

The College of the Humanities
Religion Program: RELI 2510A
“Introduction to Hinduism” (14421)

Instructor: Dr. Richard MacPhail
Office: Paterson Hall (TBA)
Office Phone: (TBA)
Office Hours: F, 11:35-12:25

Class Hours: F, 8:35-11:25 am
Class Location: Tory Bldg., 342
Email: Richard.MacPhail@Carleton.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course surveys major features of the Hindu tradition from earliest historical times to the present day.

TEACHING AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

This course is designed so that you will: (1) develop an understanding of the methods and perspectives proper to the academic study of religion; (2) develop an informed appreciation for the beliefs, values and practices of South Asian Hinduism; (3) improve your ability to analyze and interpret culturally unfamiliar materials; (4) become more aware of your own cultural and personal assumptions, beliefs, and biases; (5) develop skills to think critically about your own and others’ world-views; (6) develop an appreciation for writing as a way both to clarify for yourself the content of the course and to communicate your understanding to others.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Hillary P. Rodrigues, *HINDUISM, THE eBook: AN ONLINE INTRODUCTION*, © 2006, Journal of Buddhist Ethics Online Books, Ltd. [ISBN 0-9747055-4-3 (ebook)]. The textbook may be purchased online for **US\$25.95** at:
http://www.happyvalues.com/ecom/store.php?crm=220&rn=429&action=show_detail

Blurb: “*Hinduism—The eBook* is a self-contained textbook for a one-semester introductory course on Hinduism. Designed for undergraduate level study, it provides everything students and teachers could expect from a printed text and more. There are two main components:

1. **Hinduism—The eBook.** A text book with extensive links to Internet resources.
2. **Hinduism Online.** A website dovetailing with the ebook and providing a range of additional resources for students and teachers.”

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Consistent attendance is expected.

Assignments will be based on the textbooks, other readings, and lecture material.

- 1) **Five brief written assignments** (250-300 words—10% each, totaling 50%). These exercises will vary in character, and are to be submitted electronically within one week of being assigned.
- 3) Mar. 14. **Research Abstract** due (100-150 words).
- 5) Mar. 28. **Research Assignment** due (2000-3000 words—20%).
- 6) **Final Examination** scheduled by SES (2 hours, 30%). Ten short descriptive answers and two interpretive essays. The final exam will be cumulative and may include material from any part of the course.

Students must complete all written assignments and the final examination to receive credit for the course. Do not plan to travel on examination dates.

LECTURE AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE:

This schedule may vary according to class comprehension and pace.

Each reading and media segment is intended to prepare you for the lectures and should be read, heard or viewed in advance of the class.

Check cuLearn for the current week for links to readings and media.

Jan. 10 - Week 1

1. Introduction to the course; India's new place in the world; Scale and cultural variety.
2. Indus Valley-Saraswati Civilization.

Readings: Rodrigues – Chapter 1, “Introduction” (pp. 23-52).
Assignment 1 – 10%. Due Jan. 17.
Survey of Student Interest (Due date: Jan. 17)

Jan. 17 - Week 2

3. Vedas and Vedic Ritual; *Sruti*.
4. Indus-Aryan Controversy; Contested meanings.

Readings: 1) Rodrigues – Chapter 2, “Vedic Religion” (pp. 53-84).
2) Selections from *Rg Veda*.
 (“Selections” will be found on cuLearn).
3) Selections on understanding *varna, jati* and *gotra*.
4) Selections on contesting the distant past.

Due Jan. 17 - Assignment 1 and Survey of Student Interest.

Assignment 2 – 10%. Due Jan. 24.

Jan. 24 - Week 3

5. *Brahmanas, Aranyakas, Vedangas*.
6. The *Upanisads*.

Readings: 1) Rodrigues – Chapter 3, “*Karma* and cosmology” (pp. 85-98).
2) Selections from the *Upanisads*.

Due Jan. 24 - Assignment 2.

Assignment 3 – 10%. Due Jan. 31.

Jan. 31 - Week 4

7. Philosophy: *Smrti*; Six *Darshanas*; Nondualism, Dualism, Theism.
8. *Sramana* influence; *Astika/Nastika*; *Matham* and *Pitham*.

Readings: 1) Rodrigues – Chapter 6, “The Sanskrit Language” (pp. 172-185).
2) Rodrigues – Chapter 7, “Indian Philosophical Schools” (pp. 186-215).
3) Rodrigues – Chapter 13, “*Vedanta*” (pp. 372-381).

