

The College of the Humanities
Religion Program: RELI 2510A; WINTER 2017
“Introduction to Hinduism” (14548)

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 4:05 to 5:25 pm
Class Location: 182 UniCentre
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.

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

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.

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.

PRECLUSIONS: Precludes additional credit for RELI 1005 and RELI 2005.

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 Hindus;
- 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 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:

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**.

It will be available only around the latter part of December, 2016, as its first edition, *Hinduism, The eBook: An Online Introduction*, © 2006, is still in use for the Fall session in some universities.

The URL for purchasing the book will be posted on cuLearn as soon as it is available from the publisher.

Do not purchase the first edition as the contents and pagination vary from the assigned textbook.

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%):

These are 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%): March 10 - Friday

In-class, 60 minutes. Essay and Scantron (multiple choice and true/false), covering material up to, and including "Topic 16 - Spread of *bhakti*." It will assess your familiarity with both terminology and substantive material.

Research Essay (30%): Due March 24 - Friday

Approximately 2000 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.

Three hours, Essay and Scantron (multiple choice and true/false), covering the topics since the Midterm, plus the introductory and closing sections on "Religion as an Academic Discipline".

Criteria for writing and standards for grading of assignments will be provided through cuLearn. Deficiencies in spelling, grammar and presentation will all affect your grade. Midterm 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 the class. For this reason, I have posted these resources the previous week 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 6 - Friday

Welcome. Outline of the Course. What to expect.

Topic 1 - Introduction to the course; India's new place in the world; Scale and cultural variety.

Reading for This Week:

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

Discussion Question 1(a). Post your response to the Question with a new thread before Wednesday, January 18.

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January 11 -Wednesday

Topic 1 - Introduction to the course, continued.

Topic 2 - Prehistory; Indus Valley-Saraswati Civilization.

Readings for Next Class:

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

2) Selections from *R̥g Veda*. (on cuLearn)

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

Discussion Question 1(b). Post your response to at least one other student's thread before Wednesday, January 25.

January 13 - Friday

Topic 3 - Vedas and Vedic Ritual; *Śruti*.

Readings for Next Class:

Resources to be assigned. (on cuLearn)

Discussion Question 2(a). Post your response to the Question with a new thread before Wednesday, January 25.

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January 18 -Wednesday

Topic 4 - Indus-Aryan Controversy; Contested meanings.

Readings for Next Class:

- 1) *IH* - Ch. 2, “*Karma*, Time and Cosmology” (pp. 63-74).
- 2) Further resources to be assigned (on cuLearn).

January 20 - Friday

Topic 5 - *Brāhmaṇa-s, Āraṇyaka-s, Vedāṅga-s.*

Readings for Next Class:

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

Discussion Question 2(b). Post your response to at least one other student's thread before Wednesday, February 1.

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January 25 -Wednesday

Topic 6 - The *Upaniṣad-s.*

Readings for Next Class:

- 1) *IH* - Ch. 1, “The Sanskrit Language” (pp. 48-56).
- 2) *IH* - Ch. 5, “Indian Philosophical Schools” (pp. 133-166).
- 3) *IH* - Ch. 13, “*Vedanta*” (pp. 372-381).

Discussion Question 3(a). Post your response to the Question with a new thread before Wednesday, February 1.

January 27 - Friday

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

Readings for Next Class:

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

Discussion Question 3(b). Post your response to at least one other student's thread before Wednesday, February 8.

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February 1 -Wednesday

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

- 1) *IH* - Ch. 4, “*Dharma* and the individual” (pp. 99-132).
- 2) Selections from *Mānavadharmasāstra*. (on cuLearn)
- 3) Selections on various *dharma-s* (on cuLearn).

Discussion Question 4(a). Post your response to the Question with a new thread before Wednesday, February 8.

February 3 - Friday

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

Readings 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 Wednesday, February 15.

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February 8 -Wednesday

Topic 10 - *Asceticism; Vrata-s; Living a "good life"*.

