

University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts
Department of Religious Studies

Religious Studies 303 L01
Introduction to Hinduism

Fall 2013
TR 11:00-12:15
SS 541

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00-2:00 and by appointment

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Course Description and Goals:

This course is an introduction to the diverse yet interrelated religious traditions of South Asia known as “Hinduism.” We will examine the three Hindu paths of ritual, contemplative renunciation, and devotion as they have been lived and practiced in a variety of historical and cultural contexts. Focusing on key concepts such as *dharma* or duty, *karma*, and *bhakti* or love of the lord, we will consider the ways in which Hindus from a variety of historical time periods have attempted to make sense of their world and their lives within it. By the end of the course, students will have a firm understanding of the historical and doctrinal development of classical Hindu traditions.

Required Textbooks:

Olson, Carl. *The Many Colors of Hinduism: A Thematic-Historical Introduction*. New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 2007. ISBN: 978-0-8135-4068-9

Olson, Carl, editor. *Hindu Primary Sources: A Sectarian Reader*. New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 2007. ISBN: 978-0-8135-4070-2

Johnson, W J, translator. *The Bhagavad Gita*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994. ISBN: 978-0-19-953812-6.

Course Requirements:

Participation: Obviously, regular class attendance and thorough, thoughtful reading of assigned texts are mandatory. Participation grades will be determined by the quality of each student’s contributions to regular class discussions.

Exams: Students will write two in-class exams: **October 17** and **December 5**. Exams will test students’ understanding of assigned primary-text readings, mastery of key concepts and vocabulary, and ability to analyze these texts and concepts with respect to their historical and cultural contexts.

Paper: Students will submit an 8-10 page research paper at the end of the term. Term papers are due **Monday, December 9 at 4pm.**

Instruction on research papers, research methods and resources will be discussed in class throughout the term. Research papers will be assessed on the basis of both content and presentation. Poor quality writing (e.g., excessive grammatical errors) or careless presentation (e.g., excessive typos) will result in lower grades. With respect to this policy, students should note the University’s policy on Writing Across the Curriculum, exaction E.2 of the University Calendar.

** There will be no registrar scheduled final exam for this course.*

All exams and assignments are to be taken or handed in on the assigned dates. Make-up exams and deadline extensions will only be given in cases of documented emergency. In the case of a missed exam, students **must** contact the instructor no later than 24 hours after the missed exam.

Grading:

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

Participation:	10%
Exam 1:	40% *
Exam 2:	10% *
Research Paper (8-10 pages):	40%

Students must write all papers and exams in order to pass this course.

** Students may choose to count their highest exam grade as 40% of their final grade. For instance, students who receive a higher grade on Exam 2 may choose to count that as 40% of the final grade, in which case Exam 1 will be worth 10% of the final grade.*

A final letter grade will be assigned based on the following scale:

A+	96-100%	A	90-95%	A-	85-89%
B+	80-84%	B	75-79%	B-	70-74%
C+	65-69%	C	60-64%	C-	55-59%
D+	53-54%	D	50-52%	F	< 50%

Academic Honesty:

Students should familiarize themselves with University policy regarding “Intellectual Honesty” and “Integrity in Scholarly Activity.” In particular, note the University’s definition of plagiarism (section K.2.1 of the University Calendar). Ignorance of proper citation practices does not excuse plagiarism. All instances of plagiarism or cheating in this class will be handled as per the University’s policies on academic misconduct.

Syllabus:

A complete syllabus, including a schedule of readings and exam dates, will be distributed on the first day of class.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than **fourteen (14) days** after the start of the course.

Blackboard Help

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/onlineservices/blackboard> for Student Help and FAQs about Blackboard. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are available at <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students>. Instructions for using the Digital Drop Box are available here: http://library.blackboard.com/docs/r6/6_1/student/bbls_r6_1_student/digital_drop_box.htm.

Gnosis

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

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representative

The Student Ombuds Office provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. See www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at arts1@ucalgary.ca.

Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints. Please check this website and not the nearest assembly point for this course.

Safewalk

The Safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). This service is free and available to students, staff and campus visitors 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year. Call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help phones located throughout campus to request a walk.