Due Jan. 31 - Assignment 3.

Feb.7 - Week 5

9. *Varna-Asrama-Dharma*; Duty and liberation.
10. Asceticism; *Vratas*; Living a “good life”.

Readings: 1) Rodrigues – Chapter 4, “Hindu social organization and values” (pp. 99-128).
2) Rodrigues – Chapter 5, “*Dharma* and the individual” (pp.129-171).
3) Selections from *Manavadharmasastra*.
4) Selections on various *dharmas*.

Assignment 4 – 10%. Due Feb. 14.

Feb 14 - Week 6

11. *Itihasa: Ramayana.*

12. Many *Ramayanas.*

- Readings:** 1) Rodrigues – Chapter 8, “The Epics” (pp. 216-240)
2) Selections on variant versions of the *Ramayana.*
3) Selections from *The Bhagavad Gita.*

Due Feb. 14 - Assignment 4.

***** Feb 17-21 - Reading Break *****

Feb. 28 - Week 7

13. *Itihasa: Mahabharata.*

14. *Bhagavad Gita.*

- Readings:** 1) Rodrigues – Chapter 9, “The *Bhagavad Gita* and the rise of *bhakti*” (pp. 241-264).
2) Selections from the *Mahabharata.*
3) Selections on responses to the message of the *Gita.*

Assignment 5 – 10%. Due Mar. 7.

Mar. 7 - Week 8

15. Roots of *bhakti*; *Cankam* tradition; *Alvar*, *Nayanmar* and Tamil theism.

16. Spread of *bhakti* across languages and cultures.

- Readings:** 1) Rodrigues – Chapter 10, “Major Hindu sects” (pp. 265-288).
2) Rodrigues – Chapter 11, “Hindu deities and Puranic mythology” (pp. 289-336).
3) Selections on *bhakti.*

Due Mar. 7 - Assignment 5.

Mar. 14 - Week 9

17. Temple ritual; Festival; Officials; *Murti*; Sacred space and time.

18. Cosmogony; *Sthalam*; *Tirtham*; *Yatra* (pilgrimage).

- Readings:** 1) Rodrigues – Chapter 12, “Hindu art and worship rituals” (pp. 337-371).
2) Selections from the *Puranas.*
3) Selections on the *yugas*, temple, festival and pilgrimage.

Mar. 14 Research Abstract Due

Mar. 21 - Week 10

19. *Sakti* and the *tantrika* way.

20. Paradigms of gender; Village goddesses and their helpers.

- Readings:** 1) Rodrigues – Chapter 14, “*Tantra*” (pp. 382-403).
2) Selections from *Sakta Puranas – Devimahatmya.*
3) Selections on village religion.

Mar. 28 - Week 11

21. Muslim and European impacts; 19th Century reform movements.

22. 20th Century reformers; Independence, Partition, Separatism.

- Readings:** 1) Rodrigues – Chapter 15, “Reform and revitalization” (pp. 404-444).
2) Selections from Vivekananda, Aurobindo, Savarkar, M. K. Gandhi.

Due Mar. 28 - Research Paper (20%)

April4 - Week 12

23. Indigeneity; Inclusion, exclusion; Minorities, *Dalits*, *Adivasis*; Ambedkar and conversion; “Caste” politics; Negotiating *jati* status.

24. Hindu horizons.

Readings: 1) Rodrigues – Chapter 16, “Hinduism beyond India” (pp. 445-461)
2) Rodrigues – Chapter 17, “Hinduism and the West” (pp. 462-481)
3) Selected readings to be assigned.

NOTES ON EVALUATION:

There are no grade-raising exams or alternative assignments in this course. If you miss an assignment due date unavoidably, you must provide adequate written documentation (e.g. a doctor’s note, an obituary) for your incapacity. A timely resolution will have to be negotiated with the instructor to meet the criteria of good standing should a student wish to be eligible to write a deferred final exam.

Please see “REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES” attached to the Course Outline for policy on plagiarism, the grading system, academic accommodation and petitions to defer. The University’s policies on Academic Integrity and Offences apply in the writing of all tests and research assignments.

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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. 9, 2013**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 8, 2014**.

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 **Nov. 8, 2013** for the Fall term and **March 7, 2014** for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

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