

The College of the Humanities: Religion Program  
*Hinduism (RELI 2510A)*

Instructor: Christopher Jensen

Office: 2A54 Paterson Hall

Office Hours: W 11:00-12:00 (or by appointment)

Email:<sup>1</sup> christopher.jensen@carleton.ca

Class Schedule: TR 13:05 - 14:25

Classroom: Mackenzie Building 3328

### Course Description

In this course, we will explore the processes of cultural continuity and change that have shaped the diverse and complex religion known as Hinduism. In the first half of the course, we will explore these issues diachronically, charting out key historical developments from the Vedic period to the present day, basing our survey on archaeological, scriptural, mythical, and ritual materials. In the second half of the course, we will refine our understanding of these traditions by exploring a variety of topics and issues thematically, based on the academic interests of the members of our class.

Course Catalogue description: Basic beliefs, practices, and social structures of the Hindu tradition as reflected in Hindu scriptures, myths and symbols, and philosophical schools.

### Learning Objectives

Throughout this course, you will:

- Refine your understanding of Hinduism through an exploration of a variety of primary and secondary sources;
- Learn key terminology;
- Read primary texts in translation;
- Interpret religious rituals and iconography;
- Engage critically with your own learning process.
- Develop interpretive skills;
- Practice engaging in group discussions.

### Textbook

- Hillary Rodrigues, *Introducing Hinduism (Second Edition)*, © 2016, Journal of Buddhist Ethics Online Books, Ltd. [ISBN 978-0-692-76304-9 (ebook)]. The textbook may be purchased online for US\$25.95 (link will be provided on cuLearn).
- All other readings will be posted on Ares.

### Evaluation

*Student performance in the course will be evaluated as follows:*

- Class Passport (20% cumulative)
  - Each class, you will submit a short (3-4 line) summary of that day's assigned reading, including two discussion questions, based on issues you found challenging, unclear, or that otherwise piqued your curiosity. These questions will be used to foster class discussion.

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<sup>1</sup> As per Carleton University policy, all communication between students and professors should be conducted via our Carleton email accounts.

These assignments will be graded on a pass/fail basis, and will be used to monitor your attendance and gauge your participation in the course. You **must** save copies of these documents, as you will be using them as part of your final reflection project.

- Midterm (20%) (March 1<sup>st</sup>)
  - The midterm will assess your comprehension of course readings and concepts via true or false, multiple choice, and matching questions. You will also be required to define key terms and to interpret one example (e.g., a text / ritual / image) that you will not have encountered in class, using the skills you have been refining over the course of the semester.
- Final Reflection Project (25%) (April 10<sup>th</sup>)
  - In this project, you will be asked to reflect on your course readings and class discussions, as well as your reading responses and inquiry questions, to assess your own learning. In so doing, you will respond to such questions as: If you had to explain Hinduism to an extraterrestrial visitor, using only *\*one\** of the case studies we addressed in our class, which would you choose and why? What would you hope they could learn from this one example? When reflecting back on the types of questions you asked in your semester of “Class Passports,” do you see any patterns? How do these patterns reflect your learning process or goals? What is a research question related to Hinduism that you would be interested in exploring, based on what you have learned in this class? How would you begin to look into this question?
  - This project will be submitted via cuLearn.
  - The grading rubric will be posted online a minimum of two weeks prior to the due date.
- Final Exam (35%) (Date TBA)
  - The final exam will follow the same general format as the midterm, save that you will analyze **two** examples.

## Tentative Schedule

As mentioned above, I am adopting a student-directed approach in instructing this class. As such, we will be developing the second half of our syllabus collaboratively, based on interests that have emerged during the first half. Some possible topics might include: funeral practices, gender roles, pilgrimage, religious artwork and iconography, the ritual calendar.

- Week 1
  - Course overview and policies. Defining “Hinduism.”
    - READING: Rodrigues, “Introduction”
- Week 2
  - Prehistory and Vedic Religion
    - READING: Rodrigues, “Vedic Religion and the Sanskrit Language”
- Week 3
  - The Birth of Renunciation (The Upanishadic Period)
    - READING: Rodrigues, “Karma, Time and Cosmology”
- Week 4
  - The Ritualized Life
    - READING: Rodrigues, “Hindu Social Organization and Values” + “Dharma and the Individual”

- Week 5
  - Devotional Religion
    - READING: Rodrigues, “The Epics” + “Major Hindu Sects”
- Week 6
  - Hinduism in Practice
    - READING: Rodrigues, “The Hindu Temple and Worship Rituals”
  - Collaborative Exercise: Syllabus Development
- Weeks 7-13 (Thematic Analysis)
  - Readings TBA

### (Collaboratively Designed) Course Policies

Note: We will discuss these policies in our first class meeting. I will then post a revised version of the syllabus to cuLearn.

- As your instructor, I will respond to emails within \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Given that our class is predicated on discussion and the free exchange of ideas, we must endeavour to create a respectful, critical classroom. We will encourage this sort of discussion by: \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Our policy on using computers / smart devices in class is: \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Our course's policy on late assignments is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Given that a portion of the grade for this class is based on group work, attendance and participation are clearly vital. Our attendance policy is \_\_\_\_\_.
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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>.

### Academic Accommodation Policy

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#### **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](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).

## 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](#)