

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



*Ganesha – the remover of obstacles; god of beginnings.*

**Instructor:** Prof. Jessica Ford

**Class Time:** Friday 8:35 – 11:25AM. IN-PERSON. The location of the classroom will be listed on Brightspace. You may also refer to Carleton360 for this information.

**Virtual Office Hours:** Tuesday from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM through Zoom or by appointment. At all other times, if you have questions about course material or assignments please feel free to please send me an email.

**Email:** [JessicaFord@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:JessicaFord@cunet.carleton.ca)

**Course Description:** In this course, we will explore the multifaceted tradition known as “Hinduism” - from the development of the tradition, focusing on 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 to Hindu concepts of the divine.

### Learning Outcomes:

By completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Summarize the academic study of religion
- Understand the historical development, basic data, and disciplinary vocabulary associated with Hinduism
- Describe core concepts and central beliefs that shape the Hindu worldview
- Engage with and analyze primary and secondary sources
- Write with skills appropriate for a second-year humanities course, which includes writing clearly, concisely and without personal bias
- Properly cite references in a paper

### Course Teaching Methods

This course is structured around Hillary Rodrigues' ebook *Introducing Hinduism*, with supplemental reading from Hindu texts (sometimes in the form of comic books or graphic novel adaptations), secondary sources, and films. The style of instruction will primarily be lecture-based; however, student participation will be fostered through in-class group discussions as well as online discussion forums. Please see the "Calendar of Activities and Evaluations" below for details.

### 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 Brightspace 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 Sita). ([Link to graphic novel](#)). If you prefer 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 Brightspace.

While I do attempt to follow the textbook closely in my 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 lectures. In addition, the 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 the lectures.

### Assignments and Evaluation:

Assignment	Date	Value
3 Short Quizzes	Throughout (see “Calendar of Activities and Evaluations” below for details)	30%
3 Group Discussions	Throughout (see “Calendar of Activities and Evaluations” below for details)	15%
Writing Assignment	March 5 <sup>th</sup>	20%
Take Home Final Exam	April 25 <sup>th</sup>	35%

### Assignment Details:

#### 3 Short Quizzes (30% of course grade)

Each quiz is worth 10% and will be written at the start of class, 8:35 – 9:05 AM. These are vocabulary and concept quizzes that allows instructor to ensure that students are completing assigned readings and regularly attending (and being attentive) during lectures. **Each quiz will test your knowledge of what you have learned from the textbook, as well as class lectures.**

Each quiz will involve only a small amount of writing (fill-in the blanks, multiple choice, and small paragraph responses). These will not test in depth understanding of complex ideas – rather the aim is to understand how students are understanding Sanskrit terminology and key concepts within the tradition. Each quiz will cover a limited range of class material, see chart below for dates:

Quiz	Date	Content Covered
1	<b>February 2<sup>nd</sup> (8:35–9:35AM)</b>	Jan. 8 <sup>th</sup> – Feb. 2 <sup>nd</sup> (inclusive)
2	<b>March 8<sup>th</sup> (8:35–9:35AM)</b>	Feb. 5 <sup>th</sup> – Mar. 8 <sup>th</sup> (inclusive)
3	<b>April 5<sup>th</sup> (8:35–9:35AM)</b>	Mar. 11 <sup>th</sup> – April 5 <sup>th</sup> (inclusive)

#### Group Discussions (15% of course grade)

Three class discussions will be held periodically throughout the semester (see “Calendar of Activities and Evaluations” below for details). These discussions will center around an assigned reading and/or film and will occur during the first hour of each class, afterwards we will resume lecture material. There will, of course, be some flexibility in this – if a fantastic discussion is happening, I won’t promptly end it at the 1 hour mark.

Prior to each discussion class you will be given questions to consider (these will be posted on Brightspace). Attendance will be taken during these discussions; however, **your grade is not based on attendance alone.** You must **actively contribute** to these discussions by speaking during these discussion periods. You should come prepared to answer at least one of the questions posed (these will be given in advance) and/or to ask relevant questions that further the conversation.

### Midterm Writing Assignment (20% of course grade)

**Due Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:59PM.**

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) 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** and **proper citations in Chicago Style** ([https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)) **are requirements** of this assignment. You may use either the “author/date” or “notes and bibliography” method.

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

**The priority in this course is that you learn and are successful, however I do understand that life can present challenges. This assignment has a due date, however there will be a **grace period of three days (for this assignment only!)** to allow for such life challenges. You may submit your assignment up through the grace period date (**Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> by 11:59PM**) **without penalty and without requesting an extension. *Assignments will not be accepted after this grace period, without prior approval.*** Please plan on submitting the assignment on the initial due date, but do know that there is some flexibility should the need arise. Communication is key – please contact me if there are any issues.**

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

**Due Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM.**

The take home final will be due at the end of the final examination period (as per university policy) and will require that you draw from the knowledge obtained throughout the duration of the course (cumulative). The exam details and format will be distributed in the last week of classes of the semester.

