

**The College of the Humanities  
RELI 2510  
Hinduism**

Fridays 14:35 – 17:25

Professor Noel Salmond

Office: 2A38 Paterson Hall; Telephone: 613 520 2600 x 8162

email: [noel.salmond@carleton.ca](mailto:noel.salmond@carleton.ca)

Office Hours: TBA (or by appointment)

**Course Description:**

Basic beliefs, practices, and social structures of the Hindu tradition as reflected in Hindu scriptures, myths and symbols, and philosophical schools. (University Calendar)

On a global level, India is now the planet's most populous country (1.4 billion with 80% self-identifying as Hindu) and has risen to be among the world's largest economies. Influence from Hindu India extends all over South Asia and Southeast Asia and in recent centuries has entered powerfully into the West. On the level of the individual, Hindu tradition has engaged in a long, sophisticated, and profound examination of the human person, the nature of consciousness, and the aims of human existence. The course engages with both the historical/political and personal/spiritual dimensions of Hindu tradition.

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

On successful completion of this course students should be able to:

- Understand the vocabulary and be able to articulate the central concepts of the Hindu tradition
- Be able to identify major phases in the historical development of Hinduism
- Be able to understand the influence of social, economic, and political developments on Hindu tradition
- Be familiar with the central reference resources, online resources, and scholarly journals in this area
- Have improved their skills in academic writing including development of a thesis and correct use of citations (The Religion program follows the Chicago Manual of Style). For Chicago author/date style see: [https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide/citation-guide-2.html](https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-2.html)

## Course Evaluation:

- Participation/attendance: 20% (exercises done in class each session)  
In each class both before and after the break, there will be short handwritten in-class exercises that will be collected by the instructor. These provide an indication of your grasp of concepts and also an objective measure of attendance. The best ten out of twelve will be counted towards participation/attendance.  
**Note:** In a course that meets only once a week for three hours twelve times in the semester, to miss four or more weeks of classes is to miss a third of the course. *As such, students who miss four or more class are not eligible for course credit.*
- Mid-term test: 20% Oct. 17
- Paper Proposal: 5% due Nov. 7  
Draft description, initial bibliography of your term paper.  
(Handout will be provided) Note: No paper will be accepted without being preceded by this proposal
- Term paper: 25% due Dec. 5  
Paper topics will be provided with detailed instructions. Papers will require citation of primary texts and citation of key resources in the academic study of Hinduism listed below. One option will be to write a report on a visit to an Ottawa area Hindu temple or practice centre.
- Final examination: 30% (in formal examination period)  
Short answer and short essay questions

Please note: *the mid-term, the paper (preceded by proposal), and the final exam must be written to receive credit for the course.*

## AI policy for RELI 2510:

This course involves in-class writing by hand, an in-class handwritten mid-term, and a final handwritten examination. Papers that exhibit the use of AI (for instance: lack of citations from the required sources, citations from primary sources that are not from the indicated translations, failure to follow assigned prompts) will not be graded. In short, requirements for this course are simply not compatible with the use of artificial intelligence. Rather than “artificial” intelligence, this course is intended to develop skills in your own *human* intelligence by reading, reflecting, speaking, and writing on profound human issues as raised in the Hindu tradition. *There is no authorized use of generative AI tools in this course.*

## Policy on laptops, phones, and other electronics:

Evidence has shown that notes written by hand are more effective than those typed to a device. There is also strong evidence that reading on paper is superior for comprehension and retention than electronic readings, i.e., reading pixels on a screen. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1364661323001985?via%3Dihub>

Additionally, screens are a major source of distraction (for all of us). This is not just distracting the individual user; it is diminishing the atmosphere of attentiveness in the room for everyone. For these reasons, there will screen-free periods in the class in which all screens (including phones) must be closed and put away.

### **Required Texts:**

There are two required books for this course both available in hardcopy from the Carleton University bookstore:

Hillary Rodrigues, *Introducing Hinduism*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Routledge, 2025. ISBN 978-0367676926 (\$71.48, Amazon.ca price) The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition is also acceptable.

