

College of the Humanities
Religion Program: RELI 2510A
Hinduism

Professor: Richard Mann

Office: Paterson Hall 2A51

Office Hours: Mondays 10-11am, Tuesdays 10-11am or by appointment

Office Phone: 520-2600 ext. 2504

Office e-mail: richard_mann@carleton.ca

Classroom: ME 4499

Class time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:35-12:55

TA: Laura Sinclair

TA Office Hours: TBA

TA e-mail: TBA

Course Description: A historical survey of Hinduism from the Vedas to the contemporary era.

Course Objectives:

1. To become familiar with the academic study of religion at a secular university.
2. To become familiar with historical developments, key concepts, practices & worldviews that help to comprise the Hindu religious tradition.
3. To develop academic skills (research, writing and analysis) appropriate for a second year class in a faculty of arts and social sciences.

Required Texts: Available at Carleton Bookstore

Hillary Rodrigues, *Introducing Hinduism*, New York: Routledge, 2006.

W. J. Johnson (translator), *The Bhagavad Gita*, Oxford University Press, World's Classics.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

1. Two in-class tests 50% (2 x 25%) (1st test written on Feb.12, 2nd test on March19)
2. A response paper on the *Bhagavad Gita* 20% (due Feb. 26 at the beginning of class). After reading the *Bhagavad Gita*, students will write a three to four page paper responding to the text. The paper should not contain an overview of the story, rather the paper should draw from the *Gita* in order to address one (or more) of the questions provided in the response paper guideline. **Further details on the response paper will be provided at the beginning of the term when the guideline is posted.**
3. Final exam – scheduled during the final examination period 30%

General Notes on Evaluation:

1. You will receive a guideline for the response paper. Your response paper must follow the guideline and your grade will be partially based on your adherence to that criteria.
2. Please see “Regulations Common to all Humanities Courses” attached to the syllabus for policy on plagiarism, grading systems, requests for academic accommodation and petitions to defer.
3. Late assignments may not be graded. Those that are graded will receive a 5% mark deduction per day late.
4. Missed tests and assignments can only be made up if the student supplies adequate written documentation (i.e., a doctor’s note, an obituary) for the absence. In the case of requests to defer exams see “Regulations Common to all Humanities Courses”.

Class Reading and Lecture Schedule: (readings labelled with Ares will be found on the Library’s online reserve system)

Week 1: (Jan. 8 & 10)

Lecture Topics: course introduction, the Indus Valley

Readings: 1. Rodrigues: Introduction

Week 2: (Jan. 15 & 17)

Lecture Topics: The Vedas and Vedic Ritual

Readings: 1. Rodrigues: Chapter 1 (Vedic Religion)
2. *Rig Veda* 10.90, 10.129 **Ares**

Week 3: (Jan. 22 & 24)

Lecture Topics: The Upanishads

Readings: 1. Rodrigues: Chapter 2 (Karma and cosmology)
2. Select readings from the Upanishads (*Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad*, chapter 2, section 4-5; *Chāndogya Upaniṣad*, chapter 1, section 1, chapter 3, section 12-14, chapter 6, section 1-16, *Kena Upaniṣad*, all chapters) **Ares**

Week 4: (Jan. 29 & 31)

Lecture Topics: Aspects of Hindu Philosophy: Monism, Dualism and Theism

Readings: 1. Rodrigues: Chapter 5 (The Sanskrit Language), Chapter 6 (Indian Philosophical Schools) and Chapter 12 (Vedanta)

Week 5: (Feb. 5 & 7)

Lecture Topics: Dharma and Ashrama

Readings: 1. Rodrigues: Chapter 3 (Hindu social organization and values) and Chapter 4 (Dharma and the individual)
2. Selections from *Manu’s Code of Law* **Ares**

Week 6: (Feb. 12 & 14) - *First in-class test Feb. 12*

Lecture Topics: The *Mahabharata* and the *Bhagavad Gita*

Readings: 1. Rodrigues: Chapter 7 (The Epics) and Chapter 8 (The *Bhagavad Gita* and the rise of *bhakti*)
2. *The Bhagavad Gita*

Week 7: Reading Week – Spend it reading and writing

Week 8: (Feb. 26 & 28) - *Bhagavad Gita response paper due Feb. 26*

Lecture Topics: The *Ramayana*

Readings: 1. Rāma's story as given in the *Mahābhārata* **Ares**

Week 9: March 5 & 7

Lecture Topics: Bhakti

Readings: 1. Rodrigues: Chapter 9 (Major Hindu theistic sects) and Chapter 10 (Hindu deities and Puranic mythology)
2. Selected readings from Vaishnava Puranas **Ares**

Week 10: (March 12 & 14)

Lecture Topics: Shiva and Temples

Readings: 1. Rodrigues: Chapter 11 (Hindu art and worship rituals)
2. Selected readings from Shaivite Puranas **Ares**

Week 11: (March 19 & 21) - *Second in-class test March 19*

Lecture Topics: Devi and Ritual

Readings: 1. Rodrigues: Chapter 13 (Tantra)
2. Selected readings from Shakta Puranas **Ares**

Week 12: (March 26 & 28)

Lecture Topics: Swami Vivekananda and M. K. Gandhi

Readings: 1. Rodrigues: Chapter 14 (Reform and revitalization)
2. Selected readings from Swami Vivekananda and M. K. Gandhi **Ares**

Week 13: (April 2 & 4)

Lecture Topics: Contemporary Political Hinduism and Hinduism in diaspora

Readings: 1. Rodrigues: Chapter 16 (Hinduism and the West)
2. "Introduction" in *Hindu Nationalism* **Ares**
3. "Militant Hinduism : Ayodhya and the momentum of Hindu nationalism" in *The Life of Hinduism* **Ares**
4. "Hinduism in Pittsburgh : creating the South Indian "Hindu" experience in the United States" in *The Life of Hinduism* **Ares**

Week 14: (April 9)

Exam review and catch-up

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. 3, 2012**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 10, 2013**.

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/

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*).

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 assignments 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 **5 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 Success Centre 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125	4 th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 th Floor Library