

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2014**

**Course** RELS 307 - Popular Hinduism  
**Time** MWF 11:00am–11:50am  
**Instructor** Raj Balkaran  
**TA(s)** N/A  
**Office** SS 1334  
**Office Hours** Monday 2:00pm-3:00pm / by appointment  
**E-mail** [rbalkara@ucalgary.ca](mailto:rbalkara@ucalgary.ca)

**Required Text(s)**

- (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.)

**Course Description**

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.

**Online elements for this course ( if any)**

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

**Core Competencies**

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.

**Course Requirements**

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
January 20, 2014	Quiz 1	10%
February 28, 2014	Midterm 1	30%
March 24, 2014	Midterm 2	20%
April 11, 2014	Quiz 2	10%
April 14, 2014	Essay	30%

## **Grading**

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme, standardized within the Department of Religious Studies:

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

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.

## **Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments**

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.

## **Expectations for student conduct in this course**

Regular class attendance and thorough, thoughtful reading of assigned texts are expected of students. Also, students are required to remain respectful to others at all times, and refrain from disrupting the collective learning environment.

## **Internet and Electronic Communication Device Policy**

Electronic devices such as laptops, iPads, etc. may certainly be used for note-taking, or as educational resources. However, in the interest of maintaining a respectful environment for all learners, such devices are not permitted for recreational purposes, such as social media, games, or videos. Likewise, usage of telecommunication devices (mobiles, iPhones, etc.) are not permitted while in class.

## **Syllabus**

A complete syllabus will be made available the first day of class.

## **References and Bibliography**

The Department of Religious Studies uses the most recent edition of the Chicago Manual of Style and requires references and bibliographies to adhere to the Chicago citation system. You can find a quick guide here: [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html). Alternatively please consult with the library staff for help and advice using the Chicago citation style.

## **Academic Honesty**

Plagiarism is not tolerated at the University of Calgary and has serious consequences. Your essays/presentations must be your own work and inadequate referencing may be seen as plagiarism. Please see the relevant sections on Academic Misconduct in the current University Calendar (section K, which can be found here: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>. )If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor, librarian staff or the Chicago manual of style.

## **Writing Support**

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

## **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 FAQ's 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](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](mailto: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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds) for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](http://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.