

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

Instructor: Gurcharan Singh

Office: 310A

Tel No. 520-2600 ext. 7025

Office hours: Wednesday and Friday 11.50 am-12.50pm

E-mail: gurcharansingh@carleton.ca

Lectures: Wednesday & Friday, 1.00-2.25pm

Location: UC 182

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

At the conclusion of the course, the students will have acquired:

- Knowledge of Sikhism, its teaching, practices and development in a historical context.
- Knowledge about the Sikh scriptures and the Sikh way of life (ethics and ceremonies).
- History of early stages of the growth of Sikhism
- 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)]. E-books are also available at discoversikhism.com.

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

COURSE EVALUATION

1. Mid Term - In-class test [30%]
2. Final Exam [70%]

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. Mid Term Exam will be held on November 13 and returned on November 22 in class.

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.4 & 6)

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. 11 & 13)

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. 18 & 20)

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. 25 & 27)

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 (Oct.2 & Oct. 4)

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. 9 & 11)

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. 16 & 18)

Topic: Guru Granth Sahib

Readings

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

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

Week Eight (Oct. 20 -26)
Fall Break – No Classes

Week Nine (Oct. 30 & Nov. 1)

Topics: The Sikh Prayer & Sikh Philosophy

Readings:

1. Teja Singh: Chapter X: [issued in class]

Week Ten (Nov. 6 & 8)

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. 13 & 15)

November 13 – MID TERM EXAM

Nov. 15 - Topic: Sikh Way of Life

Readings:

1. Sikh Code of Conduct [Reht Maryada] (ARES)

Week Twelve (Nov. 20 & 22)

Topics: Sikhs in Canada - I

Readings

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

Week Thirteen (Nov. 27 & 29)

Topics: Sikhs in Canada - II

Readings

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

Week Fourteen (Dec. 4 & Dec. 6)

Topics: Review; Discussion on Sikh Issues



University Regulations for All College of the 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.

Academic Integrity at Carleton

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, and material on the internet. More information can be found [here](#).

Academic Accommodation Policy

Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to the instructor 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. For more details see the [Student Guide](#)

Religious obligation: write to the instructor 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. For more details see the [Student Guide](#)

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at

613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the [PMC website](#) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

Grading System at Carleton University

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion is below. Grade points indicated are for courses with 1.0 credit value. Where the course credit is greater or less than one credit, the grade points are adjusted proportionately.

[Grading System](#)

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).

Statement on Class Conduct

The Carleton University Human Rights Policies and Procedures affirm that all members of the University community share a responsibility to:

- promote equity and fairness,
- respect and value diversity,
- prevent discrimination and harassment, and preserve the freedom of its members to carry out responsibly their scholarly work without threat of interference.

Deferred Term Work

In some situations, students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work.

Students who claim illness, injury or other extraordinary circumstances beyond their control as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor and **in all cases this must occur no later than three (3.0) working days after the term work was due.**

The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of term. More information is available [in the calendar](#).

Deferred Final Exams

Students who are unable to write a final examination because of a serious illness/emergency or other circumstances beyond their control 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. [More information.](#)

The application for a [deferral](#) must:

1. be made in writing or online to the Registrar's Office no later than **three working days** after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination; and,
2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation and, in cases of illness, by a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination, or by appropriate documents in other cases. Medical documents must specify the date of the 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 [forms and fees page](#).

Any questions related to deferring a Final Exam or Final Assignment/Take Home Examination should be directed to the [Registrar's Office](#).

Withdrawal From Courses

Withdrawn. No academic credit, no impact on the CGPA. WDN is a permanent notation that appears on the official transcript for students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term (noted in the Academic Year section of the Calendar each term). Students may withdraw on or before the last day of classes.

Important dates can be found [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. [More information](#)

Department Contact Information

College of the Humanities 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca

Drop box for CLCV, HUMS LATN GREK Term Papers and assignments is outside 300 P.A.

Greek and Roman Studies 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca

Drop Box is outside of 300 P.A.

Religion 2A39 Paterson Hall (613)520-2100

Religion@cunet.carleton.ca

Drop box for RELI and SAST Term Papers and assignments is outside of 2A39 P.A.

Registrar's Office 300 Tory (613)520-3500

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/>

Student Resources on Campus

[CUKnowHow Website](#)

[Academics: From registration to graduation, the tools for your success.](#)