

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS & RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Te Kura Toirangi

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RELI 205 THE RELIGIONS OF INDIA: GODS, GODDESSES AND THE SACRED

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2014

Important dates

Trimester dates: 14 July to 16 November 2014

Teaching dates: 14 July to 17 October 2014

Mid-trimester break: 25 August to 7 September 2014

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Lectures:	LB 118	Wednesdays 15:10 – 17:00
Tutorials	TBA	Students should sign up for tutorials via S-Cubed

Names and contact details

Course Co-ordinator: Dr Rick Weiss
Hunter HU 215
rick.weiss@vuw.ac.nz
463 6726

Administrator: Alikali Kalliabetsos
Hunter HU 318
aliki.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz
463 5299

Communication of additional information

Religious Studies is located in the Hunter Building. The programme administrator, Aliko Kalliabetsos, is in HU 318 (463 5299), aliko.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz. Notices regarding the course or any information on changes will be posted on the notice board outside her office. Notices will also be communicated to students via emails sent from Blackboard. Students who do not use their assigned student.vuw.ac.nz email addresses should ensure that ITS has an up-to-date email address, and that they check this address regularly.

Office Hours: The main office is open Monday - Friday, 9.30 – 12:00 noon and 2:30 - 3.30 pm. You can arrange to meet with Rick Weiss by appointment, and he will answer all emails promptly.

Prescription

This course will investigate the religious traditions of India, particularly Hinduism but with reference to Buddhism and Jainism, maintaining a strong emphasis on contemporary India against a backdrop of history. We will analyse the complexity of religious practices, myth, and doctrines of India, using the scholarly methods of religious studies.

Course content

The course will investigate major themes in the religious traditions originating in India, particularly Hinduism. Our focus will be on contemporary India against a detailed backdrop of history. We will engage primary and secondary materials on a variety of subjects: sacrifice, worship, narratives, gender, social hierarchy, and politics, to name a few. The course will introduce students to the complexity and diversity of religious practices, myths, and doctrines of the region, which we will analyse using the scholarly methods of religious studies.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. demonstrate knowledge of the content of Indian religious traditions, important for developing 'religious literacy' in our globalising world.
2. communicate interpretations of primary data – historical, textual, ethnographic, etc. – that demonstrate an understanding of, and sensitivity towards, complex religious contexts and traditions.
3. evaluate scholarly arguments about Indian religions, advancing a critical, independent perspective.
4. demonstrate skills in research and in the presentation of findings.

Teaching format

This course is delivered through a combination of lectures and tutorials. **The lecture programme** is described in the "Appendix to the Course Outline." Lectures may be changed from time to time. As much notice as possible will be given when changes occur, and if necessary a revised programme will be issued at lectures.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

Attend at least 70% of tutorials.

Workload

For 20-point courses a student should, on average, spend 13 hours per week for preparation, reading and writing in addition to attendance at lectures and tutorials. The total workload for the course, including class time, should be approximately 200 hours.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	One Primary Source Essay of approximately 2,000 words Recommended average time spent on this task: 30 hours	30%	1, 2	22.08.2014
2	One Research Essay of approximately 2,000 words Recommended average time spent on this task: 30 hours	30%	1, 2, 3, 4	17.10.2014
3	5 tutorial assignments to be handed in at tutorials Recommended average time spent on this task: 40 hours (400 words each)	15%	1, 2, 3	
4	In-class test (duration: 1 hour 50 minutes) Recommended average time spent on this task: 100 hours	25%	1, 2, 3	15.10.2014

The assessment of this course relates to these objectives in the following ways:

The tutorial assignments are designed to facilitate student reflection on the required readings. These allow students to build their knowledge of Indian religious traditions, and to develop skills in critical reading and analysis of primary and secondary material.

The essays will encourage students to pursue their own interests in Indian religions through formulating their own research question(s) in an exploration of primary and secondary sources. Through the essays, students will be exposed first-hand to the issues raised in scholarly analysis and will develop the knowledge and the skills necessary to critically evaluate scholarly studies of materials they have studied for themselves.

The class test allows students to demonstrate their grasp of the material covered in the course and their understanding of the themes addressed, and creates an opportunity to review and reflect on what they have learned in the course as a whole.

Marking criteria.

Please note that essays will be marked according to the following **rubrics**:

(1) **Argument**: Does the writer establish a clearly stated, persuasive *argument* that is *supported* by evidence and sub-arguments? Does it reflect sophisticated engagement with readings using skills developed in class?

(2) **Writing Style and Clarity**: Is the writing lucid, cogent, and grammatically correct? Does it show evidence of revision and attention to detail?

(3) **Technical requirements**: Does the essay conform to the assignment, with the appropriate word-count and correct citation format? Please see the "Appendix to Course Outline" for more specific information about writing assignments and requirements.

Submission and return of work

Essays are to be submitted both electronically to Blackboard and also to the essay box situated outside the Religious Studies office, HU 318. The register must be signed and dated when an essay is submitted. All essays will be submitted to the plagiarism-detection software Turnitin. Marked essays shall be returned two weeks from the date of submission and may be collected from the Religious Studies office.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

If a student requires an extension for any serious or medical reason they must apply for one as soon as practicably possible before the due date of the assessment in question

Penalties

Penalties for late essays / assignments:

- 2 per cent per 24 hours will be deducted for late essays
- Essays submitted late due to medical reasons must be given to the programme administrator accompanied by a doctor's or other appropriate certification.

Set texts

All of the readings are contained in the Course Reader to be purchased from Vicbooks at a cost of approx \$40.00. Vicbooks website: www.vicbooks.co.nz.

An electronic text which will serve as a useful reference tool is Brill's *Encyclopedia of Hinduism*, available through the library catalogue:

<http://victoria.lconz.ac.nz/vwebv/holdingsInfo?searchId=687&recCount=25&recPointer=0&bibId=1602297>

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

This course is evaluated by CAD

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz