

**Hinduism
Religion 2510A
Religious Studies
College of the Humanities**

Professor: Richard Mann

Office: Paterson Hall 2A51

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11am-12pm

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Office e-mail: richard.mann@carleton.ca

Classroom: Southam Hall 517

Class time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:05-2:25PM

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

Course Objectives: By the end of this course students will be able:

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

Required Texts (available through the 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. One midterm test worth 30% of the course grade, written on **February 25, in class**
2. A written assignment 30% (due **March 15**). A handout on the written assignment will be posted for the first day of class.
3. Final exam – scheduled during the final examination period 40%

General Notes on Evaluation:

1. You will receive a guideline for the written assignment. Your written assignment must follow these guidelines and your grade will be 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, quizzes, exams 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.

Class Reading and Lecture Schedule:

Week One (Jan. 7)

Topics: course introduction, problems with defining 'religion' and 'Hinduism'

Week Two (Jan. 12 & 14)

Topics: Defining 'religion' and 'Hinduism' continued, the Indus Valley

Readings: Rodrigues: Introduction

Week Three (Jan. 19 & 21)

Topics: The Vedas and Vedic Ritual

Readings: 1. Rodrigues: Chapter 1 (Vedic Religion)

2. *Rig Veda* 10.90, 10.129 – posted to the LMS system

3. "Seven Prevalent Misconceptions about India's Caste System"

Week Four (Jan. 26 & 28)

Topics: The Upanishads

Readings: 1. Rodrigues: Chapter 2 (Karma and cosmology)

2. Select readings from the Upanishads (*Bṛhadāranyaka 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 Five (Feb. 2 & 4)

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 Six (Feb. 9 & 11)

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 Seven (Feb. 16 & 18) **Reading Week – no classes (spend it reading)**

Week Eight (Feb. 23 & 25)

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 Nine (March 1 & 3)

Topics: The *Ramayana*

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

Week Ten (March 8 & 10)

Topics: Bhakti

Readings: 1. Rodrigues: Chapter 9 (Major Hindu theistic sects) and Chapter 10 (Hindu deities and Puranic mythology)

2. Selected readings from the *Bhagavata Purana* **Ares**

Week Eleven (March 15 & 17)

Topics: Shiva and Temples

Readings: 1. Rodrigues: Chapter 11 (Hindu art and worship rituals)
2. Selected readings from Shaivite Puranas (the destruction of the triple city of the demons, and Shiva destroys Kama) **Ares**

Week Twelve (March 22 & 24)

Topics: Devi and Ritual

Readings: 1. Rodrigues: Chapter 13 (Tantra)
2. the *Devimahatmya* (listed as *Encountering the Goddess* in your course pack) **Ares**
3. "The Hindu Gods in a South Indian Village" in *Everyday Life in South Asia* **Ares**

Week Thirteen (March 29 & 31)

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 Fourteen (April 5 & 7)

Topics: Contemporary Political Hinduism

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**

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. 7, 2015**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 8, 2016**.

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. 6, 2015** for the Fall term and **March 6, 2016** 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 **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