

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2019

**Course** Religious Studies 303 – Introduction to Hinduism  
**Time** MWF, 12:00 – 13:00, MS 319  
**Instructor** Dr. Tinu Ruparell  
**Office Hours** M 13:00-14:00 or by appointment  
**Office** SS530  
**E-mail** [Ruparell@ucalgary.ca](mailto:Ruparell@ucalgary.ca)  
**Telephone** 403 220 7069

**Required Text(s):**

**Olson**

Carl Olson, *The Many Colors of Hinduism: A Thematic Historical Introduction* (Rutgers U Press)  
Carl Olson, *Hindu Primary Sources: A Sectarian Reader* (Rutgers U Press)  
Barbara Miller trans., *The Bhagavad Gita* (Bantam press)

**Optional Text(s):**

Additional readings may be made available on D2L

**Course Description:**

This course will serve as an introduction to Hindu beliefs and practices through an examination of key social and religious questions as they have been asked and responded to by those who call themselves 'Hindu.' As we will see, the terms 'Hindu' or even 'Hindu tradition' are very contested and thus we will first consider the question of Hinduism's definition, origins and study before briefly looking at its very long history of development and in particular its dynamic and 'centreless' structure. We will then consider the idea of *varnashramadharma* as an introduction to Hindu social and ethical systems/structures and then look at how these structures have been criticised both internally and externally. In the second half of the course we will consider two classical Indian philosophical schools – Sankhya and Advaita – to see how these play out in a reading of the Bhagavad Gita, culminating in a consideration of Bhakti traditions and, circumstances permitting, a visit to a local Hindu temple.

**Online elements for this course:**

**(if any)**

n/a

**Core Competencies:**

Active participants in this course will further their knowledge of 'Hinduism', its basic tenets and some of the varieties of its practice and belief systems. Students will gain a basic understanding of the terms and categories used by Hindus to respond to fundamental religious questions as a foundation for reading certain primary texts to which students will gain an introduction. Skills

acquired in this course will include critical thinking in methods of studying religion, written expression, cultural and linguistic sensitivity, and critical analysis of philosophical and theological systems. Knowledge acquired in this course will help students reflect more clearly and critically on the nature of religion in society and their own religious narratives.

**Course Requirements:**

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
Oct 21	Exam 1	30
Nov 18	Exam 2	30
Dec 6	Term paper 3k words	40

**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:**

In-class assessment/exam dates are firm. Without acceptable documentation as determined by the University policy (i.e. medical certificate, police report, bereavement notice, confirmation of religious observance, or court summons) or without PRIOR arrangement with the instructor, missed assessments will be awarded an 'F'. No excuses other than those listed above will be considered.

This policy is intended to encourage diligence and integrity among students as well as to uphold principles of fairness and equality with respect to other students in the class. Excuses other than those listed above will receive little attention.

LATE SUBMISSION of assessments/presentations/papers where relevant WILL BE PENALISED 10%/DAY. Missing a presentation/assessment date without acceptable cause will result in an F in that component of the final grade.

**Expectations for student conduct in this course:**

This course which requires students to be present for all classes and participate fully. While no participation grade is formally assessed, your performance and input into class discussions, responses and exercises will inform the grade for the course. You will be expected to have read the material for the week and be ready to ask informed and relevant questions.

**Electronic Device Policy:**

Recent studies have clearly shown that use of laptops, phones and other electronic tools for notes and in-class work results in poorer learning outcomes and consequently worse grades. I strongly urge you not to use them at all in class. If students use them for non-academic purposes in class,

they will be asked to leave that class, possibly forfeiting some grades. Texting in class is to be limited to emergencies only. If students persist in texting, surfing the web or other activities not directly relevant to the course, they will be asked to leave that class and/or to leave their devices at the front of class until its conclusion. Please respect your fellow students and me by avoiding distracting use of these devices. During viewing of films in particular, laptop or phone use will not be permitted due to the distracting light of these devices. No recordings are to be made of lectures or class sessions without written, advance permission. If recordings are made and published in any form, during or after the course, you may be charged with academic misconduct and/or be awarded an F in the course.

### **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/](http://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](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](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/> 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 Block.

### **Freedom of Information and Privacy**

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP): [https://www.ucalgary.ca/hr/freedom\\_of\\_information\\_and\\_protection\\_of\\_privacy](https://www.ucalgary.ca/hr/freedom_of_information_and_protection_of_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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/> for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.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](http://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.

### **Health and Wellness**

There are services available to students to help with physical and mental health, including the SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>.

Learn more about the Campus Mental Health Strategy here: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>.

### **Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration**

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided and the student should provide the documentation they feel best supports their case. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>.