

University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts
Department of Religious Studies

RELS 451.09 L01
Advanced Studies in Hinduism: Hinduism and the Environment
R 3:30-6:15pm

Professor: Chris Framarin
Email: chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:45am-1:45pm (SS 1212)

Description: In this course, we will consider various Hindu traditions' conceptions of the environment, along with their moral implications.

Required Readings:

All Course Readings available on Blackboard

**** NOTE THAT THERE IS AN ASSIGNED READING FOR THE FIRST CLASS ON SEPTEMBER 16 ****

Evaluation:

Class Participation	20%
Two In-Class Discussion Papers (5-6 pp.), Presentations, and Discussions	40%
Final Paper (8-12 pp.)	40%

Paper abstract due Thursday, December 9th in class
Final paper due Monday, December 13th by 4:00pm at the Department of Philosophy, SS 12th floor, in the assignment drop box "Framarin RELS 451"

****Students must see me in the week preceding an in-class presentation for topic approval.**

**There will be no Registrar scheduled final exam for this course.*

Grading:

(No component of the course is essential to passing the course as a whole – final grade will be determined by the sum percentage.)

A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme:

A+	100 – 96	A	95.9 - 90	A-	89.9 - 85
B+	84.9 - 80	B	79.9 - 75	B-	74.9 - 70
C+	69.9 - 65	C	64.9 - 60	C-	59.9 - 55
D+	54.9 - 53	D	52.9 - 50	F	Under 50

Academic Honesty:

Students should be familiar with University regulations regarding academic integrity. See relevant pages in the current University Calendar. I will investigate and prosecute any suspected case of plagiarizing in this course to the fullest extent.

Academic Accommodation:

If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, contact their office at 403-220-8237. Once registered, discuss arrangements for exams as soon as possible, well before the examination dates.

Student Union Representatives:

Visit: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/home/contact.html>

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>.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:

Visit: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:

Visit: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Safewalk Information:

Phone: (403) 220-5333, and Visit: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

COURSE SCHEDULE

(I reserve the right to modify the schedule as appropriate throughout the semester.)

Week One

Thursday, September 16

Course Overview

Discussion of Regan, "The Nature and Possibility of an Environmental Ethic" (read before first class)

HW: Selections from *Mahabharata* and *Manusmrti*, and Chapple, "Ahimsa in the *Mahabharata*: A Story, a Philosophical Perspective, and an Admonishment" (Blackboard)

Week Two

Thursday, September 23

Discussion of selections from *Mahabharata* and *Manusmrti*, and Chapple

In-Class Presentation Sign-Up

HW: Smith, “Eaters, Food, and Social Hierarchy in Ancient India: A Dietary Guide to a Revolution of Values” and Nelson, “The Dualism of Non-Dualism: Advaita Vedanta and the Irrelevance of Nature” (Blackboard)

Week Three

Thursday, September 30
Presentations on Smith and Nelson

HW: McGee, “State Responsibility for Environmental Management: Perspectives from Hindu Texts on Polity” and Framarin, paper #1: “The Value of Nature in Indian (Hindu) Traditions”

Week Four

Thursday, October 7
Presentation on McGee
Discussion of my paper #1

HW: Deutsch, “Vedanta and Ecology,” Coward, “The Ecological Implications of Karma Theory,” and Dwivedi, “Dharmic Ecology”

Week Five

Thursday, October 14
Presentations on Deutsch and Coward

HW: Framarin, paper #2 and DasGupta Sherma, “Sacred Immanence: Reflections of Ecofeminism in Hindu Tantra”

Week Six

Thursday, October 21
Discussion of my paper #2
Presentation on DasGupta Sherma

HW: Klostermaier, “Bhakti, Ahimsa and Ecology” and Kinsley, “Reflections on Ecological Themes in Hinduism”

Week Seven

Thursday, October 28
Presentations on Klostermaier and Kinsley
HW: Framarin, paper #3: “Atman, Identity, and Emanation: Arguments for an Indian Environmental Ethic” and Perrett, “Moral Vegetarianism and the Indian Tradition”

Week Eight

Thursday, November 4
Discussion of my paper
Presentation on Perrett

HW: Framarin, paper #4 and Framarin, paper #5

Week Nine

Thursday, November 11
Remembrance Day/Reading Day – No Class

Week Ten

Thursday, November 18

Discussion of my papers #4 and #5

HW: Chakrabarti, "Meat and Morality in the Mahabharata" and Narayanan, "'One Tree is Equal to Ten Sons': Hindu Responses to the Problems of Ecology, Population, and Consumption"

Week Eleven

Thursday, November 25

Presentations on Chakrabarti and Narayanan

HW: Gold, "Sin and Rain: Moral Ecology in Rural North India" and Alley, "Idioms of Degeneracy: Assessing Ganga's Purity and Pollution"

Week Twelve

Thursday, December 2

Presentations on Gold and Alley

HW: Work on Papers. Finish Abstracts for Discussion Next Week.

Week Thirteen

Thursday, December 9

Paper Abstracts Due In Class

Discussion of Paper Abstracts

Monday, December 13th

Final Papers Due by 4:00pm at the Department of Philosophy, SS 12th floor, in the assignment drop box "Framarin RELS 451"