Readings for Next Class:

1) *IH* - Ch. 6, "The Epics, *Bhāgavad Gītā* and the rise of *bhakti*" (pp. 167-205).

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

Discussion Question 5(a). Post your response to the Question with a new thread before Wednesday, February 15.

February 10 - Friday

Topic 11 - *Itihāsa: Rāmāyaṇa*.

Readings for Next Class:

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

Discussion Question 5(b). Post your response to at least one other student's thread before Wednesday, March 1.

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February 15 - Wednesday

Topic 12 - *Many Rāmāyaṇa-s*.

Readings for Next Class:

Selections from the *Mahābhārata* (on cuLearn).

February 17 - Friday

Topic 13 - *Itihāsa: Mahābhārata*.

Readings for Next Class:

1) *IH* - Ch. 9, "The *Bhāgavad Gītā* and the Rise of *bhakti*" (pp. 241-264).

2) Selections from the *Bhagavad Gītā* (on cuLearn).

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******* February 20 to 24 - Reading Week *******

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March 1 - Wednesday

Topic 14 - *Bhāgavad Gītā*.

Readings for Next Class:

- 1) *IH* - Ch. 7, "Major Hindu Sects, Deities and Purāṇic Myths" (pp. 206-262).
- 2) Selections from the *purāṇa*-s (on cuLearn).

March 3 - Friday

Reminder: Midterm Exam (20%) Friday, March 10

Topic 15 - *Purāṇa*-s; Tamil roots of *bhakti*; *Caṅkam* tradition; *Ālvār*, *Nāyanmār*, and sectarianism.

Readings for Next Class:

Selections on *bhakti* (**on cuLearn**).

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

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March 8 - Wednesday

Topic 16 - Spread of *bhakti* across languages and cultures.

Readings for Next Class:

- 1) *IH* - Ch. 8, "The Hindu Temple and Worship Rituals" (pp. 263-291).
- 2) Selections on the *yuga*-s, temples and festivals (on cuLearn).

March 10 - Friday

******* ** MIDTERM EXAM ** *******

Topic 17 - Temple ritual; Festival; Officiants; *Murti*; Sacred space and time.

Readings for Next Class:

- 1) Selections on Cosmogony (on cuLearn).
- 2) Selections on pilgrimage (on cuLearn).

Mar. 10 Last date to receive abstracts or outlines of Research Paper for instructor's comments.

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March 15 - Wednesday

Topic 18 - Cosmogony; *Sthalam*; *Tīrtham*; *Yātrā* (pilgrimage).

Readings for Next Class:

- 1) *IH* - Ch. 9, "*Tantra*" (pp. 292-309).
- 2) Selections from *Śākta Purāṇa*-s - *Devimahātmya* (on cuLearn).

March 17 - Friday

Topic 19 - *Śakti* and the *tāntrika* way.

Reminder: Research Paper (30%) Due Mar. 24

Readings for Next Class:

Selections on village religion (on cuLearn).

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March 22 - Wednesday

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

Topic 20 - Paradigms of gender; Village goddesses and their helpers.

Readings for Next Class:

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

2) Further resources to be assigned (on cuLearn).

March 24 - Friday

Research Paper Due Today (30%)

Topic 21 - Muslim and European impacts; 19th Century reform movements.

Readings for Next Class:

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

2) Selections on the Independence Movement and Partition (on cuLearn).

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March 29 - Wednesday

Topic 22 - 20th Century reformers; Independence, Partition, Separatism.

Readings for Next Class:

1) *IH* - Ch. 16, "Hinduism beyond India" (pp. 445-461).

2) *IH* - Ch. 17, "Hinduism and the West" (pp. 462-481)

3) Further resources to be assigned (on cuLearn).

March 31 - Friday

Topic 23 - Indigeneity; Inclusion, exclusion; Minorities, *Dalits*, *Adivasis*; Ambedkar and conversion; "Caste" politics; Negotiating *jati* status.

Readings for Next Class:

Further resources to be assigned (on cuLearn).

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April 5 - Wednesday

Topic 24 - *Hindutva* and Hindu horizons.

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.

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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