

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

**Religious Studies 373.05 L01  
Sacred Places of India**

**Winter 2010  
TR 12:30-1:45pm**

Instructor: Elizabeth Rohlman  
E-mail: elizabeth.rohlman@ucalgary.ca  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:30-4:00pm and by appointment

Office: Social Science 1304  
Phone: (403) 220-3287

***Required Textbooks:***

There are no required textbooks for this class. All readings will be linked to the Blackboard site or made available on reserve in MacKimmie Library.

***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 should 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 Requirements:***

*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 map quiz on **Tuesday, January 26**. On this quiz, students will be required to identify some or all of the following geographical regions and features:

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

*Exams:* Students will write two in-class exams on **February 25** and **April 1**. *There will be no registrar-scheduled final exam for this class*

*Research Project:* Students will complete a large research project. The research project will include both a group component, culminating in an in-class presentation, and an individual component, culminating in a written research portfolio. Group presentations will be given in-class on **April 6, 8, 13, or 15**. Research portfolios are due **April 16 to SS 1304**.

Further details on the research project will be provided in class.

***Grading:***

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

Map Quiz: 10%  
 Exams: 25% each (50% combined)  
 Research Project: 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%

***Academic Honesty:***

Students should familiarize themselves with University policy regarding “Intellectual Honesty” and “Integrity in Scholarly Activity.”

***Syllabus:***

A complete syllabus, including a schedule of readings and exam dates, will be distributed on the first day of class.