

# University of Calgary

## Faculty of Humanities

Department of Religious Studies

[September 1, 2006]

**Religious Studies 303 L95 - Fall 2006**

*Introduction to Hinduism*

**Time:** 6:00-8:50 pm

**Location:** Chinese Cultural Centre

**Instructor:** Dr. M. Hawley

**Telephone:** 440 5986 / 220 5886

**Email:** mhawley@mtroyal.ca

**Office:** SS 1301

**Office Hours:** by appointment

### Textbooks

Gavin Flood, *An Introduction to Hinduism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Various Handouts to be Distributed During the Term

### Course Description

This course is an examination of the central developments that have contributed to "Hinduism" throughout its history. The course will focus primarily on the historical development of the important concepts, literature, thinkers, traditions and trends associated with Hinduism. In the broadest possible terms, the course seeks to identify and to understand the traditional and innovative trends in Hinduism, as well as the varied relationships between its sectarian and general patterns of belief and practice. Because of its extensive historical and religious scope, the course will focus on a broad selection of "representative" voices that have guided the trajectory of Hindu history. The readings from the textbook will provide the basis for much of the course material. While the bulk of class time will be devoted to lectures, classes will also provide a forum for textual analysis and discussion.

### Core Competencies

This course provides students the opportunity to develop a wide range of critical and practical skills necessary for reflective thinking and the communication of ideas. Over and above gaining an introductory knowledge of Hinduism, this course challenges students to reflect upon and assess how we and those we study organize, live in, and relate to the world. It challenges students to identify and to call into question the presuppositions, central concepts, agendas, and cultural biases of both the scholar and the subjects of our inquiry. The analytical and self-reflective skills emphasized in this course will find application in the bulk of courses offered at the university as well as in life outside the academic setting.

## Course Requirements

### 1. Essay Assignments

There will be two take-home essay assignments each worth 20% of the final grade. The assignments will be handed out in class on October 5 and November 16, and are due on October 12 and November 23 respectively. These assignments are in lieu of midterm tests.

### 2. Research Paper

Each student is required to submit a research paper relating to a topic in Hinduism. The research paper is to be completed in two stages: a proposal and a final draft.

#### a) Proposal

As a component of the research process, each student is required to submit a research proposal. The proposal is worth 10% of the final grade and is due on or before November 9.

The requirements for the proposal are:

- i) Your proposal must clearly identify the question your research will attempt to answer. Be as precise and concise as possible in formulating your question.
- ii) Your proposal must provide a tentative answer to this question. The answer you provide should not exceed one sentence. Again, be concise and precise.
- iii) Your proposal *must* include an annotated bibliography. An annotated bibliography is one that provides a short explanation (a sentence or two) after each entry indicating why that resource is relevant to your research. **Note:** All citations (bibliography and endnotes/footnotes) *must* conform to the standards laid out in the *Department of Humanities Documentation Guide for Assignments in History*.
- iv) The bibliography *must* include *at least* one primary source and *at least two* secondary sources. For the purposes of this course, a primary source is a Hindu text or Hindu document that deals with the topic you are exploring in your research paper (e.g. an Upanisad, the *Bhagavad Gita*, *Laws of Manu*, Gandhi's *Hind Swaraj*, a contemporary Hindu website, etc.) A secondary source is what other scholars have said about the topic your research is addressing. **Note:** *All secondary sources must be scholarly works.* (e.g. from a university or recognized academic press or from a refereed journal) Also note that rarely do websites in the public domain meet the standards of scholarly and critical analysis required in the academic study of religion.

## **b) Final Draft**

The final draft of the research paper is worth 30% of the final grade and is due on December 7. The paper should be approximately 2500 words (10 typed, double-spaced pages) in length.

## **3. Final Exam**

There will be one two-hour, registrar-scheduled final exam worth 20% of the final grade.

### **Summary of Requirements**

<u>Requirement</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Date</u>
Assignment #1	20%	October 12
Research Proposal	10%	November 9
Assignment #2	20%	November 23
Research Paper	30%	December 7
Final Exam	20%	To Be Scheduled By the Registrar

### **Grading**

The grading scale for this course is as follows:

<b>A+</b> >95	<b>A</b> 90-95	<b>A-</b> 85-89
<b>B+</b> 80-84	<b>B</b> 75-79	<b>B-</b> 70-74
<b>C+</b> 65-69	<b>C</b> 60-64	<b>C-</b> 55-59
<b>D+</b> 53-54	<b>D</b> 50-52	<b>F</b> < 50

### **Policy Regarding Missed Requirements**

Test and due dates are firm. Without acceptable documentation (i.e. a medical certificate, police report, bereavement notice, confirmation of religious observance, or court summons), missed tests will be awarded an "F" and late requirements will be penalized 5% per day late (This includes weekends).

This policy is intended to encourage diligence and integrity on the part of each student as well as to uphold the principles of fairness and equality with respect to other students in the class.

**Intellectual Honesty:** Students should be familiar with University regulations regarding academic integrity.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an **F** on the assignment and possibly also an **F** on the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states: "*plagiarism exists when:*

- a) *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),*
- b) *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,*
- c) *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or*
- d) *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

*While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted."*

**Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography alone is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.**

**Academic Accommodation:** If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation.

**Safewalk Program:** "You don't have to walk alone...." Call 220-5333 and a member of the Safewalk Team will walk you to your car, the LRT, or any destination on campus. Safewalk is available to all students, staff and faculty any time of the day or night. Look for the Campus Security Help Phones located throughout the University. Please don't hesitate to call!

**Withdrawing from courses:** Please note the information regarding withdrawals and fee refunds in the Academic Schedule of the University Calendar.

**Gnosis:** Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: [gnosis@ucalgary.ca](mailto:gnosis@ucalgary.ca) or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.

## Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule

<b>Sept</b>	14	Introduction [Film] <i>Hinduism</i>	Flood: Chapter 1
	21	Ancient Origins	Flood: Chapter 2
	28	Dharma	Flood: Chapter 3
<b>Oct</b>	5	Yoga and Renunciation [Film] <i>Fourth Stage: A Hindu's Quest for Release</i>	Flood: Chapter 4
	12	Narrative Traditions and Early Vaisnavism	Flood: Chapter 5
	19	The Love of Visnu [Film] <i>Holi: A Festival Of Colour</i>	Flood: Chapter 6
	26	Saiva and Tantric Religion	Flood: Chapter 7
<b>Nov</b>	2	Saivism (continued) [Film] <i>Manifestations of Shiva</i>	
	9	The Goddess and Sakta Traditions	Flood: Chapter 8
	16	Saktism (continued) [Film] <i>Sectarian Hinduism: Goddess and Her Worship</i>	
	23	Ritual [Film] <i>Maha Kumbh: A Mythic Confluence</i>	Flood: Chapter 9
	30	Theology and Philosophy	Flood: Chapter 10
<b>Dec</b>	7	Modern Developments	Flood: Chapter 11

**Final Exam Period: December 11-20, 2006**