

**Hinduism**  
**Religion 2510A**



*Saraswati Devi - goddess of learning, knowledge, music, and the arts.*

**Instructor:** Prof. Jessica Ford

**Virtual Office Hours:** Thursday 1:00 – 2:30 PM or by appointment. At all other times, if you have questions about course material or assignments please post them in our general discussion forum titled “Ask Your Instructor” as this opens a dialogue with your classmates as well as myself. If your question is unrelated to the course material, something that you do not wish to post, or if you are unsure if you should post it or not please send me an email.

**Email:** [jessica.ford@carleton.ca](mailto:jessica.ford@carleton.ca)

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

**Detailed Course Description:** In this course, we will explore the multifaceted tradition known as “Hinduism” from the beliefs and concepts that inform the Hindu worldview to the rituals and practices of present-day. The course will follow the historical development of the tradition beginning with a brief examination of the Indus Valley civilization and progressing through to modern times, paying special attention to the themes found in ancient Hindu texts and literature and the Hindu concepts of the divine.

**Learning Outcomes:**

- An understanding of the academic study of religion.
- Identify key features of Hinduism in the past and present.
- Describe core concepts and central beliefs that shape the Hindu worldview.
- Ability to distinguish primary and secondary sources.
- Develop writing skills appropriate for a second year humanities course, which includes writing clearly, concisely and without personal bias.

## Course Teaching Methods

This course is structured around Hillary Rodrigues' ebook *Introducing Hinduism*, with supplemental reading from Hindu texts (often in the form of comic book or graphic novel adaptations), secondary sources, and films. The style of instruction will primarily be video lecture; however, student participation will be fostered through online discussion.

## List of Required Readings:

Rodrigues, Hillary. *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 to purchase](#)).

- Students are responsible for the material in the assigned chapters outlined in the “Calendar of Activities and Evaluations” (below). The list of readings required for each week will also be posted on CULearn in the “Weekly Activities and Assignment Tasks” sections.

Amar Chitra Katha. 1977. *The Gita: The Song of Eternal Wisdom*. Mumbai: India Book House Pvt. ([Link to comic](#)).

Nagpal, Sarswati. 2011. *Sita: Daughter of the Earth* (A Graphic Novel). New Delhi: Campfire Graphic Novels. (This is an adaptation of the Ramayana told from the point-of-view of Sītā). ([Link to graphic novel](#)). If you prefer to have a physical copy of the graphic novel it can be purchased through amazon.ca or Chapters for approximately CAD\$15.00.

Plus, all readings and films posted on CULearn.

While I do attempt to follow the textbook closely in my video lectures/slides, there will be material in the textbook/readings/films that I won't mention directly in video lectures. However, students are still responsible for this content even if it is not discussed directly in video lectures. In addition, posted lecture slides/video lectures may explore topics not discussed in the text or go into some topics in more detail than the text: students are also responsible for all material covered in my online lectures.

## Assignments and Evaluation:

Assignment	Date	Value
10 Short Quizzes	Throughout (see “Calendar of Activities and Evaluations” below for details)	20%
10 Discussion Forum Posts/Activities	Throughout (see “Calendar of Activities and Evaluations” below for details)	20%
Midterm Writing Assignment	July 29 <sup>th</sup>	25%
Take Home Final Exam	August 23 <sup>rd</sup>	35%

## **Assignment Details:**

### **10 Quizzes: 2 per week (20% of course grade)**

Each quiz should be completed only after all module material has been completed. This means you will be better able to answer these questions after completing all assigned readings and watching all lecture videos and assigned films. Each quiz will be based on the content of the relevant module and will test your knowledge of what you have learned from the textbook, other required materials (films, readings, etc.), as well as my online lectures.

Each quiz will consist of 10 multiple choice questions (each worth 1 point) selected randomly from a question bank. The quiz will open at the beginning of each week and will be available until the end of the week. Students will be allowed 20 minutes to complete this quiz. Keep in mind that once you open the quiz the clock starts and CULearn will prevent any answers from being submitted after the 20-minute mark.

There will be 12 quizzes in total, however you are **only responsible for 10**, thus you may miss up to 2 without it affecting your mark. If you do complete all 12 of the quizzes the lowest 2 marks will be dropped.

**Each week all quizzes must be completed by Wednesday at 11:59 PM (see the “Calendar of Activities and Evaluations” section below for specific dates).**

### **10 Discussion Forum Posts/Activities (20% of course grade)**

Discussion forum posts should be made (with exception of the introductory discussion) only after all module material has been completed. The goal of these discussions/activities is to develop meaningful class discussion and foster a sense of community in addition to evaluating your learning.

There will be a discussion prompt within every module (2 per week for a total of 12). To earn full discussion posts marks, you must participate in 10 out of 12 discussion prompts. If you do complete all 12, only the highest 10 marks will count towards your final mark.

Your grade will be based on the quality of your discussion posts as well verifying that you meet the 10 post requirement. As quality is essential, your discussion posts should demonstrate thought and effort. Your participation should contribute to the class discussion. Simply posting “I agree” (or something to this effect) does not achieve this and will not be counted towards your grade.

**Each week all discussion posts must be completed by Wednesday at 11:59 PM (see the “Calendar of Activities and Evaluations” section below for specific dates).**

### **Midterm Writing Assignment (25% of course grade)**

This assignment will ask you to explore various elements of Dharma within the Hindu tradition. It requires that you draw from all relevant course material (lectures, films, readings) from Modules 1-8 in order to develop a well-rounded response that demonstrates your understanding of and engagement with these materials. It must be 1000-1500 words in length (approximately 2-

3 pages single spaced, 12pt font). A bibliography is not required unless you draw from resources that are outside of assigned course materials. However, proper citation in Chicago Style ([https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)) is a requirement.

The specific details of this assignment will be posted on CULearn.

**Due Wednesday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:59PM.**

**Take Home Final Exam (35% of the course grade)**

The take home final will be due at the end of the final exam period and will require that you draw from the knowledge obtained throughout the duration of the course (cumulative). Further details and format will be provided closer to the date.

**Due Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:59 PM.**

**\*\*\*General Notes on Evaluation\*\*\***

1. Late assignments will only be accepted with valid reasons and proper documentation. If you submit your assignment late and do not have proper documentation it is possible that your assignment will not be graded. For those that are graded, your final mark will be reduced by 5% for each day that it is late. Once an assignment is past 5 days late, it will no longer be graded.
2. Please see “Regulations Common to all Humanities Courses” attached to this syllabus for general policies on plagiarism, an explanation of Carleton University’s grading system, the guidelines for requests for academic accommodation and deferrals, as well as other important information.

**Expectations and Class guidelines:**

*YOURS:* This is a summer course which means that the material for a typical 12-week course is now compressed into 6 weeks. As such you should be prepared for double the weekly workload of a regular 12-week course. Each week we will be moving through two modules and it is essential that you move through the course material in a timely fashion in order to avoid being overwhelmed towards the end of the course and possibly falling irreparably behind.

What does this mean for study time? It is strongly suggested that for each course that a university student is enrolled in they should dedicated 2-3 hours of study time per hour spent in class. Thus, you should be prepared for 6 hours of class time each week in addition to 12-18 hours of study/assignment time. As the lectures are pre-recorded for this course you can set your own schedule in regards to when you watch them, however there are several evaluation tasks per week so I do encourage you to keep up with the schedule suggested in the syllabus.

When asking general questions about content, deadlines, or the syllabus itself I encourage you to post them in the “Ask your Instructor” forum as this may help a fellow classmate. However, when you do need to email me, please include your name and student number in the body of the email as well as the course code (RELI2510) and subject matter in the email subject box.

***MINE***: I will respond to all email enquiries in a timely manner (within 24 hours). However, in the unlikely event that you have not heard back from me within this time frame I encourage you to send me a reminder/follow up email. I also encourage you to revisit your syllabus frequently, especially in regard to due dates, as that information will be found here.

I will hold office hours on CULearn via BigBlueButton on Thursdays from 1- 2:30PM unless otherwise announced, however, if you are unable to be online during this period please email to schedule an appointment.

### General Assignment Guidelines

Your written assignment will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Content and development - how well you understand the concepts that are central to the Hindu tradition and how effectively you utilize course material to answer the question(s) posed of you.
2. Academic writing style and focus – it is important that you treat the Hindu tradition in an unbiased manner in an effort to cultivate a greater understanding of the diversity that exists within this tradition. As such, you should aim to maintain an unbiased tone in your writing. Further, you should present your discussion in a clear, concise manner and avoid introducing material that is irrelevant to your topic. This is an important skill to develop that contributes greatly to a well-defined and focused piece.
3. Organization, structure and format – present your discussion in a manner that has a logical flow. For example, if in your introduction you state that you will be discussing A, B and C, then you should discuss these items in the order that you have initially stated them. In addition, you should use properly formatted citations when required to do so
4. Mechanically Correct – proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

### Calendar of Activities and Evaluations

Week	Date	Topics   Themes	Requirements
Week 1	2 July – 8 July	Module 1: The study of Religion, Defining Hinduism and Indus Valley.	Watch lecture videos.  Read Rodrigues “Introduction”.  <b>Post in Discussion Forum – “Getting to know each other” (due Wednesday, 8 July at 11:59PM).</b>  <b>Complete Module 1 Quiz (due Wednesday, 8 July at 11:59PM).</b>
		Module 2: The Vedas and Vedic Religion.	Watch lecture videos and <i>Altar of Fire</i> film (link of CULearn).  Read Rodrigues Chapter 1 (pages 28 – 48 only).  <b>Post in Discussion Forum – “Agnicayana” (due Wednesday, 8 July at 11:59PM).</b>

			<b>Complete Module 2 Quiz (due Wednesday, 8 July at 11:59PM).</b>
Week 2	9 July – 15 July	Module 3: The Upaniṣads.	<p>Watch lecture videos.</p> <p>Read Rodrigues Chapter 2 and passages from the Upaniṣads posted on CULearn.</p> <p><b>Post in Discussion Form – “Teachings of the Upaniṣads” (due Wednesday, 15 July at 11:59PM).</b></p> <p><b>Complete Module 3 Quiz (due Wednesday, 15 July at 11:59PM).</b></p>
		<hr/> Module 4: Introduction to Hindu Philosophy.	<p>Watch lecture videos.</p> <p>Read Rodrigues Chapter 5.</p> <p><b>Post in Discussion Forum – “Six Streams of Wisdom” (due Wednesday, 15 July at 11:59PM).</b></p> <p><b>Complete Module 4 Quiz (due Wednesday, 15 July at 11:59PM).</b></p>
Week 3	16 July – 22 July	Module 5: Dharma and Society.	<p>Watch lecture videos.</p> <p>Read Rodrigues Chapters 3.</p> <p><b>Post in Discussion Forum – “Social Structure” (due Wednesday, 22 July at 11:59PM).</b></p> <p><b>Complete Module 5 Quiz (due Wednesday, 22 July at 11:59PM).</b></p>
		<hr/> Module 6: Dharma and the Individual.  Potential group chat check-in (depending on student interest).	<p>Watch lecture videos.</p> <p>Read Rodrigues Chapter 4.</p> <p><b>Post in Discussion Form – “Life Stages and Rites of Passage” (due Wednesday, 22 July at 11:59PM).</b></p> <p><b>Complete Module 6 Quiz (due Wednesday, 22 July at 11:59PM).</b></p>
Week 4	23 July – 29 July	Module 7: The Epics (The <i>Ramayana</i> and the <i>Mahabharata</i> ).	<p>Watch lecture videos.</p> <p>Read Rodrigues Chapter 6 (pages 168 – 184) and <i>Sita: Daughter of the Earth</i> graphic novel.</p>

		<hr/> <p>Module 8: The Gita, <i>Bhakti</i> and devotional poets.</p>	<p><b>Post in Discussion Form – “Sita: Daughter of the Earth” (due Wednesday, 29 July at 11:59PM).</b></p> <p><b>Complete Module 7 Quiz (due Wednesday, 29 July at 11:59PM).</b></p> <hr/> <p>Watch lecture videos.</p> <p>Read Rodrigues Chapter 6 (pages 184 – 199), <i>The Gita: The Song of Eternal Wisdom</i> comic book, &amp; a selection of devotional poetry posted on CULearn.</p> <p><b>Post in Discussion Forum – “Devotional Poetry” (due Wednesday, 29 July at 11:59PM).</b></p> <p><b>Complete Module 8 Quiz (due Wednesday, 29 July at 11:59PM).</b></p> <p><b>Midterm assignment on Dharma due Wednesday, 29 July at 11:59PM.</b></p>
<p><b>Week 5</b></p>	<p>30 July – 5 August</p>	<p>Module 9: Concepts of the Divine, Sectarian Hinduism and Domestic Worship.</p> <hr/> <p>Module 10: Temple and Tantra.</p>	<p>Watch lecture videos.</p> <p>Read Rodrigues Chapter 7 &amp; “<a href="#">Home Altar</a>” (web article posted on CULearn).</p> <p><b>Post in Discussion Forum – “Gods and Goddesses” (due Wednesday, 5 August at 11:59PM).</b></p> <p><b>Complete Module 9 Quiz (due Wednesday, 5 August at 11:59PM).</b></p> <hr/> <p>Watch lecture videos and <i>Places of Worship: Hinduism - a Mandir and Artefacts</i> (link of CULearn).</p> <p>Read Rodrigues Chapters 8 &amp; 9.</p> <p><b>Post in Discussion Forum – “Tantra” (due Wednesday, 5 August at 11:59PM).</b></p>

			<p><b>Complete Module 10 Quiz (due Wednesday, 5 August at 11:59PM).</b></p>
Week 6	6 August – 14 August	Module 11: Modern Hinduism.	<p>Watch lecture videos.</p> <p>Rodrigues Chapters 10 &amp; 12.</p> <p><b>Post in Discussion Forum – “Virtual tour of a Hindu temple” (due Wednesday, 12 August at 11:59PM).</b></p> <p><b>Complete Module 11 Quiz (due Wednesday, 12 August at 11:59PM).</b></p>
		<hr/> <p>Module 12: Hinduism in the Diaspora</p> <p>Potential take home final discussion group chat (depending on student interest).</p>	<hr/> <p>Watch lecture videos and <i>Hindu Temples</i> film (link posted on CULearn).</p> <p>Read Rodrigues Chapter 13, and “<a href="#">Building a Temple</a>” (web article posted on CULearn).</p> <p><b>Post in Discussion Forum – “Temples in the West” (due Friday, 14 August at 11:59PM).</b></p> <p><b>Complete Module 12 Quiz (due Friday, 14 August at 11:59PM).</b></p>



## University Regulations for All College of the 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 [here](#).

### 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).

### **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](http://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>

## **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](#)

## **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 Final Exams

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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

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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

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**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

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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 and SAST 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](#)

[Academics: From registration to graduation, the tools for your success.](#)