Barbara Stoler Miller, trans., *The Bhagavad-Gita: Krishna's Counsel in Time of War*. New York: Bantam, 2004

(\$10.95, Amazon.ca price)

(All other readings will be available on Brightspace/ARES)

### **On Reserve at MacOdrum Library:**

Deepak Sarma, ed. *Hinduism: A Reader*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2008. [An excellent selection of primary texts]

Diana Eck, *Darśan: Seeing the Divine Image in India*. New York: Columbia UP, 1996

Arvind Sharma, *Classical Hindu Thought: An Introduction*. New Delhi: OUP, 2000

John Grimes, *A Concise Dictionary of Indian Philosophy: Sanskrit Terms Defined*. Albany: SUNY Press, 1996

A.L. Basham, *The Wonder that was India: A Survey of the History and Culture of the Indian Sub-continent Before the Coming of the Muslims*. N.Y.: Taplinger, 1967. [A classic survey, dated but still useful]

Audrey Truschke, *India: 5,000 Years of History on the Subcontinent*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2025. [A brand new magisterial survey by a controversial contemporary scholar]

### **Resources in the Study of Hindu Tradition:**

*Brill's Encyclopedia of Hinduism* (online) 2019

<https://referenceworks-brill-com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/display/db/enhi?contents=mrw-browse-a-z>

*A Dictionary of Hinduism*. W.J. Johnson. Oxford: OUP, 2009

<http://www.oxfordreference.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/view/10.1093/acref/9780198610250.01.0001/acref-9780198610250>

*The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Hinduism*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. ed. Gavin Flood. Hoboken NJ: John Wiley and Sons, 2022

<https://onlinelibrary-wiley-com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/doi/book/10.1002/9781119144892>

[see also the 2003 edition]

*The Hindu World*, ed. Sushil Mittal, Gene Thursby. New York and London: Routledge, 2004

<https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/lib/oculcarleton-ebooks/detail.action?pq-origsite=primo&docID=199997>

*The Oxford History of Hinduism: Hindu Practice*. ed. Gavin Flood. Oxford: OUP, 2020

<https://academic-oup-com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/book/36659?login=true&token=eyJhbGciOiJub25lIn0.eyJleHAiOiJlE3MjY0NDg5MzlsImp0aSI6ImUyYzEwNmE2LWU3MDUtNDk3OS04ZmI4LTEyMDQ5Y2FlZGMlNCJ9>

*The Oxford History of Hinduism: Hindu Law*, ed. Patrick Olivelle. Oxford: OUP, 2018

[https://ocul-crl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991022658573705153&context=L&vid=01OCUL\\_CRL:DEFAULT&lang=en&search\\_scope=NewDiscoveryNetwork&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=OCULDiscoveryNetworkNew&query=any,contains,The%20oxford%20history%20of%20hinduism&mode=basic](https://ocul-crl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991022658573705153&context=L&vid=01OCUL_CRL:DEFAULT&lang=en&search_scope=NewDiscoveryNetwork&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=OCULDiscoveryNetworkNew&query=any,contains,The%20oxford%20history%20of%20hinduism&mode=basic)

### Further Resources:

The Indology website [a source for classical Indian texts used by professional scholars]

<http://indology.info/>

Philosophy in India podcast series co-authored by Prof. Jonardon Ganeri (U of T) and Prof. Peter Adamson (King's College London). Full of episodes on Hindu religious ideas.

<https://historyofphilosophy.net/series/classical-indian-philosophy>

Indian Religions podcast (New Books Network) Interviews with scholars of Indian religions.

<https://newbooksnetwork.com/category/religion-faith/hindu-studies>

### SCHEDULE

*Please note: this schedule is not immutable: I am willing to alter slightly to reflect student interests and potential guest speakers.*

Sept. 5            Introduction to the course. The academic study of religion. Overview of South Asian history and "Hinduism"  
Read: Syllabus. Rodrigues, Introduction

Sept. 12          Indus Valley Civilization and the early Vedic Period.  
Read: Rodrigues, ch. 1; Selection from the Rig Veda (Brightspace)

