



**FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION
COURSE OUTLINE
Fall 2021**

COURSE NUMBER: RELS 303 L01

COURSE NAME: Introduction to Hinduism

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

INSTRUCTOR NAME AND CONTACT:

Dr. Elizabeth Rohlman
Elizabeth.rohlman@ucalgary.ca

INSTRUCTOR EMAIL POLICY:

All initial email inquiries should be sent to the course TA, Elliot Williams (ebwillia@ucalgary.ca)
Students should email the instructor 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):

Elliot Williams
ebwillia@ucalgary.ca

COURSE CALENDAR STATEMENT:

"The history, textual traditions, schools and sectarian traditions of Hinduism."

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to Hindu tradition(s): that is, religious knowledge that has been passed down *parampara*, "from one to another," over the centuries. We will embark on a thematic-historical survey of Hindu traditions from the ancient religion of the Vedas through devotional movements of the 19th century. Our introduction to Hindu traditions will be through the lens of the written literature of Hinduism in English translation, from Vedic hymns to epic narrative to devotional poetry. Focusing on this literature, we will consider the ways in which Hindus from a variety of historical and regional contexts have expressed and preserved their traditions in literature.

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:

1. Lectures (Monday and Wednesday classes, generally) 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.

2. Discussions (Fridays beginning the second week of class) will be held synchronously during Friday class periods (2-2:50). Discussion will be generated by a mix of students' questions and questions provided by the instructor. The decision of whether to record discussion sessions to post to D2L will be made during the first discussion session, in the second week of the course.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students will have a firm understanding of the historical and doctrinal development of classical Hindu traditions. Students will also be competent in the critical interpretation of primary source texts, with special attention to religious and historical concerns.

LEARNING RESOURCES, required textbooks:

1. Hinduism: The eBook (2nd Edition), by Hillary Rodrigues. The text can be purchased here: <https://worldreligionsebooks.com/eBooks/hinduism/>
Information about locating hard copies of the book will be shared on D2L.

LEARNING RESOURCES, additional readings:

2. In addition to the electronic textbook, primary source readings from Hindu scriptures (in English translation) will be made available each week on D2L.
3. Students should also gain access to an English translation of the Bhagavad Gita for Week 6 of class. The instructor will provide suggestions of digital and physical copies. In general, most English translations are acceptable, though I would advise against using "The Bhagavad Gita As It Is," as that edition is a full commentary rather than just a translation.

LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS

Students will be required to attend class via Zoom, and should have an electronic device that supports this platform.

There is a D2L site for this course where students will find assignments, supplementary readings, assigned films (available via online streaming), the dropbox, and discussion boards.

CLASS SCHEDULE

A full class schedule, including weekly readings, will be distributed and discussed on the first day of class.

EXAMINATIONS

There is no registrar-scheduled final exam.

Students will write two take-home mid-term exams. Further details about exams are below.

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

1. **Map Assignment:** To familiarize themselves with South Asia and India, students will complete a brief map assignment. Assignment guidelines will be posted on D2L. The Map Assignment is due Friday, September 24.
2. **Take Home Exams:** Students will take 2 Exams on D2L. Exams will test student's understanding of key Sanskrit vocabulary, ability to interpret of Hindu scriptures, and understanding of the historical development of Hindu Traditions. Exams will be open book and open note. Students

will be given access to the take home exams for a minimum of 48 hours, and may take as much time as they need to complete the exams during that 48 hour period. Exam 1 is due Friday, October 22 and Exam 2 is due Wednesday, December 8.

- 3. Essay:** Students will submit a 4-6 page essay. The essay will ask students to conduct a close reading and analysis of a passage from Hindu scripture or literature we have read for class. Guidelines on how to write a close reading and analysis of religious literature will be posted on D2L.

Students will be given a choice of two deadlines for the essay:

Students who choose to write their essay on a scripture from the classical, Sanskrit tradition will turn their essays in Friday, November 12.

Students who choose to write their essay on poetry from the vernacular-language *bhakti* devotional traditions will turn their essays in Friday, December 17.

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
September 24	Map Assignment	15%	No
October 22	Take Home Exam 1	30%	No
December 8	Take Home Exam 2	30%	No
November 12 OR December 17	Essay	25%	No

MISSED OR LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Should a student need an extension on an assignment, they are encouraged to make arrangements with the instructor before the due date. If a due date is missed due to illness or emergency, students should contact the instructor in writing within 48 hours, as per the university calendar.

Missing assignments for which no arrangements have been made will be counted as a “zero” when final grades are calculated.

GRADING

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 work will be assessed on the basis of both content and presentation. Poor quality writing (e.g., excessive grammatical errors) or careless presentation (e.g., excessive typos) will result in lower grades. With respect to this policy, students should note the University’s policy on Writing Across the Curriculum, section E.2 of the Calendar:

“Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, members of faculty can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.”

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

Participation will not be graded in this class. However, students are strongly encouraged to view lectures (whether synchronously or asynchronously) and to participate in Friday discussion sessions. Active attendance and participation will ensure greater success and higher marks on the take-home exams.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

Written assignments should be submitted to the D2L dropbox by 11:59pm on their due date. All assignments should be submitted in the form of .doc or .docx files.

CONDUCT

All discourse in this class, whether over Zoom, email, or the D2L discussion board, is to be expressed in a manner that is respectful of your fellow students, teaching assistant, and instructor. Students are welcome, though by no means required, to share insights from their own religious traditions if they feel it will add insight to the texts we are discussing. Thus, students are also reminded that while the primary texts we are discussing in class were written centuries or even millennia ago, they are revered and celebrated within vibrant, living religious traditions to this day. Criticism of these traditions is fair game during discussion, but should be expressed in a manner that is respectful of the traditions and their contemporary adherents.

USE OF INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES IN CLASS

Students are permitted to use any electronic devices they deem necessary to support their learning in this class, including during class time. It is the responsibility of each individual student to ensure that electronic devices are supporting, rather than distracting from, their learning during class time.

GUIDELINES FOR ZOOM SESSIONS

Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a “live” video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor’s permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the Code of

Conduct). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/> .

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

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 ACCOMODATION

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/.

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

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>

***OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk