



**FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION  
COURSE OUTLINE  
Winter 2022**

**COURSE NUMBER:** RELS 373

**COURSE NAME:** Hindu Mythology

**PRE/CO-REQUISITES: (optional to include):** None

**CLASSROOM LOCATION:** Web Based

**CLASS DAYS & TIMES:** MWF 11-11:50 via Zoom

**INSTRUCTOR NAME AND CONTACT INCLUDING UCALGARY EMAIL & PHONE:**

elizabeth.rohlman@ucalgary.ca

**INSTRUCTOR EMAIL POLICY:**

All initial email inquiries should be sent to the course TA, Raymon Khera (rskhera@ucalgary.ca)

Students should email the instructor and TA from their ucalgary email accounts.

Students can expect email replies on week days within 72 hours of receipt of the initial email. Email replies may come from either the instructor or the teaching assistant.

Further details about email policies and alternative means of contacting the instructor will be provided in class and on D2L.

**NAME & EMAIL CONTACT OF TEACHING ASSISTANT(S):**

Raymon Khera

[rskhera@ucalgary.ca](mailto:rskhera@ucalgary.ca)

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Thursdays 10:30-12 via Zoom or in my office (SS550)—check D2L each week for details, as the availability of in person office hours may change in response to the COVID numbers in Calgary.

Additional office hours with myself and our TA, Raymon, will be scheduled before and after each exam. Watch the D2L newsfeed for details.

**COURSE CALENDAR STATEMENT:**

Topics may include an overview of a specific religious tradition, an examination of religious expressions in a particular context, a thematic study of a religion or religions, or a methodological approach to the study of religion.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is an in-depth survey of the mythical traditions of Hinduism, ranging from the earliest narratives of the Vedas through the classical period narratives of the Sanskrit epics and puranas. The course will cover four major themes in Hindu Mythological literature: Creation, Preservation, Destruction, and the Goddess, and through these themes will explore the major deities of the Hindu Pantheon, including, but not limited to, Brahma, Siva, Visnu (especially Krisna), and Devi/Durga.

**For online courses:**

In the interest of offering students as much flexibility as possible, this course is being offered in a hybrid format that includes synchronous and asynchronous online learning.

Lectures will be delivered and recorded during the scheduled class time, with the recordings posted to D2L after. Thus, students may choose to join the Zoom session and experience the lecture synchronously OR to watch the recorded lecture later asynchronously OR to do both, as best suits their learning needs.

**\*COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon completion of the course, students should (1) possess a general knowledge of Hindu mythic traditions as recorded in Sanskrit literature (2) understand the critical questions and theories that scholars of religion use to understand mythology.

**\*LEARNING RESOURCES****Required Text(s):**

1. Wendy Doniger, *Hindu Myths*. Penguin Books, 1975.
2. Cornelia Dimmitt & JAB van Buitenen, *Classical Hindu Mythology: A Reader in the Sanskrit Puranas*. Temple University Press, 1978.
3. Thomas B. Coburn, *Encountering the Goddess: A Translation of the Devi-Mahatmya and a Study of Its Interpretation*. SUNY Press, 1991.

**Recommended Text:**

1. David R. Kinsley, *Hindu Goddesses: Visions of the Divine Feminine in the Hindu Religious Tradition*. University of California Press, 1986.

**\*LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS**

There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see [d2l.ucalgary.ca](https://d2l.ucalgary.ca)).

This is a web-based class that will be conducted on Zoom. Students should have an electronic device that supports this platform.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

A syllabus with a schedule of classes will be distributed on the first day of class.

**\*EXAMINATIONS**

There is no registrar-scheduled exam for this course.

**\*ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS**

Details on the structure and requirements of assessment components will be distributed and explained in class. A schedule of assessment components can be found below:

| Date        | Assessment                | Weight (%) | Required pass/fail |
|-------------|---------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| February 7  | Short Writing Assignment  | 15%        | No                 |
| February 28 | Take-Home Exam 1          | 30%        | No                 |
| April 11    | Take-Home Exam 2          | 30%        | No                 |
| April 18    | Longer Writing Assignment | 25%        | No                 |

**MISSED OR LATE ASSIGNMENTS\***

As per the policy outlined in the University Calendar, students should contact the professor or TA within 48 hours of missing an assignment.

**\*GRADING**

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1.html>.

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%  |

**EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITING**

All written assignments (including, to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Sources used in research papers must be properly documented. If you need help with your writing, you may use the writing support services in the Learning Commons. For further information, please refer to the official online University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, E. Course Information, E.2: Writing Across the Curriculum:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing

academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>). 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.

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/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

### **INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY**

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

### **COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.

### **MEDIA RECORDING (if applicable)**

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: [https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP\\_FINAL.pdf](https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf)

#### Media recording for lesson capture

The instructor may use media recordings to capture the delivery of a lecture. These recordings are intended to be used for lecture capture only and will not be used for any other purpose. Although the recording device will be fixed on the Instructor, in the event that incidental student participation is recorded, the instructor will ensure that any identifiable content (video or audio) is masked, or will seek consent to include the identifiable student content to making the content available on University approved platforms.

#### Media recording for self-assessment of teaching practices

The instructor may use media recordings as a tool for self-assessment of their teaching practices. Although the recording device will be fixed on the instructor, it is possible that student participation in the course may be inadvertently captured. These recordings will be used for instructor self-assessment only and will not be used for any other purpose.

#### Media recording for the assessment of student learning

The instructor may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

### **SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY**

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>