Sept. 19	The Upaniṣads/Vedānta Read: Rodrigues, ch. 1 cont. and primary text selections on Brightspace
Sept. 26	Dharma Read: Rodrigues, ch. 4; selections from Manu Smṛti (Brightspace)
Oct. 3	The Epics and Bhagavad-Gita Read: Rodrigues, ch. 6 Begin reading, Miller (trans.) The Bhagavad-Gita
Oct. 10	Bhagavad Gita Read, Miller (trans.) The Bhagavad-Gita
Oct. 17	<b>In-class test.</b> Second half: Krishna bhakti. Read: Rodrigues, ch. 6 and selections from Gītagovinda and Bhāgavata Purāṇa (Brightspace)
Oct. 24	Break Week
Oct. 31	Mythology of Śiva. Yoga Read: Rodrigues, ch. 7; reread and review ch.5 pp. 134-138. Purāṇa selections (Brightspace)
Nov. 7	Mythology of the Goddess Read: Rodrigues, ch.7 (especially pp 201-203; 217-232) Purāṇa selections (Brightspace) <i>paper proposals due</i>
Nov. 14	Hindu ritual and pilgrimage Focus: Amarnath Yātra Read: Rodrigues, ch.8; Eck, <i>Darśan</i> (selection on Brightspace)
Nov. 21	Hindu philosophies and theologies Focus: Advaita Vedānta Read: Rodrigues, ch.5
Nov. 28	Hinduism and modernity. Gandhi (and Modi) Read: Rodrigues, ch.10 Review
Dec. 5	No class (Friday: classes follow a Monday schedule)
Dec. 8-20	examination period <b>(Do not make travel plans withing these dates)</b>

# University Regulations for All College of the Humanities Courses (Updated July 21,2025)

## 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

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, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT)
- 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
- failing to acknowledge sources with 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 follows a rigorous [process for academic integrity allegations](#), including reviewing documents and interviewing the student, when an instructor suspects a violation has been committed. Penalties for violations may include a final grade of "F" for the course.

### **Co-operation or Collaboration**

An important and valuable component of the learning process is the progress a student can make as a result of interacting with other students. In struggling together to master similar concepts and problems and in being exposed to each other's views and approaches, a group of students can enhance and speed up the learning process. Carleton University encourages students to benefit from these activities which will not generally be viewed as a violation of the Policy. With the exception of tests and examinations, instructors will not normally limit these interactions.

Students shall not co-operate or collaborate on academic work when the instructor has indicated that the work is to be completed on an individual basis. Failure to follow the instructor's directions in this regard is a violation of the standards of academic integrity. Unless otherwise indicated, students shall not co-operate or collaborate in the completion of a test or examination.

**Group Work:** There are many cases where students are expected or required to work in groups to

complete a course requirement. Normally, students are not responsible for violations of this policy

committed by other members of a group in which they participate.

**More information on the process** [here](#).

## **Academic Accommodations**

Academic accommodation refers to educational practices, systems and support mechanisms designed to accommodate diversity and difference. The purpose of accommodation is to enable students to perform the essential requirements of their academic programs. At no time does academic accommodation undermine or compromise the learning objectives that are established by the academic authorities of the University.

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the *Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances*, are outlined on the [Academic Accommodations website](#).

### **Requests for Academic Accommodation**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes can be [found here](#).

### **Addressing Human Rights Concerns**

The University and all members of the University community share responsibility for ensuring that the University's educational, work and living environments are free from discrimination and harassment. Should you have concerns about harassment or discrimination relating to your age, ancestry, citizenship, colour, creed (religion), disability, ethnic origin, family status, gender expression, gender identity, marital status, place of origin, race, sex (including pregnancy), or sexual orientation, please contact the [Department of Equity and Inclusive Communities](#) at [equity@carleton.ca](mailto:equity@carleton.ca).

### **Grading System at Carleton University**

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.

[The system of grades used](#), with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion can be found [here](#).

### **Course Sharing Websites and Copyright**

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).

[More information](#)

### **Student Rights and Responsibilities at Carleton**

Carleton University strives to provide a safe environment conducive to personal and intellectual growth, free of injustice and characterized by understanding respect, peace, trust, and fairness.



The [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#) governs the non-academic behaviour of students. Carleton University is committed to building a campus that promotes personal growth through the establishment and promotion of transparent and fair academic and non-academic responsibilities.

## Deferred Term Work

In some situations, students are unable to complete term work because of extenuating circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work. Requests for academic consideration are made in accordance with the [Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical or Other Extenuating Circumstances](#).

Students who claim short-term extenuating circumstances (normally lasting up to five days) as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor. If the instructor requires supporting documentation, the instructor may only request submission of the University's self-declaration form, which is available on the [Registrar's Office website](#). The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule.

1. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of term. In all cases, formative evaluations providing feedback to the student should be replaced with formative evaluations. In the event the altered due date must extend beyond the last day of classes in the term, the instructor will assign a grade of zero for the work not submitted and submit the student's earned grade accordingly; the instructor may submit a change of grade at a later date. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.
2. In cases where a student is not able to complete term work due to extenuating circumstances lasting for a significant period of time/ long-term (normally more than five days), the instructor and/or student may elect to consult with the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses) or Graduate Registrar (graduate courses) to determine appropriate action.
3. If a student is concerned the instructor did not respond to the request for academic consideration or did not provide reasonable accommodation, the student should follow the appeals process described in the [Academic Consideration Policy](#).
4. If academic consideration is granted, but the student is unable to complete the accommodation according to the terms set out by the instructor as a result of further illness, injury, or extraordinary circumstances beyond their control, the student may submit a petition to the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses)/Graduate Registrar (graduate courses). Please note, however, that the course instructor will be required to submit an earned final grade and further consideration will only be reviewed according to established precedents and deadlines. (More information: [Undergraduate](#) | [Graduate](#)).

## Deferred Final Exams

Students who are unable to write a final examination because of extenuating

circumstances, as defined in the [Academic Consideration Policy](#), 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.

The application for a deferral must:

1. be made in writing to the Registrar's Office no later than three (3) working days after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination; and,
2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation. In cases of short-term extenuating circumstances normally lasting no more than five (5) days, students must include the University's self-declaration form, which can be found on [the Registrar's Office website](#). Additional documentation is required in cases of extenuating circumstances lasting longer than five (5) days and must be supported by a medical note specifying the date of 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 [here](#).

## Academic Consideration Policy

As per the [Academic Consideration Policy](#), if students encounter extenuating circumstances that temporarily hinder their capacity to fulfil in-class academic requirements, they can request academic consideration. The Academic Consideration for Coursework is only available for accommodations regarding course work. Requests for accommodations during the formal exam period must follow the [official deferral process](#).

NOTE: As per the Policy, students are to speak with/contact their instructor before submitting a request for Academic Consideration. Requests are not automatically approved. Approving and determining the accommodation remains at the discretion of the instructor. Students should consult the course syllabus about the instructor's policy or procedures for requesting academic consideration. [More information here](#).

## Financial vs. Academic Withdrawal

[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. A fee adjustment is dependent on registration being canceled within the published [fee deadlines](#) and dependent on your course load. A course dropped after the deadline for financial withdrawal will receive a grade of Withdrawn (WDN), which appears on your official transcript.

Even if you miss the deadline for financial withdrawal, you might decide to drop a course to avoid a failure or a poor grade showing up on your student record and bringing down your

CGPA. It is your responsibility to drop the course via Carleton Central within the published [deadlines](#) (see Academic Withdrawal).

If you are considering withdrawing from a course, you may want to talk to an advisor first. Course withdrawal may affect your student status, as well as your eligibility for student funding, immigration status, residence accommodation and participation in varsity sports, etc. Additionally, remember that once you choose your courses, you must use the “Calculate amount to pay” button to determine the correct amount of fees to pay.

Carleton Central is your one-stop shop for registration activities. If you are interested in taking a course, make sure to complete your registration. Simply attending a course does not mean you are registered in it, nor is it grounds for petition or appeal.

## Mental Health and Wellness at Carleton

As a student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. For more information, please consult <https://wellness.carleton.ca/>

### Emergency Resources ([on and off campus](#))

- Suicide Crisis Helpline: call or text 9-8-8, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- For immediate danger or urgent medical support: call 9-1-1

### Carleton Resources

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

### Off Campus Resources

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: call 613-238-3311, text 343-306-5550, or connect online at <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: call 613-722-6914 or toll-free 1-866-996-0991, or connect online at <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me Counselling Service: call 1-844-741-6389 or connect online at <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: call 1-866-925-5454 or connect online at <https://good2talk.ca/>

- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: for online or on-site service  
<https://walkincounselling.com>

## The Centre for Indigenous Support and Community Engagement

The Centre for Indigenous Initiatives is proud to offer culturally centered individual counselling to students who self-identify as First Nation, Metis or Inuk. Through this service, Indigenous students [can access confidential, individual sessions for support with personal, mental health or academic challenges.](#)

## Department Contact Information

Bachelor of the Humanities 300 Paterson Hall  
[CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca)

Greek and Roman Studies 300 Paterson Hall  
[GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca)

Religion 2A39 Paterson Hall  
[Religion@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:Religion@cunet.carleton.ca)

Digital Humanities (Graduate) 2A39 Paterson Hall  
[digitalhumanities@carleton.ca](mailto:digitalhumanities@carleton.ca)

Digital Humanities (Undergraduate Minor) 300 Paterson Hall  
[digitalhumanities@carleton.ca](mailto:digitalhumanities@carleton.ca)

MEMS (Undergraduate Minor) 300 Paterson Hall  
[CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca)