

**The College of the Humanities
Religion Program: RELI 2510 A
Hinduism (34759)**

Instructor: Dr. Richard MacPhail
Office: 310A Paterson Hall
Office Hours: Wednesday 3:00 to 3:55 pm
Class Hours: MW 4:05 to 5:25 pm
Class Location: 406 Southam Hall
Email: Richard.MacPhail@Carleton.ca

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course surveys major literary and social aspects of the Hindu tradition from earliest historical times to the present day through lectures and audio-visual materials. Precludes additional credit for RELI 1005 and RELI 2005.

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. 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 South Asian Hinduism;
- 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.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Hillary Rodrigues, *Hinduism—The eBook* (2nd ed.), © 2016, Journal of Buddhist Ethics Online Books, Ltd. © 2016, Journal of Buddhist Ethics Online Books, Ltd. [ISBN: 978-0-692-76304-9 (ebook)].

The textbook may be purchased online for **US\$29.95** at:

<http://worldreligionsebooks.com/eBooks/hinduism/>

Publisher's Blurb: *"Hinduism—The eBook is a self-contained textbook for a one-semester introductory course on Hinduism. Designed for undergraduate level study, it provides everything students and teachers could expect from a printed text and more. There are two main components:*

1. ***Hinduism—The eBook.** A text book with extensive links to Internet resources.*
2. ***Hinduism Online.** A website dovetailing with the ebook and providing a range of additional resources for students and teachers."*

COMMUNICATING WITH THE INSTRUCTOR:

Carleton 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 hour, as the time posted above is the only time when I have scheduled access to an office 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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

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

Participation is important and requires consistent, regular attendance, responding to and asking questions, offering substantive comments, and use of cuLearn resources.

(1) Discussion Question Forums (20%)

Ten brief written assignments, submitted through forums in cuLearn.

These questions explore some 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 that you create. Academic references are not required.

There are two parts to each question (100-150 words—2% each). Part “a” is your posted response to the initial question, and part “b” is your response to one other student's part “a” post. Grading is based on your submission of “substantive” responses, rather than on specific content.

See the “Lecture and Assignment Schedule” below for due dates.

(2) Midterm Test, Wednesday, October 31, starting at 4:05 pm. (25%)

In-class, 60 minutes. Scantron (multiple choice and true/false), covering Topics 1 to 13. It will assess your familiarity with both terminology and substantive material.

(3) Research Essay, due at Noon, Monday, November 19 (30%)

Approximately 1500 words, submitted electronically through cuLearn. Paper copies are not required, nor acceptable. In order for me to return your assignment with my comments, you must submit your Research Essay in an **editable format**, such as **.odt**, **.doc** or **.docx**. Essays in non-editable formats such as **.pdf** will **NOT** be accepted.

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMoS) guide is standard in the Religion program. A CMoS ebook is available at:

<http://catalogue.library.carleton.ca/record=b2868056>

A CMoS “tip sheet” is available at:

<https://library.carleton.ca/sites/default/files/help/Using%20Chicago%20style%20August%202016.pdf>

Comprehensive instructions, a sample essay modeling correct formatting, and a list of suggested topics, will be posted on cuLearn. Should you have some other topic you would like to write on, email the instructor first for approval.

I will be glad to comment briefly on your research abstract or outline, submitted by email attachment no later than November 12, two weeks before the due date.

Your grade will be adjusted downward for non-compliance with the prescribed Chicago Style, and for deficiencies in spelling and grammar. Late Research Essays may be accepted, but your grade will be reduced by one fractional 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. *****

Clarification of what constitutes academic dishonesty, or plagiarism, is found at: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

(4) Final Exam (25%)

Two hours, to be scheduled during the final exam period. Scantron, multiple choice, true/false (15%), and an interpretive essay of 500 to 750 words (10%). Potential essay topics will be posted in advance. Mainly covering Topics 14 to 23, but may include some questions from the first half of the course.

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 assigned readings, lectures, and in-class discussions.

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 following 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 regularly for updates to assignments and links to resources for subsequent sessions.

Please prepare two or three questions from each reading or media segment 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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Please read "Introduction" to the textbook BEFORE the first class.

