

**University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts
Department of Classics and Religion**

**Religious Studies 317: Religion in South Asia
Fall 2014
MWF 2-2:50**

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

Office: Social Science 550
Phone: (403) 220-3287

Course Description and Goals:

This course is an in-depth survey of the religious traditions of the South Asia. The first aim of the class is to introduce students to the religious traditions practiced in South Asia. The course will cover religious traditions that originated in South Asia (Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, and Sikhism) as well as religious traditions that have come to South Asia from other parts of the world (primarily Islam, but also Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Baha'i). The second aim of the class is to introduce students to thematic categories central to the academic study of religion (for example: Deity, Scripture, and Ritual) and examine them within the South Asian context. Upon completion of the course, students should (1) possess a general knowledge of the religious traditions practiced in South Asia and (2) be able to discuss the conceptual categories that are the concerns of scholars of religion as they apply to South Asia.

Required textbooks:

Sushil Mitthal & Gene Thursby, editors. *Religions of South Asia: An Introduction*.
New York: Routledge, 2006. ISBN: 978-0-415-22391-1

Jacqueline Suthren Hirst & John Zavos. *Religious Traditions in Modern South Asia*.
New York: Routledge, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-415-44788-1

Additional readings will be available on D2L.

Course Requirements:

Exams: Students will write three take-home, open-book, open-notes exams during the course of the semester.

Exam 1: Due Friday, October 17

Exam 2: Due Friday, November 14

Exam 3: Due Friday, December 5

Students must write all exams to pass this course; skipping any exam will result in a final grade of "F."

*** There is no registrar-scheduled final exam for this course.***

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

Exam 1: 30%

Exam 2: 30%

Exam 3: 40%

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%

Extra Credit:

Opportunities for extra-credit on exams will be made available to students.

Writing Across the Curriculum:

Writing skills will be one of several considerations used to assign grades to any written work completed outside of class time. See the University Calendar, Section E.2 for the University's formal policy on writing across the curriculum.

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.

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.

Desire 2 Learn (D2L) Help:

Go to <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students> for Student Help and FAQ's about D2L. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are also available on this website.

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>.

Classics Student Society:

Classics Student Society is the Greek and Roman Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: classsoc@ucalgary.ca or visit <http://grst.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/classics-students-society>.

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