

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



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

**Professor:** Jessica Ford  
**Office:** 310A Paterson Hall  
**Office hours:** Thursday 2:30 – 4 PM or by appointment.  
**Email:** jfor2@uottawa.ca  
**Class time:** Thursdays 8:35 – 11:25 AM  
**Location:** Mackenzie Building 4494

**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:**

- To develop an understanding of the terms Hindu and Hinduism.
- Identify key features of Hinduism in the past and present.
- Describe core concepts and central beliefs that shape the Hindu worldview.
- Analyze primary sources and secondary literature.
- To develop research and writing skills appropriate for a second year humanities course.

## 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 lecture, however, student participation will be fostered through in-class group discussions.

## 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](#)).

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 CU Learn.

## Course Requirements and Evaluation:

- One mid-term test consisting of multiple choice, fill-in the blanks, and a choice of short answer questions. The mid-term will cover all materials (lectures, readings, films) up to and including week 6 (See “Calendar of Activities and Evaluations” for more information). The test will take place on **February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from 8:30-10AM**. **Value: 25% of the course grade.**
- Participation during in-class group discussions. This means attending the classes where group discussions are scheduled to occur (attendance will be taken on these days only) and discussing in small groups the questions/suggested topics. The class will then come together as a larger group and each small group will be asked to contribute to the conversation. **Value: 10% of the course grade.**
- Assignment – “Sensing Hinduism.” This assignment must be 2,000- 2,500 words in length (4- 5 pages single spaced, 12pt font). It must include a bibliography and citations (in any style that you prefer – APA, MLA, Chicago/Turabian). You must use **at least 3 scholarly sources** as references. This is due on **March 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:59PM (submitted online)**. **Value: 25% of the course grade**
- Final exam during exam period (TBD). **Value: 40% of the course grade.**

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

1. If you miss the midterm, proper documentation is required in order to be able to write a make-up exam.
2. Late assignments will only be accepted with valid reasoning 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.
3. 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: As students in a 2000-level course you are expected to come to class having completed the required readings for that class. Further, you are also expected to come prepared for group discussions (**see “Calendar of Activities” for relevant dates**), this means having completed the readings and/or viewed the films that will be discussed in class time.

The material that we will be covering, while fascinating, can be difficult to grasp so I ask that you respect your classmates and their efforts to learn by not texting, using social media, or other generally distracting behavior during class time.

If it is necessary for you to enter the class late or leave early, please do so in the least disruptive way possible.

When emailing, please include your name, student number in the body of the email as well as the course code (RELI2510) and subject matter in the email subject.

MINE: I will respond to all email enquires in a timely manner (within 48 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 if you find yourself with questions regarding dates/times/locations as that information will be found here.

I will hold office hours between 2:45 and 4:00 PM Thursday unless otherwise announced, however, if you are in class or are otherwise unable to make my regular hours please email to schedule an appointment.

## “Sensing Hinduism” Assignment

As we will be learning throughout the semester, Hinduism is a tradition that fully engages all of the senses (sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch) in experiencing the divine. In this assignment you will select and write about an aspect within the Hindu tradition that engages one of these senses. For example, you might select an image of Gaṇeśa, Devī, Śiva, Viṣṇu, or any other god or goddess, an aniconic representation of the divine (*liṅga, yantra, pāduka, maṇḍala* etc.), a type of food used as offering, or a mantra (sacred sound or utterance). You will then discuss the importance of this aspect within the Hindu tradition.

You can by **describing** the image/or sensory aspect in great detail. What does it look like? Sound like? Smell like? Taste like? (Describe it based on the senses that are applicable to the object/aspect that you have selected.) Use language to paint a vivid picture – aim to be so descriptive that your reader can close her eyes and see what you see, or smell what you smell, etc.

Next, use **scholarly sources** to **discuss** the role that your image/sound/food/etc. plays within the Hindu tradition. Discuss the history and/or mythology associated with your image/food/sound, etc. Where would it be found? How is it “used”? How do people relate and connect to it? Why is it important?

Finally, **reflect** on how you relate to this image/object/sound etc. Why did you choose to research it? Does it resonate with you?

**Due date: March 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:59PM.**

### Assignment Guidelines

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

- 1) How well you understand the material and effectively utilize sources to meet the requirements of the assignment – it should include all three aspects required of you (**describe** the image/sensory object, **discuss** its role/importance and **reflect** on how you relate to it). Make sure to fully integrate your sources as you address all questions asked in the description of the assignment.
- 2) Writing style and focus– 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) Presenting without bias – 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 assignment.
- 4) Organization – present your discussion in manner that has a logical flow. For example, if 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.
- 5) Mechanically Correct – proper citation, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

## Calendar of Activities and Evaluations

Week	Date	Topic   Theme	Requirements
Week 1	January 9 <sup>th</sup>	General Introduction, Defining Hinduism and Indus Valley	Rodrigues "Introduction"
Week 2	January 16 <sup>th</sup>	The Vedas and Vedic Religion. <b>Group discussion of <i>Altar of Fire</i>.</b>	Rodrigues Chapter 1; watch <i>Altar of Fire</i>
Week 3	January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Upaniṣads <b>Group discussion of the Upaniṣad passages.</b>	Rodrigues Chapter 2 & passages from the Upaniṣads posted on CU Learn.
Week 4	January 30 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction to Hindu Philosophy	Rodrigues Chapter 5.
Week 5	February 6 <sup>th</sup>	No class today. Watch <i>Essentials of Faith: Hinduism</i> .	
Week 6	February 13 <sup>th</sup>	Dharma, Society, and the Individual.  Midterm discussion.	Rodrigues Chapters 3 & 4.
<b>Reading Week</b>			
Week 7	February 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Midterm (8:30 – 10:00 AM)</b> The Epics (The <i>Mahabharata</i> and The <i>Ramayana</i> ).	Rodrigues Chapter 6, pages 168 – 184 & <i>Sita</i> comic book.
Week 8	March 5 <sup>th</sup>	The Gita, <i>Bhakti</i> and devotional poets.  <b>Group discussion of devotional poetry.</b>	Rodrigues chapter 6, pages 184 – 199, <i>The Gita</i> comic book, & a selection of devotional poetry posted on CU Learn.

Week 9	March 12 <sup>th</sup>	Concepts of the Divine, Sectarian Hinduism and Domestic Worship	Rodrigues Chapter 7 & “ <a href="#">Home Altar</a> ” (CU Learn).
Week 10	March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Temple and Tantra	Rodrigues Chapters 8 & 9.  <b>Assignment Due.</b>
Week 11	March 26 <sup>th</sup>	Modern Hinduism	Rodrigues Chapters 10 & 12.
Week 12	April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Hinduism in the West  <b>Group discussion of <i>Hindu Temples</i>.</b>  Final exam discussion.	Rodrigues Chapter 13, “ <a href="#">Building a Temple</a> ” (CU Learn) and watch <i>Hindu Temples</i> .



## Humanities

### 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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[CU KnowHow Website](#)

**Academics:** From registration to graduation, the tools for your success.