

RELI 2515A – Fall 2009 Syllabus

Professor HV Dehejia, Religion, Paterson Hall 329C
(613) 233-3103 or 233-5629 during 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.
(Please identify yourself as a Carleton University student when you call)
harshadehejia@hotmail.com
Please use Carleton email. I do not open attachments to email.

Office Hours

Wednesday 1330 to 1430 hours, Patterson Hall 329C

Lecture Times

Wednesdays 14:35 to 17:35 hours, 306 Southam Hall,
First class September 16, 2009

Please note that those who have taken RELI 2005 and RELI 2008 with Professor HV Dehejia may not register for this course, as this course is the same course with a different number.

Required Text

Leaves of a Pipal Tree, available at the University Bookstore.

Course Description

The course focuses on mythic images in the Indian tradition from the Indus Valley civilization to Mother India. The emphasis is mainly aesthetic and philosophical and the course investigates poetic truth or how aesthetic experience leads to knowledge of ultimate reality. The first half of the course explores aesthetic theories especially those involving rasa or aesthetic emotion and rupa or aesthetic form.

Theories of artha or semantics are examined and Indian Idealism is discussed. This half ends with an exploration of the epistemology of the Indian Aesthetic traditions.

The second half of the course, which is more visual, takes up the understanding and enjoyment of mythic images, through the rasa that they espouse. These will include Krsna, Siva, Visnu, Parvati, Durga, Kali and Buddha and the architecture of the Hindu temple. Various akritis or forms are examined and their relation to Indian culture investigated.

Course Evaluation

Mid Term Examination.

1. Write a critique in proper essay format of chapter 1 of the text book. Please note that a critique is not a summary of the chapter. It should be at least 2000 words in length and have at least one reference from a recognised book. References from material on the Internet are not acceptable.
2. The paper will carry 30 marks.
3. The term paper is compulsory.
4. The paper, in hard copy, typed or printed, is due in class on October 7, 2009. Or you may drop it off in the drop box outside the Religion office on or before that day. You may not send your paper by email. Late submissions will be penalised by 5 marks per day unless accompanied by a medical certificate.

Final Examination

The examination will have about 200 questions to be answered on the Scantron sheet in three hours. The examination will include material from the entire text book, all lectures and all interviews played in class. The final authority on the validity of answers will be the material presented in class or in the text.

Deferred Final Examination

This will be scheduled by the University only if there a valid reason and supported by a medical certificate for not being able to write the final examination. All negotiations for this should be with the office of the Registrar and not with the Professor.

Course Schedule

Lecture 1. September 16, 2009

Origins of Hindu civilisation.
Unique features of Hindu thought.
Distinction between Hindu philosophy and Hindu religion,
Sectarian Hinduism, Yoga.
Chapter 1

Lecture 2. September 23, 2009

Doctrine's of Rasa & Rupa
Chapter 2

Lecture 3. September 30, 2009

Epistemology of Aesthetic Experience
Chapter 1

Lecture 4. October 7, 2009

The Indus Valley Civilization
Folk and Popular Art
Chapter 10

Lecture 5. October 14, 2009

Experiencing Knowledge, Visually
Kalasha: The genesis of symbols
Objects Of Beauty
Chapter 11

Lecture 6. October 21, 2009

Shiva and His consorts
Chapter 6

Lecture 7. October 28, 2009

Aesthetics of Boundaries: The Genesis of Ganesha.
The Life and Death of Kama
Chapter 2

Lecture 8. November 4, 2009

Forms of Vishnu
Chapter 8

Lecture 9. November 11, 2009

The Romantic Emotion; Krishna and Radha
Chapter 4

Lecture 10. November 18, 2009

The Romantic Emotion; Krishna and Radha - Continued
Chapter 4

Lecture 11. November 25, 2009

The Mother Goddess
Chapter 7

Lecture 12. December 2, 2009

Buddha
Indian Aesthetic Sensibility
Chapter 3

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 range from a mark of zero for the plagiarized work to a final grade of “F” for the course, and even suspension from all studies or expulsion from the University.

GRADING SYSTEM

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

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

F	Failure. No academic credit
WDN	Withdrawn from the course
ABS	Absent from the final examination
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 November 16, 2009. The last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter (full year) and Winter term courses is March 12, 2010.

REQUESTS FOR 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 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. For more details visit the Equity Services website: http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

Religious obligation: 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. For more details visit the Equity Services website: http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

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 are 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 I receive 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: http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/acad_accom.html

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>

PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to complete a **final** term paper or write a **final** examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control or whose performance on an examination has been impaired by such circumstances may apply in writing within five working days to the Registrar's Office for permission to extend a term paper deadline or to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully and specifically supported by a medical certificate or other relevant documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Classics and 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	500 Unicentre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-6632	4 th floor Library
Learning Commons 520-1125	4 th floor Library