

The College of the Humanities
Religion Program: RELI 1715B; Winter 2017
“South Asian Religions” (14542)

Instructor: Dr. Richard MacPhail
Office: PA 2A35 (Paterson Hall)
Office Hours: M 10:00-11:00 AM; F 3:00-4:00 PM
Class Hours: MW 8:35 to 9:55 am
Class Location: C164 Loeb
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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 three courses this winter.

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, as well as the impact of Buddhism beyond South Asia. 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 language terms may also be used. Please consider this when registering in this course, should you object to this requirement.

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, smart phones, 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. 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%):

Five brief written assignments, submitted through forums in cuLearn, meant to explore general themes in religion. They 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 (20%): February 15 - Wednesday

In-class, 40 minutes. Scantron (multiple choice and true/false), covering the topics on early Hindu, Jain and early Buddhist traditions. It will assess your familiarity with both terminology and substantive material.

Research Assignment (30%): Due March 13 - Monday

Approximately 1500 words, submitted through cuLearn. Paper copies will not be required. The Chicago style guide is preferred in the Religion program, but I will also accept the APA style. 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, so long as you send it me by email attachment at least two weeks before the due date.

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

Late Research Assignments will be accepted, but your grade will be reduced by one grade level for each day late (for example, A- to B+).

Final Exam (30%): Scheduled by Scheduling and Exam Services between April 12-25.

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 Assignment will be provided through cuLearn. Deficiencies in spelling, grammar and presentation will all affect your grade. 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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January 9 - Monday

Welcome. Outline of the Course. What to expect.

Topic 1 - Religion as an Academic Discipline.

Reading for Next Class on Wednesday, January 11:

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

Discussion Question 1(a). Post your response to the Question with a new thread before Monday, January 16.

January 11 - Wednesday

Topic 2 - Religion as an Academic Discipline, continued.

Reading for Next Class:

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

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

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January 16 - Monday

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

Reading for Next Class:

IWR, Chapter 10 - “Key Points” & “Glossary”, pages 403-404.

IWR, Chapter 10 - “Timeline”, “*Brahman*”, pages 356-358.

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

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

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

Discussion Question 1(b). Post your response to at least one other student's thread before Monday, January 23.

January 18 - Wednesday

Topic 4 - Hinduism: Aryan Advent, Vedic Literature.

Reading for Next Class:

IWR, Chapter 10 - "The *Upaniṣads*", page 386.

Additional resources to be assigned (on cuLearn).

Discussion Question 2(a). Post your response to the Question with a new thread before Monday, January 23.

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January 23 - Monday

Topic 5 - Hinduism: *Upaniṣad*-s.

Reading for Next Class:

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

Additional resources to be assigned (on cuLearn).

Discussion Question 2(b). Post your response to at least one other student's thread before Monday, January 30.

January 25 - Wednesday

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

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.

Discussion Question 3(a). Post your response to the Question with a new thread before Monday, January 30.

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January 30 - Monday

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.

Discussion Question 3(b). Post your response to at least one other student's thread before Monday, February 6.

February 1 - Wednesday

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

Reading for Next Class:

IWR, Chapter 10 - "The Rāmāyaṇa", pages 388-389.

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

Discussion Question 4(a). Post your response to the Question with a new thread before Monday, February 6.

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February 6 - Monday

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

Reading for Next Class:

Resources to be assigned (on cuLearn).

Discussion Question 4(b). Post your response to at least one other student's thread before Monday, February 13.

February 8 - Wednesday

Reminder: Midterm Exam (20%) Monday, February 15

Topic 10 - Hinduism: *Itihāsa-s* - *Mahābhārata*

Reading for Next Class:

IWR, Chapter 10 - "The *Bhagavad Gītā* in the *Mahābhārata*", pages 387-388.

Additional resources to be assigned (on cuLearn).

Discussion Question 5(a). Post your response to the Question with a new thread before Monday, February 13.

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February 13 - Monday

Topic 11 - Hinduism: *Bhagavad Gītā*.

Reading for Next Class:

IWR, Chapter 10 - *Mārga, Saṃskāra, Varṇa*: “‘Making Perfect’ This Life”, pages 402-403.

IWR, Chapter 10 - “The *varṇa-āśrama-dharma*”, pages 369-370.

Discussion Question 5(b). Post your response to at least one other student's thread before Monday, February 27.

