

**The College of the Humanities
Religion Program: RELI 2750A
Sikhism**

Instructor: Gurcharan Singh
Office: 3A60PA
Office hours: Wednesday 3 pm - 4pm; Friday 3pm - 4pm
Voice-mail: E-mail: gurcharansingh@carleton.ca
Lectures: Wednesday & Friday, 16:05 – 17:25
Location: 406 Southam Hall

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a general overview of the historical origins and development of Sikhism - history, doctrine and practice. Through lectures as well as a range of multimedia materials students will be introduced to Sikh beliefs and rituals. The arrival of Sikhs in Canada and their settlement across Canada will also be discussed.

COURSE AIMS/LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Knowledge of Sikhism, its teaching, practices and development in a historical context.
2. Knowledge about the Sikh scriptures and the Sikh way of life (Ethics and ceremonies).
3. History of early stages of the growth of Sikhism
4. Arrival and adaptation of the Sikhs in Canada.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. *The Sikhs: Their Religious Beliefs and Practices* by Cole and Sambhi.
2. *Kernel of Sikhism* by Sutantar Singh [given in class].
3. E-books available at sikhbookclub.com. [you will have to register with them and can read 5 books in one day; registration is free. Books open in Adobe reader (PDF format)].

Please Note:

Additional reading material will be available in Library and is on 'Reserve'.

COURSE EVALUATION

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| 1. Mid Term - In-class exam | [20%] |
| 2. Term Paper | [30%] |
| Final Exam | [50%] |

Students will be responsible for material covered in the course text and class lectures. Exams may be reviewed with the professor during office hours. Exam results will be posted on cuLearn. Term papers will be returned in class.

COURSE CALENDAR

The lectures generally follow the order of subjects presented in *The Sikhs* - (Cole and Sambhi). Except for the first class, you are expected to read ahead in order to be prepared for the lecture.

Class Readings and Lecture Schedules

Week One (Sept.2)

Topics: Introduction and Framework of the course, the religious/political background to Sikhism

Readings: 1. Cole, *The Sikhs, The Sikhs*: p. 1-6

Week Two (Sept. 9 & 11)

Topics: Life and Times of Guru Nanak

Readings:1. Cole, *The Sikhs* :7-18

2. Sutantar Singh: *Kernel* p.1-6

3. McLeod, *Textual Sources*: p.18-25 (ARES)

Week Three (Sept. 16 & 18)

Topics: Life of Nanak II - Nanak V

Readings: 1. Cole, *The Sikhs*: 18 - 23

2. McLeod, *Textual Sources*: 25-28 (ARES)

3. Harbans Singh, *The Heritage of the Sikhs*: 31 - 41 (ARES)

4. The Punjab Past and Present, Vol. XII-I April 1978, p.160 -177 (ARES)

Week Four (Sept. 23 & 25)

Topics: Nanak VI - Nanak VIII

Readings: 1. Cole, *The Sikhs*: 29 - 33

2. McLeod, *Textual Sources* 30 - 31 (ARES)

3. Harbans Singh, *The Heritage of the Sikhs*: p. 51 - 67 (ARES)

Week Five (Sept. 30 & Oct. 2)

Topics: Nanak IX

Readings:1. Cole, *The Sikhs*: p. 31-34

2. Banerjee, I, *Evolution of the Khalsa*: p. 54-63 (ARES)

3. McLeod, *Textual Sources*: p. 31-38 (ARES)

Week Six (Oct. 7 & 9)

Topics: Nanak X

Readings:1. Cole, *The Sikhs*: p. 35 - 38

2. Harbans Singh, *The Heritage of the Sikhs*: p. 88 - 115 (ARES)

3. McLeod, *Textual Sources*: p. 34 - 38 (ARES)

Week Seven (Oct. 14 & 16)

Topics: Review and Test [Mid Term Exam]

Week Eight (21 & 23)

Topics: The Sikh Scripture & Sikh Philosophy [Term Paper topics issued]

Readings 1:Sutantar Singh, *Kernel* : p. 48-52; 63-66;72 - 74

2:Sutantar Singh, *About Guru Granth Sahib*: p. 1-33 (ARES)

Week Nine (Oct. 28 & 30) Fall Break - No Classes

Week Ten (Nov. 4 & 6)

Topics: Sikh Ceremonies, Ethics

Readings 1: Sutantar Singh, *Kernel*: p. 89-93

2. Avtar Singh, *Ethics of the Sikhs*: p. 139-145 (ARES)

3. Cole *The Sikhs*: p. 106-129, p. 136-144

Week Eleven (Nov. 11 & 13)

Topic: Sikh Way of Life

Readings: 1. Sikh Reht Maryada (ARES)

Week Twelve (Nov. 18 & 20)

Topics: Sikhs in Canada - I

Readings 1: Buchignani, *Continuous Journey*: p. 17 - 27 (ARES)

Week Thirteen (Nov. 25 & 27)

Topics: Sikhs in Canada - II

Readings 1: Buchignani, *Continuous Journey*: p. 53 - 64 (ARES)

Week Fourteen (Dec. 2 & 4)

Topics: Exam Review

TERM PAPERS SUBMITTED BY NOV. 20th shall be RETURNED IN CLASS ON **DEC. 4th**.
[Paper should be about 3,000 words.]

TOPICS - Choose ONE of the following:

1. Discuss the Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Sahib and evaluate its impact on the growth of Sikhism.
2. Discuss the Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib and evaluate its impact on the growth of Sikhism.
3. Was the treatment of the Komagata Maru justified?
4. If you wish to write a paper on any course related subject please come and discuss your proposal. At that time bring an outline of your proposal.

General Notes on Evaluation:

1. Please see "Regulations Common to all Humanities Courses" attached to the syllabus for policy on plagiarism, grading systems, requests for academic accommodation and petitions to defer.
2. Missed quizzes, tests and assignments can only be made up if the student supplies adequate written documentation (i.e., a doctor's note, an obituary) for the absence.
3. While attendance will not be taken in the course, student attendance at lectures and student success on tests and exams are closely linked. You are far more likely to pass this course if you attend all the lectures and do all of the assigned readings.
4. If you miss the final exam, you are required to apply for a deferral from the University.
5. Term papers that are late without prior notice will be penalized 2% per day.
6. Final exam to be scheduled by Carleton and written during the Fall term final exam period. Please note that all of the tests and the exam are primarily composed of written answers both short answers (a few paragraphs) and longer answers (essays).

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:

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|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 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) |

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| 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. 7, 2015**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 8, 2016**.

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. 6, 2015** for the Fall term and **March 6, 2016** 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 a final assignment or take home, in courses without a final examination, 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)

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| 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 |