

**University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts
Department of Religious Studies**

**Religious Studies 307 L01
Popular Hinduism**

**Fall 2011
TR 2:00-3:15pm
SS 012**

Instructor: Elizabeth Rohlman
E-mail: elizabeth.rohlman@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:30-4:30pm and by appointment

Office: Social Science 1304
Phone: (403) 220-3287

Teaching Assistant: Raj Balkaran: rbalkara@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00-1:50 and by appointment, Social Science 1319

Course Description and Goals:

This course is an introduction to the contemporary practices of Hinduism in South Asia and in diaspora Hindu communities throughout the world. We will examine the diversity of popular Hindu practices with special attention to differences defined by region, language, caste, and gender. Focusing on recent ethnographic research, we will consider the ways in which contemporary Hindus make sense of the world and their lives within it. Topics covered will include the structure of social and family life, the organization of sacred space and time, and the changing forces of modernity in Hindu life. By the end of the course, students will develop general knowledge of the contemporary landscape of Hindu traditions and an understanding of the place of ethnographic research in the study of religion.

Required Textbooks:

- (1) Wiser, William and Charlotte Wiser. *Behind Mud Walls: Seventy-five Years in a North Indian Village*. Updated and Expanded Edition. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000. ISBN: 978-0-520-22710
- (2) Fuller, C.J. *The Camphor Flame: Popular Hinduism and Society in India*. Revised and Expanded Edition. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2004. ISBN: 0-691-12048-X
- (3) Hawley, John Stratton and Vasudha Narayanan, editors. *The Life of Hinduism*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006. ISBN: 978-0-520-25914-1

All required textbooks will also be available on reserve in Taylor Library.
On occasion, links to additional readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Syllabus: A complete syllabus and schedule of readings will be distributed on the first day of class.

Course Requirements:

Map Quiz: Because a major theme of this course is the regional variation of Hindu practice, it is essential that students be familiar with the basic geography of the Indian subcontinent. Students will take a map quiz on **Tuesday, September 27.**

Exams: Students will write two mid-term exams on **Tuesday, October 25** and **Tuesday, November 22** and a final quiz on **Thursday, December 8.** Exams and quizzes will test students’ understanding of assigned readings, mastery of key concepts and vocabulary, and ability to analyze these readings and concepts with respect to their historical and cultural contexts.

Paper: Students will write an 8-10 page research paper. The research paper is a project in which students will engage throughout the semester. To this end, students will submit a preliminary paper proposal in class on **October 20** and a revised paper proposal in class on **November 15.** While neither proposal will be graded, failure to submit either proposal will result in reduction of a full grade (e.g. A will become a B) on the final paper. The paper is due **Friday, December 9 by 4pm.**

Instruction on research proposals, 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, section 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.

Students must receive passing grades on all assignments in order to pass this course.

Grading:

Map Quiz: 10%
Mid-term Exams: 50% (25% each)
Final Quiz: 10%
Paper: 30%

A final letter grade will be assigned based on the following department-approved 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.

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 the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre 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.

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 new 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.

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.