### General Assignment Guidelines

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

1. Content and development - your understanding of 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 – maintaining 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 – presenting 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. Mechanical Correctness – using proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

**\*\*\*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 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. **Plagiarism:** The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This 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, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.
- Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:
- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
  - using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
  - using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
  - submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own; and
  - failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts 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.

3. Students **MUST** explicitly reference course materials in their essays. Failure to do so will result in the essay being returned **ungraded** and a mark of **zero** will be assigned. This means essays that rely on outside sources will not be accepted. Further, AI-catching software will be utilized in the grading of all essays. Any suspicious essays will be sent to the Dean’s office for further investigation and the assignment of appropriate penalties.
4. Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

## Expectations and Communication Guidelines:

**YOURS:** It is expected that you become very familiar with your syllabus – it is the best tool to keep you on track with dates and deadlines.

You will notice that some weeks there are more tasks due than in others. Please do not feel overwhelmed by this! Unfortunately, due to the nature of our schedule and the need for you to have covered certain material prior to our discussion classes, this was unavoidable. However, the task load is indeed balanced in the end. What does all 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 3 hours of class time each week in addition to 6-9 hours of study/task time.

As students in a 2000-level course you should expect approximately 40 pages of reading per week and somewhere between 8 – 12 pages of writing throughout the entire semester. You are expected to come to discussion classes having completed the required readings and/or viewed the required films for that class (**see “Calendar of Activities” for relevant dates**). Further, you are also expected to come with some thought put into the questions given prior to each discussion class.

When corresponding with me via email, I do ask that you **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:** During the first class of the semester, I will ask you if you would like weekly announcements sent out via Brightspace. If class majority says “YES” then I will be sending these every Friday. These are just friendly reminders about what readings you should be working through, when upcoming tasks/assignments are due, and any other relevant information.

I will respond to all email enquiries 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 regarding due dates, as that information will be found here.

I will hold office hours via Zoom (link will be provided on Brightspace) on Tuesdays from 11:00 AM –12:00PM unless otherwise announced, however, if you are unable to be online during this period, please email to schedule an appointment.

## Calendar of Activities and Evaluations

Week	Date	Topic   Theme	Requirements
Week 1	January 8 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup>	<u>Module 1:</u> The study of Religion, Defining Hinduism and Indus Valley.	<b>Attend: Class on Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup> from 8:35–11:25AM.</b>

<b>Week 2</b>	January 15 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup>	<u>Module 2:</u> The <i>Vedas</i> and Vedic Religion.	<p><b>Read:</b> Rodrigues “Introduction”.</p> <p><b>Attend:</b> Class on <b>Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:35–11:25AM.</b></p> <p><b>Watch:</b> <i>Altar of Fire</i> film (Brightspace).</p> <p><b>Read:</b> Rodrigues Chapter 1 (pages 28 – 48).</p> <p><b>Tasks:</b> Preview questions for discussion class next week. Prepare for discussion.</p>
<b>Week 3</b>	January 22 <sup>nd</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup>	<u>Module 3:</u> The <i>Upaniṣads</i> .	<p><b>Attend:</b> Class on <b>Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup> from 8:35-11:25 AM.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discussion of <i>Altar of Fire</i> from 8:35-9:35AM.</b></li> <li>• <b>Lecture from 9:35-11:25AM.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Read:</b> Rodrigues Chapter 2 and passages from the <i>Upaniṣads</i> (Brightspace).</p> <p><b>Tasks:</b> Prepare for quiz 1.</p>
<b>Week 4</b>	January 29 <sup>th</sup> – February 4 <sup>th</sup>	<u>Module 4:</u> Introduction to Hindu Philosophy.	<p><b>Attend:</b> Class on <b>Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8:35-11:25 AM.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Quiz 1 from 8:35-9:05AM.</b></li> <li>• <b>Lecture from 9:05-11:25AM.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Read:</b> Rodrigues Chapter 5.</p>
<b>Week 5</b>	February 5 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup>	<u>Module 5:</u> Dharma and Society.	<p><b>Attend:</b> Class on <b>Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:35–11:25AM.</b></p> <p><b>Read:</b> Rodrigues Chapters 3.</p> <p><b>Tasks:</b> Preview questions for discussion class next week. Prepare for discussion.</p>

<b>Week 6</b>	February 12 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>	<u>Module 6:</u> Dharma and the Individual.	<p><b>Attend:</b> Class on <b>Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:35-11:25 AM.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion of <i>Upaniṣads</i> from 8:35-9:35AM.</li> <li>• Lecture from 9:35-11:25AM.</li> </ul> <p><b>Read:</b> Rodrigues Chapter 4.</p>
<p><b>Winter Break</b> <b>February 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup></b></p>			
<b>Week 7</b>	February 26 <sup>th</sup> – March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<u>Module 7:</u> The Epics (The <i>Ramayana</i> and the <i>Mahabharata</i> ).	<p><b>Attend:</b> Class on <b>Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> from 8:35–11:25AM.</b></p> <p><b>Read:</b> Rodrigues Chapter 6 (pages 168 – 184) and <i>Sita: Daughter of the Earth</i> graphic novel (Brightspace).</p> <p><b>Tasks:</b> Midterm assignment on Dharma <b><u>due Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:59PM.</u></b> Prepare for quiz 2.</p>
<b>Week 8</b>	March 4 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup>	<u>Module 8:</u> The <i>Bhagavad Gita</i> , <i>Bhakti</i> and devotional poets.	<p><b>Attend:</b> Class on <b>Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:35–11:25AM.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz 2 from 8:35-9:05AM.</li> <li>• Lecture from 9:05-11:25AM.</li> </ul> <p><b>Read:</b> Rodrigues Chapter 6 (pages 184 – 199), <i>The Gita: The Song of Eternal Wisdom</i> comic book, &amp; selection of devotional poetry (Brightspace).</p>



<b>Week 9</b>	March 11 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup>	<u>Module 9:</u> Concepts of the Divine, Sectarian Hinduism and Domestic Worship.	<p><b>Attend:</b> Class on <b>Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> from 8:35 – 11:25AM.</b></p> <p><b>Read:</b> Rodrigues Chapter 7 &amp; “<a href="#">Home Altar</a>” (Brightspace).</p> <p><b>Tasks:</b> Preview questions for class discussion next week. Prepare for discussion.</p>
<b>Week 10</b>	March 18 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup>	<u>Module 10:</u> Temple and Tantra.	<p><b>Attend:</b> Class on <b>Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8:35–11:25AM.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discussion of <i>Bhakti</i> poetry from 8:35-9:35AM.</b></li> <li>• <b>Lecture from 9:35-11:25AM.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Watch:</b> <i>Places of Worship: Hinduism - a Mandir and Artefacts</i> (Brightspace).</p> <p><b>Read:</b> Rodrigues Chapters 8 &amp; 9.</p>
<b>Week 11</b>	March 25 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup>	<u>Module 11:</u> Modern Hinduism.	<p><b>Attend: NO CLASS.</b></p> <p><b>Watch:</b> <i>Hindu Temples</i> film (Brightspace).</p> <p><b>Read:</b> Rodrigues Chapters 10 &amp; 12.</p> <p><b>Tasks:</b> Prepare for quiz 3.</p>
<b>Week 12</b>	April 1 <sup>st</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup>	<u>Module 12:</u> Modern Hinduism/Hinduism in the Diaspora	<p><b>Attend:</b> Class on <b>Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Quiz 3 from 8:35-9:05AM.</b></li> <li>• <b>Lecture from 9:05-11:25AM.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Read:</b> Rodrigues Chapter 13, and “<a href="#">Building a Temple</a>” (Brightspace).</p>
<b>Week 12.5</b>	April 8 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup>	Take home final assigned.	<p><b>Attend:</b> Class on <b>Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> from 8:35–11:25AM.</b></p> <p>This class will be the time we tie up any loose ends that we may have.</p>

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In addition to this, there will be discussion of the take-home final exam.

April 13<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>

Final Exam Period

**Take home final due  
Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at  
11:59PM.**

## Course Notes:

1. Posting lecture notes to sharing sites – **do not do this!** Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussion, presentations, etc., by both instructor 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).

2. I always want my students to be successful in my courses so, above all, remember that I am here to help! However, I cannot be of any assistance if you do not ask – please feel free to communicate with me (on the discussion forum or via email) at any point during the semester.

# University Regulations for All College of the Humanities Courses

(Updated December 6<sup>th</sup> 2023)

## Academic Dates and Deadlines

This schedule contains the dates prescribed by the University Senate for academic activities. Dates relating to fee payment, cancellation of course selections, late charges, and other fees or charges will be published in the Important Dates and Deadlines section of the Registration Website.

## 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.

## Online Learning Resources

[On this page](#), you will find resources collected by Carleton Online to help you succeed in your online courses; Learning Strategies and Best Practices, Study Skills, Technology and Online Interaction and Engagement.

## Academic Integrity Policy

**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, material on the internet and/or conversations.

**Examples of plagiarism** include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one's own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks.