

**College of the Humanities
Religion Program: RELI 2510A
Introduction to Hinduism**

Professor: Noel Salmond
Office: 2A38 Paterson Hall
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:00 - 4:00
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613 520 2600 ext. 8162

Class hours: Mondays 6:05 - 8:55 340 Tory

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Basic beliefs, practices, and social structures of the Hindu tradition as reflected in Hindu scriptures, myth and symbols, and philosophical schools. An historical survey from the Vedas to contemporary thought.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

(1) Enhance understanding of the theory, research methods, and tools of the academic study of religion in general and the study of Hinduism in particular; (2) Develop an informed and critical appreciation of the beliefs, practices, social formations, and artistic riches of the Hindu tradition; (3) Develop your ability to analyze and interpret what may be culturally unfamiliar material; (4) Develop greater self-awareness regarding your own cultural and personal assumptions and the ability to think critically about your own and other's worldviews; (5) Enhance your writing skills as a way to clarify for yourself the content of the course and to communicate your understanding to others

REQUIRED TEXTS

Hillary Rodrigues, *Introducing Hinduism*, New York: Routledge, 2006.

Barbara Stoler Miller (trans.) *The Bhagavad-Gita: Krishna's Counsel in Time of War*. New York: Bantam Classics, 1986.

Diana Eck, *Darśan: Seeing the Divine Image in India*. (3rd edition) New York: Columbia University Press, 1998.

A website accessible on Carleton WebCT for additional required readings (these are primarily primary sources). Note: *Text titles are available at Haven Books, 43 Seneca St. (at Sunnyside).*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

1. Midterm test - (in class) 25% Nov. 1
2. Participation (determined largely by the objective measure of attendance), occasional in-class written exercises, and quizzes 15% *Please note that we have only 12 scheduled class meetings. To miss three of these is to miss one quarter of the course.*
3. A written 5 - 6 page written assignment 20%
Detailed instructions on this assignment will be provided. Due Nov. 22
Competence in written style is included in the evaluation of this assignment.
4. Final examination – scheduled in the final examination period 40%
(This exam will include both short answer and essay type questions)

Students must fulfill all requirements of the course to get credit. A make-up mid-term test will *only* be available to students providing medical documentation. Late assignments are docked 3% or one grade-point average per day.

SCHEDULE

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| Sept. 13 | Introduction to the course. Indus Valley civilization
Reading: Rodrigues: Introduction |
| Sept. 20 | The Vedas and Vedic ritual.
Reading: Rodrigues: Chapter 1 (Vedic Religion)
WebCT: Rig Veda hymns |
| Sept. 27 | The Upanisads
Reading: Rodrigues: Chapter 2 (Karma and Cosmology)
WebCT Upanisads (selections) |
| Oct. 4 | Hindu philosophical schools
Reading: Rodrigues: Chapter 5 (The Sanskrit Language), Chapter 6 (Indian Philosophical Schools) and Chapter 12 (Vedanta) |

- Oct. 11 [Thanksgiving] *no classes*
- Oct. 18 Varnasramadharm
Reading: Rodrigues: Chapter 3 (Hindu Social Organization and Values) and Chapter 4 (Dharma and the Individual)
WebCT Manu Smriti (selections)
- Oct. 25 The Mahabharata and Bhagavad Gita
Reading: Rodrigues: Chapter 7 (The Epics) and Chapter 8 (The Bhagavad Gita and the Rise of Bhakti)
Miller: *The Bhagavad Gita*
- Nov. 1 The Bhagavad Gita (cont.)
Reading: Miller: *The Bhagavad Gita*
WebCT Gita commentaries (selections) **Mid-term Test**
- Nov. 8 The Hindu pantheon and Krishna Bhakti
Reading: Rodrigues: Chapter 9 (Major Hindu Theistic Sects) and Chapter 10 (Hindu Deities and Puranic Mythology)
WebCT *Gita Govinda* and Bhagavata Purana (selections)
- Nov. 15 Siva and temples
Reading: Rodrigues: Chapter 11 (Hindu Art and Worship Rituals)
Eck: *Darśan: Seeing the Divine Image in India*
- Nov. 22 The Devi and ritual
Reading: Rodrigues: Chapter 13 (Tantra)
WebCT Devimahatmya (selections) **Written assignment due**
- Nov. 29 Reform and revival: Rammohun Roy and Dayananda Sarasvati
Reading: Rodrigues: chapter 14 (Reform and Revitalization)
WebCT Rammohun, Dayananda, Vivekananda (selections)
- Dec. 6 Gandhi and issues in contemporary Hinduism
Reading: Rodrigues: Chapter 16 (Hinduism and the West) and Chapter 17 (Select Themes in Hinduism)
WebCT Gandhi (selections)
- Exam Period Dec. 9 - 22 *Do not make travel plans within these dates*

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*”

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B = 73-76 (8)	C - = 60-62 (4)
A = 85-89 (11)	B- = 70-72 (7)	D+ = 57-59 (3)
A- = 80-84 (10)	C+ = 67-69 (6)	D = 53-56 (2)
B+ = 77-79 (9)	C = 63-66 (5)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F	Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points
ABS	Absent from final examination, equivalent to F
DEF	Official deferral (see “Petitions to Defer”)
FND	Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from **FALL TERM** courses is **DEC. 6, 2010**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 5, 2011**.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term. For more details visit the PMC website: carleton.ca/pmc/accommodations/

PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please **contact** the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809	300 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100	2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500	300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125	4 th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 th Floor Library