Session 1 - September 5 - Wednesday

Welcome. Outline of the Course. What to expect.

Topic 1 - Introduction to the course; Scale and cultural variety.

Reading for **This** Class:

Introducing Hinduism (IH) - "Introduction" (pp. 1-27).

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Session 2 - September 10 - Monday

Topic 2 Prehistory; Indus Valley-Saraswati Civilization.

Discussion Question 1a - Due by Noon, September 17.

Reading for Next Class:

IH - Chapter. 1, "Vedic Religion" (pp. 28-48; 57-62).

Selections from *Rg Veda*.

Selections on understanding *varṇa*, *jāti* and *gotra* (on cuLearn).

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Session 3 - September 12 Wednesday

Topic 3 Vedas and Vedic Ritual; *Śruti*.

Reading for Next Class:

Selections on contesting the distant past (on cuLearn).

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Session 4 - September 17 - Monday

Topic 4 Indus-Aryan Controversy; Contested meanings.

Due by Noon today- DQ 1a.

DQ 1b & DQ 2a - Due by Noon, September 24.

Reading for Next Class:

IH - Ch. 2, "*Karma* , Time and Cosmology" (pp. 63-74).

IH - Ch. 1, "The Sanskrit Language" (pp. 48-56).

Further resources to be assigned (on cuLearn).

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Session 5 - September 19 - Wednesday

Topic 5 Vedic Extensions: *Brāhmaṇa-s*, *Āraṇyaka-s*, *Vedāṅga-s*.

Reading for Next Class:

Selections from the *Upaniṣad-s*.

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Session 6 - September 24 - Monday

Topic 6 The *Upaniṣad-s*.

Due by Noon today- DQs 1b & 2a.

DQs 2b & 3a - Due by Noon, October 1.

Reading for Next Class:

IH - Ch. 5, "Indian Philosophical Schools" (pp. 133-166).

IH - Ch. 13, "*Vedānta*" (pp. 372-381).

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Session 7 - September 26 - Wednesday

Topic 7 Philosophy: *Smṛti*; Six *Darśana-s*; Nondualism, Dualism, Theism.

Reading for Next Class:

IH - Ch. 3, "Hindu social organization and values" (pp. 75-98).

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Session 8 - October 1 - Monday

Topic 8 Asceticism; *Śramaṇa* influence; *Astika/Nāstika*; *Maṭham* and *Pītham*.

Due by Noon today - DQs 2b & 3a.

DQs 3b & 4a - Due by Noon, October 15.

Reading for Next Class:

IH - Ch. 4, "*Dharma* and the individual" (pp. 99-132).

Selections from *Mānavadharmasāstra*. (on cuLearn)

Selections on various *dharma*-s (on cuLearn).

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Session 9 - October 3 - Wednesday

Topic 9 *Varṇa-Aśrama-Dharma*; Duty and liberation.

Reading for Next Class:

IH - Ch. 6, "The Epics, *Bhāgavad Gītā* and the rise of *bhakti*" (pp. 167-176).

Resources to be assigned (on cuLearn).

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Session 10 - October 10 - Wednesday

Topic 10 *Itihāsa: Rāmāyaṇa*.

Reading for Next Class:

Paula Richman (Ed.) Introduction to *Many Rāmāyaṇa s: The Diversity of a Narrative Tradition in South Asia* (on cuLearn).

Selections on variant versions of the *Rāmāyaṇa* (on cuLearn).

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Session 11 - October 15 - Monday

Topic 11 Many *Rāmāyaṇas*.

Due by Noon today - DQs 3b & 4a.

DQs 4b & 5a - Due by Noon, November 5.

Reading for Next Class:

IH - Ch. 6, "The Epics, *Bhagavad Gītā* and the rise of *bhakti*" (pp. 177-184).

Selections from the *Mahābhārata*.

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Session 12 - October 17 - Wednesday

Topic 12 *Itihāsa: Mahābhārata*.

Reading for Next Class:

IH - Ch. 6, "The Epics, *Bhagavad Gītā* and the rise of *bhakti*" (pp. 184-195).

