

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION**

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2017

Course RELS 317: Religion in South Asia
Time MWF 1-1:50
Instructor Dr. Elizabeth Rohlman
Office Hours Wednesdays 2:15-3:30, and by appointment
Office SS 550
E-mail elizabeth.rohlman@ucalgary.ca
Telephone 403-220-3287

Required Text(s):

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

Rachel Fell McDermitt, et al, editors. Sources of Indian Tradition: Modern India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. Columbia University Press. ISBN: 978-0231138314 (NB: You **must** purchase the most recent edition of this textbook.)

Optional Text(s): None

Course Description:

This course is an in-depth survey of the religious traditions of the South Asia (primarily India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, but also Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan). 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is to introduce students to the study of religious history through the use of primary sources, e.g., religious and historical documents. The focus of this course is the modern era, defined for our purposes as the 19th century through the present day. Thus, the documents we study will include traditional religious scriptures as well as political writings by the leaders of the Indian Independence Movement and the Founding Fathers of India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Online elements for this course:

D2L will be used to post supplementary readings, assignment guidelines, and, occasionally, lecture slides.

Core Competencies:

Upon completion of the course, students should (1) possess a general knowledge of the religious traditions practiced in South Asia and the ways in which they have historically influenced one another and (2) understand the important role of primary documentation in the study of modern religious history.

Course Requirements:

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
Ongoing	Participation	10%	No
February 17	Exam 1	40%*	No**
March 3	Paper Proposal	Ungraded, but failure to complete this will result in a 15% reduction in the term paper grade.	No**
April 10	Exam 2	10%*	No**
April 17	Term Paper	40%	No**

* Students may choose to count their lowest Exam grade as 10% of the final grade and count their highest Exam grade as 40% of the final grade.

** It is not required to receive passing grades on all assignments to pass this course. HOWEVER, it is required that students COMPLETE all written assignments to pass this course. A grade of “Zero” on any written assignment will result in a grade of “F” in the course.

NB: There is no registrar scheduled final exam in this course.

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, usually used within the Department of Classics and Religion:

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:

If students miss an exam or paper deadline due to a genuine emergency or health issue, the instructor must be notified within 48 hours, as per the policy of the University Calendar. Documentation must be provided in order to schedule a make-up exam or get an extension on the paper assignment.

Expectations for student conduct in this course:

The discussion of religion and religious history, particularly in the modern era, can lead to sensitive topics. All discourse in this class—spoken, written, and electronic—is to be expressed with respect and empathy towards fellow students, the teaching assistant, and the instructor.

Electronic Device Policy:

The use of laptops and tablets for note-taking purposes is allowed. Use of these devices for any other activities (e.g., electronic socializing) is not allowed. Use of mobile phones in class is not allowed except in circumstances of genuine emergency. Recording of lectures and discussions is not allowed without written permission from the instructor.

Syllabus:

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

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, or librarian staff.

Student Accommodations

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf.

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.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- For program planning and advice, students in the Faculty of Arts will contact The Arts Students' Centre (ASC). Drop in at SS102, call at 403-220-3580 or email at ascarts@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 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.

Freedom of Information and Privacy

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP): <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act indicates that assignments given by you to your course instructor will remain confidential unless otherwise stated before submission. The assignment cannot be returned to anyone else without your express permission. Similarly, any information about yourself that you share with your course instructor will not be given to anyone else without your permission. As one consequence, students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number on each subsequent page.

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.