February 15 - Wednesday

***** MIDTERM EXAM - Early Hinduism, early Buddhism, & Jainism *****

Topic 12 - Hinduism: *Dharma Śāstra*-s; *Varṇa-āśrama-dharma*

Reading for February 27 Class:

IWR, Chapter 10 - *Darśana*: “Historical Players”, pages 371-376.

IWR, Chapter 10 - *Darśana*: “Patañjali’s *Yoga Sūtras*”, pages 390-394.

IWR, Chapter 10 - “The *Purāṇas*”, page 389.

IWR, Chapter 10 - “Imaginal Players”, pages 361-365.

IWR, Chapter 10 - *Bhakti*: “*Bhaktas*”, page 371.

IWR, Chapter 10 - *Bhakti*: “The new Hindu saints”, pages 377-379.

IWR, Chapter 10 - *Bhakti*: “Poems of a *Śākta* bard”, pages 394-395.

IWR, Chapter 10 - *Bhakti*: “Encountering the Divine Through ‘Pilgrimage’”, “Sacred land: *Bharat Mātā*”, “Sacred body: the inner landscape”, pages 396-397.

IWR, Chapter 10 - *Bhakti*: “Sacred emotions: *bhāvas* and the *rasa* of spiritual love”, pages 398-402.

IWR, Chapter 10 - *Bhakti*: “Modern Hindu *gurūs*”, pages 382-384.

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***** February 19 to 25 - READING WEEK *****

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February 27 - Monday

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

Reading for Next Class:

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

Additional resources to be assigned (on cuLearn).

Feb. 27 Last date to receive abstracts or outlines of Research Paper for instructor's comments.

March 1 - Wednesday

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

Reading for Next Class:

Download Topic 15 from cuLearn.

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March 6 - Monday

Reminder: Research Paper (30%) Due Mar. 13

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.

***** Please complete the online Midterm Instructor Evaluation *****

March 8 - Wednesday

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 (on cuLearn).

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March 13 - Monday

Research Paper Due Today (30%)

Topic 17 - Buddhism: Monastic and Social Practices.

Reading for Next Class:

IWR, Chapter 9 - "Aśoka Maurya (third century BCE)" "Bodhidharma (fifth or sixth century CE)" "Hui-neng (638-713 CE)", pages 315-317.

IWR, Chapter 9 - "Crossing the Silk Routes: China meets India", pages 317-321.

IWR, Chapter 9 - "Tantric adepts" "Kūkai (774-835)", pages 322-324.

IWR, Chapter 9 - "Thirteenth century Japanese reformers" "Eisai (1141-1215)" "Dōgen (1200-1253)" "Hōnen (1133-1212)" "Nichiren (1222-1282)" "Shinran (1173-1262)", pages 326-330.

IWR, Chapter - "Zen *kōān* meditation" "Pure Land meditation: Visualizing Amitābha", pages 349-352.

March 15 - Wednesday

Topic 18 - Buddhism in East Asia.

Buddhism in China: The "Three Traditions" - Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist. [China: Kongzi and Confucianism.]

Buddhism in Japan: Historical Context; Shinto; Arrival of Buddhism. / The *Kāmi*; Buddhist Pure Land, Zen; Religious Leaders, New Movements. / *Bushidō*; Ritual and Society.

Reading for Next Class:

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

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

IWR, Chapter 9 - "OM MANI PADME HŪM.", page 340.

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March 20 - Monday

Topic 19 - *Tantra* and Buddhism in Tibet.

Reading for Next Class:

IWR, Chapter - "Modern Hindu social activists", pages 380-382.

Additional resources to be assigned. (on cuLearn)

March 22 - Wednesday

Topic 20 - Impact of Islam & Europe in South and South-East Asia.

Reading for Next Class:

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

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March 27 - Monday

Topic 21 - Sikhism: Introduction to *Sikhi*.

Reading for Next Class:

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

March 29 - Wednesday

Topic 22 - Sikhism: Modern Developments.

Reading for Next Class:

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

Additional resources to be assigned. (on cuLearn)

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April 3 - Monday

Topic 23 - Indigeneity and Exclusion. Hindu Reformers.

Reading for Next Class:

Additional resources to be assigned. (on cuLearn)

April 5 - Wednesday

Topic 24 - *Hindutva* and Militant Buddhism.

Wrap-up and Review.

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.

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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. 9, 2016**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 7, 2017**.

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 **Nov. 11, 2016** for the Fall term and **March 10, 2017** for the Winter term. 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 submitted within **3 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 & 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