Selections from *The Bhagavad Gītā*.

Selections on responses to the message of the *Gītā*.

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***** **October 20-28 - Reading Week** *****

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Session 13 - October 29 - Monday

Reminder: Midterm Test Wednesday, October 31 at 4:05 pm (25%).

Topic 13 *Bhagavad Gītā*.

Reading for Next Class:

IH - Ch. 6, "The Epics, *Bhagavad Gītā* and the rise of *bhakti*" (pp. 195-198).

IH - Ch. 7, "Major Hindu Sects, Deities and Purāṇic Myths" (pp. 206-262).

Selections from the *purāṇa*-s (on cuLearn).

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Session 14 - October 31 - Wednesday

Midterm Test at 4:05 pm (25%). Scantron, Sixty Minutes.

Topic 14 Tamil roots of *bhakti*; *caṅkam* tradition; Āḷvār, Nāyanmār, *purāṇa*-s and sectarianism.

Reading for Next Class:

Selections on *bhakti* (on cuLearn).

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

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Session 15 - November 5 - Monday

Topic 15 Spread of *bhakti* across languages and cultures.

Due by Noon today - DQs 4b & 5a.

DQ 5b - Due by Noon, November 12.

Reading for Next Class:

IH - Ch. 8, "The Hindu Temple and Worship Rituals" (pp. 263-291).

Selections on the *yuga*-s, temples and festivals (on cuLearn).

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Session 16 - November 7 - Wednesday

Topic 16 Temple ritual; Festival; Officiants; *Mūrti*; Sacred space and time.

Reading for Next Class:

Selections on cosmogony, festival and pilgrimage (on cuLearn).

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Session 17 - November 12 - Monday

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

Topic 17 Cosmogony; *Sthalam*; *Tīrtham*; *Yātrā* (pilgrimage).

* Discussion of issues on the Midterm, or any other matter. *

Due by Noon today - DQ 5b.

Reading for Next Class:

IH - Ch. 9, "Tantra" (pp. 292-309).

Selections from *Śākta Purāṇa*-s - *Devīmahātmya* (on cuLearn).

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Session 18 - November 14 - Wednesday

Topic 18 *Śakti* and the *tāntrika* way.

Reading for Next Class:

Selections on gender, village religion, and goddesses.

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Session 19 - November 19 - Monday

Due at Noon - Research Paper (30%)

Topic 19 Paradigms of gender; Village goddesses and their helpers.

Reading for Next Class:

IH - Ch. 10, "Colonization and Reform" (pp. 310-334).

IH - Ch. 11, "Transnational Hinduism in Asia" (pp. 335-350).

Further resources to be assigned (on cuLearn).

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Session 20 - November 21 - Wednesday

Topic 20 Muslim and European impacts; 19th Century reform movements.

Reading for Next Class:

IH - Ch. 12, "Revitalization and Modernity" (pp. 351-371)

Selections from Vivekananda, Aurobindo, Savarkar, M. K. Gandhi.

Selections on Partition.

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Session 21 - November 26 - Monday

Topic 21 20th Century reformers; Independence, Partition, Separatism.

Reading for Next Class:

IH - Ch. 13, "Hinduism and the West" (pp. 372-392)

Selections on on Minorities and Majoritarianism;. "community" as religious identity.

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Session 22 - November 28 - Wednesday

Topic 22 Indigeneity; Inclusion, exclusion; Minorities, *Dalits*, *Adivasis*; Ambedkar and conversion; "Caste" politics; Negotiating *jati* status.

Reading for Next Class:

Review *IH* - Ch. 10, "Colonization and Reform" (pp. 326-329).

Further resources to be assigned (on cuLearn).

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Session 23 - December 3 - Monday

Topic 23 *Hindutva* and Hindu horizons.

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Session 24 - December 5 - Wednesday

Review; Students' Questions and Concerns.

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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. 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.

Reminder: You must complete ALL FOUR graded components to receive credit for the course.

Information on Academic Accommodations

Requests for 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 / Religious obligation

Please contact your 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, visit the Equity Services website:

carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your 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.

<https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

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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.](#)