

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

Religious Studies 373.05 L01: Sacred Places of India

Fall 2012 Course Outline

Block Week: Sept. 4-8 TWRFS, 9:00am-5:00pm

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Office Hours: Lunch Break during Block Week

Wednesdays 1:30-2:30pm and by appointment after September 10

Required Textbooks:

Anne Feldhaus, *Connected Places: Region, Pilgrimage, and Geographical Imagination in India*.
Palgrave Macmillan, 2003. ISBN: 140396324X

Additional readings will be available through permalink on Blackboard.

Note: The required textbook is due to arrive at the campus bookstore during the week of August 12. For students who wish to start reading before the textbook arrives, there is an electronic copy available through the UofC library. Simply search the library copy by title or author. Students must be logged on to My UofC as a student user to access the electronic copy. If you have problems accessing the book online, please contact ***the library*** for help.

Course Description and Goals:

Pilgrimage is the only traditional religious practice of India that has witnessed a growth in popularity and participation over the last century. Why is it that religious places and spaces remain so popular, even as the influence of secularism expands in modern India? How, exactly, is geography “religious”? This course will address these questions by investigating the religious geography of India. We will examine the concept of sacred place and space in Indic (primarily Hindu) traditions, survey the many sacred sites of the sub-continent, and explore the pilgrimage practices associated with these sites. By the end of the course, students will be familiar with the religious studies dimensions of human geography and have a firm understanding of the historical, textual, and anthropological tools that scholars use to understand sacred sites and the religious practices associated with them.

Course Organization:

This course is offered as a Block Week class, meeting from 9am to 5pm Tuesday, September 4 through Saturday, September 8. Students can expect each day of class to cover the equivalent of 2.5 weeks of material in a regular semester.

Each day of class will be divided into two sessions separated by a lunch break of 1-2 hours. On days when the lunch break is more than 1 hour, students will be expected to use the additional

time for homework purposes (completing reading assignments, studying for quizzes, or completing reading guide questions).

In recognition of the fact that the class schedule is both demanding and exhausting for students, a large portion of the final grade (roughly 60% of the final grade) will be based on work that students complete during class time. Half of the in-class work (roughly 30% of the final grade) will be graded on a pass/fail basis.

In order to prepare for the demanding experience of Block Week, students are strongly encouraged to complete as many reading assignments as possible prior to the start of the class. At the very minimum, students should plan on reading all of *Connected Places* before September 4 (see required textbooks section on page 1). Additional reading assignments will be linked to Blackboard during the week of August 12. Reading guides to facilitate note-taking and prepare students for class discussion will be posted to Blackboard during the weeks leading up to Block Week.

Course Requirements:

(1) *Map Quiz*: Because a major focus of this course is geographical, it is essential that students be familiar with the basic geography of the Indian subcontinent. Students will take a *simple* map quiz at **1:30 on Tuesday, September 4.**

The material related to this quiz will be covered in the class during the morning session on Tuesday, September 4. An additional 30-40 minutes of individual study over lunch break should be more than sufficient to learn the material covered on the quiz. However, should students wish to begin studying for the quiz before the first day of class, they may access the “Map Quiz Study Resources” area on Blackboard.

On this quiz, students will be required to identify some or all of the following geographical regions and features:

- 1) Rivers: Ganges
- 2) Mountain Ranges: Himalayas
- 3) Regions/States: Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Bengal, Uttar Pradesh (UP), Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir (Kashmir)
- 4) Countries: Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Nepal, Sri Lanka
- 5) Cities: Delhi, Madras/Chennai, Calcutta/Kolkatta, Benares/Varanasi, Bombay/Mumbai

(2) *Attendance & Participation*: Regular attendance and active participation are essential to succeeding in a Block Week Class. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every session (so arrive to class on time!) and students will be graded for participation on a pass/fail basis.

Note that active participation in class requires active listening and note-taking during lectures or films in addition to contributing to discussion. “Multitasking” during class time is not allowed. Engaging in non-class activities will result in a grade of zero for attendance and participation. Non-class activities include, but are not limited to: wearing earbuds, texting, surfing the web, watching Youtube, facebook-ing, Tumblr-ing, and engaging in any other electronic socializing.

(3) *Portfolio*: A set of questions for each reading assignment or film will be posted on Blackboard under “Reading Guides” and “Film Guides.” Students are to print these guides out and take notes *on the guide*. Bring the guides to class along with a hard copy of each reading assignment. Your reading/film guides will be stamped “completed” in class. At the last class session, students will turn in all reading and film guides (*stapled together*) for class credit. The portfolio will be graded on a pass/fail basis.

(4) *Final Quiz*: At the end of the last class session (**4 pm on Saturday, September 8**), students will be given a quiz. The quiz will include one essay question, asking students to reflect on the material covered in class. A list of three possible essay questions will be distributed on the first day of class.

(5) *Final Paper*: Students will turn in a 6-8 page essay by **4pm on Tuesday, September 11**. Students will be given a list of essay topics to choose from and additional instructions on how to complete the essay on the first day of class. The essay topics will require students to draw on at least two of the assigned readings listed as optional (see pages 4-5, below). The two articles must be from two different class days (you may not choose both readings from Saturday morning).

**There will be no Registrar scheduled Final Exam for this course.*

Grading:

All assignments must be completed to receive a passing grade in this course. Any assignments that are not turned in will result in a final grade of ‘F.’

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

Map Quiz:	10%
Attendance & Participation:	10%
Final Quiz:	20%
Portfolio:	20%
Final Paper:	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%

Block Week course regulations

- The last day to drop a Block Week course (without it appearing on the student’s transcript) shall be the end of the first day of lectures.
- The last day to withdraw from a Block Week course shall be the final day of lectures during the Block Week.
- Although lectures, etc. are completed during the Block Week, students should be prepared to complete assignments during the remainder of the term.
- Final grades for Block Week courses will not be required until the end of the term in which the course is offered.

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.

Blackboard Help

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/online services/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.

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 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.

Course Schedule

Note: All readings from Connected Places are required.

Day	Session	Topic & Assignments
Tuesday	Morning	Introduction to Course & Religious Geography The Cultural and Geographical Diversity of India Reading: <i>Connected Places</i> , Introduction & Chapter 1
Tuesday	Afternoon	Quiz Sacred Geography of India Hindu Mythology of Place Reading: <i>Connected Places</i> , Chapter 4 "India's Tirthas: 'Crossings in Sacred Geography'" (Blackboard: Required)
Wednesday	Morning	Localizing Mythic Traditions Reading: <i>Connected Places</i> , Chapters 5 "Village Daughter, Village Goddess" (Blackboard: Optional)
Wednesday	Afternoon	Pilgrimage Experiences Reading: <i>Connected Places</i> , Chapters 2 "On the Road" (Blackboard: Required)
Thursday	Morning	Touring India's Holy Places: North & West The Ganga & Varanasi Reading: <i>Connected Places</i> , Chapter 3 "Hindu Varanasi" (Blackboard: Required: Required)
Thursday	Afternoon	Touring India's Holy Places: South & East Reading: <i>Connected Places</i> : Chapter 3 "The Divine Couple's Relationship in a South Indian Temple" (Blackboard: Optional)

Friday	Morning	<p>Shared Religious Spaces: Religious Syncretism</p> <p>Readings: <i>Connected Places</i>, Chapter 6 “When is the Buddha not the Buddha” (Blackboard: Required)</p>
Friday	Afternoon	<p>Shared Religious Spaces: Communal Conflicts</p> <p>Reading: “Imagining Ayodhya” (Blackboard: Optional)</p>
Saturday	Morning	<p>Religion & Environmental Ethics</p> <p>Reading (Choose any 2 of the following articles): “Water, Wood, & Wisdom” (Blackboard: Required) “One Tree, Ten Sons” (Blackboard: Optional) “Interpretations of Pollution & Waste in Benares”(Blackboard: Optional) “Gods, Trees, & Boundaries” (Blackboard: Optional)</p>
Saturday	Afternoon	<p>The Urban Religious Landscape</p> <p>Reading: <i>Connected Places</i>, Chapter 7 “Mother Goddesses of Mumbai” (Blackboard: Optional)</p> <p>Final Quiz</p>