 - Tuesday

Topic 8 - Buddhism: History and Sects - *Theravāda*, *Mahāyāna*.

Discussion Question 5(a). Post your response to the Question with a new thread by noon on Thursday, October 5.

Discussion Question 5(b). Post your response to at least one other student's thread by noon on Thursday, October 10.

Reading for Next Class:

IWR, Ch. 10 - "The *Rāmāyaṇa*", pages 388-389.

IWR, Ch. 10 - "Sacred story: The Holy Lake of the Acts of Rāma", pages 397-398.

Session 9 - October 5 - Thursday

Topic 9 - Hinduism: *Itihāsa-s* - *Rāmāyaṇa*.

Due Today, at Noon - Discussion Question 5(a).


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**Session 14 - October 31 - Tuesday**

Topic 13 - Hinduism: *Darśana-s, Purāṇa-s, Bhakti, Tantra.*

Reading for Next Class:

*IWR*, Chapter 9 - "Imaginal Players", pages 302-304.

Additional resources to be assigned.

**Session 15 - November 2 - Thursday**

***Reminder: Research Paper (30%) Due Thursday, November 9***

***Last date to receive abstracts or outlines for instructor's comments.***

Topic 14 - Buddhism: Schools - *Trikāya, Mādyamika, Yogacāra, Vajrayāna.*

Reading for Next Class:

Download Topic 15 from cuLearn.

**Session 16 - November 7 - Tuesday**

Topic 15 - Buddhism: Doctrines 1 - Four Noble Truths; Noble Eight-fold Path; Twelve *Nidāna-s*; Five *Skandha-s*.

Reading for Next Class:

Download Topic 16 from cuLearn.

**Session 17 - November 9 - Thursday**

***Research Paper Due Today at Noon (30%)***

Topic 16 - Buddhism: Doctrines 2 - *Śūnyatā*; Nature of perception.

Reading for Next Class:

*IWR*, Chapter 9 - Review "Rules for the monks" "Eight special rules for nuns", pages 332-334.

Additional resources to be assigned.

**Session 18 - November 14 - Tuesday**

Topic 17 - Buddhism: Monastic and Social Practices.

Reading for Next Class:

*IWR*, Ch. 9 - "Padmasambhava (eighth century CE)" "Milarepa (1052-1135)" "", pages 324-325.

*IWR*, Ch. 9 - "Tenzin Gyatso: A *Dalai Lama* (b. 1935)", pages 330-331.

*IWR*, Ch. 9 - "OM MAṆI PADME HŪM.", page 340.

**Session 19 - November 16 - Thursday**

Topic 18 - *Tantra* and Buddhism in Tibet.

Reading for Next Class:

*IWR*, Ch. 10 - "Modern Hindu social activists", pages 380-382.

Additional resources to be assigned.



**Session 20 - November 21 - Tuesday**

Topic 19 - Impact of Islam & Europe in South and South-East Asia.

Reading for Next Class:

*IWR*, Chapter 11 - "Sikh Tradition", pp. 407-432.

**Session 21 - November 23 - Thursday**

Topic 20 - Sikhism: Introduction to *Sikkhi*.

Reading for Next Class:

*IWR*, Chapter 11 - "Sikh Tradition", pp. 432-445.

**Session 22 - November 28 - Tuesday**

Topic 21 - Sikhism: Modern Developments.

Reading for Next Class:

*IWR*, Chapter 10 - "Modern Hindu Social Activists", pages 380-382.

Additional resources to be assigned.

**Session 23 - November 30 - Thursday**

Topic 22 - Topic 23 - Indigeneity and Exclusion. Hindu Reformers.

Reading for Next Class:

Additional resources to be assigned.

**Session 24 - December 5 - Tuesday**

Topic 24 - *Hindutva* and Militant Buddhism.

**Session 25 - December 7 - Thursday**

Wrap-up and Review. .

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**NOTES ON EVALUATION:**

There are no grade-raising exams or alternative assignments in this course.

If you miss an assignment due date unavoidably, you must provide adequate written documentation (e.g. a doctor's note, an obituary) for your incapacity.

Alternative tests will not normally be offered and a timely resolution will have to be negotiated with the instructor to meet the criteria of good standing should a student wish to be eligible to write a deferred final exam.

**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 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. For more details see the Student Guide.*

*Religious obligation: 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. For more details see the Student Guide*

*Teaching Regulations 2017-18 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](mailto: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).*

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## University Regulations for All Humanities Courses

### Copies of Written Work Submitted

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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

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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 on <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/#AIatCU>.

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## Grading System at Carleton University

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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 Chart](#)

## Course Sharing Websites and Copyright

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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

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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

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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 Exams

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Students who do not write/attend a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control may apply to write a deferred examination.

1. be made in writing 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](#).

The granting of a deferral also requires that the student has performed satisfactorily in the course according to the evaluation scheme established in the Course Outline, excluding the final examination for which deferral privileges are requested. Reasons for denial of a deferral may include, among other conditions, a failure to (i) achieve a minimum score in the course before the final examination; (ii) attend a minimum number of classes; (iii) successfully complete a specific task (e.g. term paper, critical report, group project, computer or other assignment); (iv) complete laboratory work; (v) successfully complete one or more midterms; or (vi) meet other reasonable conditions of successful performance.

More information can be found [in the calendar](#).

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

## Withdrawal From Courses

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Withdrawn. No academic credit, no impact on the CGPA.

**NEW FALL 2017:** WDN is a permanent notation that appears on the official transcript for students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term. Students may withdraw on or before the last day of classes.

**Dates can be found here:** <http://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/>

## Department Contact Information

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

[CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto: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](mailto:GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca)

Drop Box is outside of 300 P.A.

**Religion** 2A39 Paterson Hall (613)520-2100

[Religion@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto: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

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[CUKnowHow Website](#)