CARROLL UNIVERSITY

INDIA: RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY (CCS300A)
Mond ay, 6-7:50 pm — Ganfield Gymnasium 107

CONTACT INFORMATION

PRO FESSOR: Dr Massimo Rondolino
OFFICE LOCATION: A. Paul Jones Scholars Hall, Room 201
PHONE: 262-650-4951
E-MAIL: mrondoli@carrollu.edu
OFFICE HOURS: MON, WED 4:00-6:00 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OUTCOMES

CCE DESCRIPTION:
The Cross-Cultural Experience is a signature component of Carroll’s General Education curriculum, which is characterized by an integrating theme of culture and a requirement for domestic or international cross-cultural experience. This experience challenges students to apply classroom-based examinations of cultural difference and to interact with cultures other than their own in an off-campus setting. Meets Pio Core two credit CCE requirement.

COURSE-SPECIFIC DESCRIPTION:
The course will expose students to a cross-cultural experience through the encounter of various Northern Indian schools of philosophy, religious thought and health practices. The course will build a theoretical foundation on the academic study of Indian culture with, as its core, a twelve-day-trip to Northern India. Here students will visit historical and religious sites, and engage directly with leaders of a variety of philosophical, religious and medicinal traditions. This, combined with hands-on participation in religious rituals, yogic practices and Ayurvedic approaches to psycho-physical well-being and healing, will allow for a reflection on the relationship between religion, culture and society from a cross-cultural perspective. Ultimately, the course will lead the students to engage in a comparative analysis of their own life experiences in the USA, Wisconsin and the Carroll community.
LEARNING OUTCOMES

CCE LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon completion of the Cross-Cultural Experience, students will be able to:
1. Recognize cultural rules and biases, and how they impact peoples’ lives in their own culture and their culture of immersion.
2. Demonstrate an awareness of the importance of setting aside judgment in order to negotiate shared meaning across cultural boundaries
3. Articulate the importance of cross-cultural skills in future work and study.

COURSE-SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES: (LIMITED TO ONE)
Upon completion of the Cross-Cultural Experience, students will be able to:
• Appreciate the doctrinal, social, cultural and political issues related to North Indian communities & understand the fundamental philosophical and doctrinal tenets and practices of contemporary Indian philosophical and religious traditions, and appreciate their theoretical and cultural differences.

COURSE ACTIVITIES AND ASSESSMENT

PRE-EXPERIENCE [35%]:
1. Culture and Cross-culture: write a 500 words reflection on what these terms mean to you and for you, and how they may influence the way you perceive and frame the world around you (use your CCS100 and CCD courses material to help you guide your reflection, and provide specific and clear examples) [10% of your final grade].
2. Journaling: for each meeting you will be asked to conduct a short activity and write a brief reflection on it. Activities may range from film viewings, taking a stroll downtown Waukesha or Milwaukee, going grocery shopping, surveying the places of worship and learning of a neighborhood, etc. and then describe your experience framing it culturally as well as emotionally [25% of your final grade].

POST-EXPERIENCE [65%]:
Write a 1500 words reflection on our CCE experience. In your paper, you must address each one of the following points:
1. How is India (as you have experienced it in Jaipur, Amer, Ajmer and Pushkar) NOT like your hometown? How is it also just like your home-town? As you write, please be specific and use clear examples from your Cross Cultural Experience to support and explain your claims. To help your reflection you may want to draw from the journaling exercises done pre-experience and compare them with your reflections from the experience in India.
2. How can your particular field of study and your training at Carroll, help you best explain and interpret these differences and similarities? You may feel that you are not properly equipped to answer this question. If so, it is perfectly acceptable for you to reflect on the reasons why this is so – though be sure to keep your reflection focused on the cross-study of cultures (yours and others).
3. What does it mean to do cross-cultural studies? To help you address this overarching question, you can draw from considerations such as: "What is culture?", "How can we reflect on culture?", "Who reflects on culture, and who has the culture that is being reflected upon?"
EVALUATION

Letter grades will be assigned according to these percentages:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
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<td>AB</td>
<td>88-92.9%</td>
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<td>BC</td>
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POLICIES

ATTENDANCE POLICY — Attendance is highly recommended and necessary to receive an excellent participation grade (20% of your overall grade). However, do note that attendance does not constitute participation.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY — The Carroll College Academic Integrity Policy is located in your student handbook (http://www.carrollu.edu/campus/safety/pdfs/studenthandbook.pdf). I encourage you to familiarize yourself with it. Any instance of cheating will be reported to the University authorities, and the assignment will automatically receive a grade of 0. Please familiarize yourself with the explanation of plagiarism given on p. 31 of the Student Handbook, and if in doubt, do not hesitate to ask. Any instance of plagiarism will result in a grade of 0 for the work, and may result in failure for the whole course.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT — The Learning Commons, located in the bottom floor of the Library, offers tutoring, writing assistance, and study skills assistance as well as group study rooms and places to study. For more information, go to: HTTP://WWW.CARROLLU.EDU/LEARNINGCOMMONS.

ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES — Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations, or any student considering obtaining documentation should make an appointment with Ms. Martha Bledsoe, Director of Services for Students with Disabilities, no later than the first week of class. She can be reached by calling 262-524-7335 or contacting her via email at MBLEDSOE@CARROLLU.EDU.

SUBMISSIONS — All written assignments must be submitted in PDF format via Turnitin by no later than the starting time of the class on the date by which it is due — further details will be provided in class. All submissions must be formatted on pages with 1 inch margins (top-bottom and left-right), in Arial font, size 12, text aligned left (the title may be centered), double spacing, your full name and class code centered in the header and the page count centered in the footer. All submissions must also clearly indicate at the end of the text the total word count. Failure to comply to these directions will result in a penalty that will reduce the overall marking of the assignment of a full grade.

INCOMPLETES — A grade of incomplete indicates that a student has done passing work but for reasons beyond his/her control (e.g., a serious medical problem) cannot complete all of the required work. Before an INC is assigned, the student and the instructor must sign a statement indicating the reason for the INC, the specific work to be completed, and a reasonable deadline for removing the INC. A request to do additional work for the course or a request for more time due to the pressures of a normal academic work load are not sufficient reasons to give an INC.

MODIFICATIONS TO THE SYLLABUS — The instructor and the University reserve the right to modify, amend, or change the syllabus (schedule, course requirements, grading policy, etc.) as the curriculum and/or program require(s).
EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS
I expect students to act in a professional and respectful manner in class at all times. The catalog calls upon students, in the Carroll University Compact, to strive to live according to certain values as a member of the Carroll community. This class has these expectations as well. In line with this compact are these specific expectations:

a) We will be discussing ideas that are controversial and may be challenging to what students value and think. It is important to focus on the discussion of the ideas and not the personal attacks on other people.
b) I expect students to have an opportunity to share their ideas but not to monopolize the conversation.
c) All electronic devices (cell phones, iPods, etc.) should be turned off and put away during class time. If students are engaging in any way with any electronic device during class (that includes looking at it or checking messages), this will affect your participation grade. Class time is a time to talk with fellow classmates and the instructor and build and work on a learning community.
d) When communicating through email, use appropriate language, spelling, and grammar.

MATERIAL

READINGS


FILMS
The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, directed by John Madden, 2011
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1412386/?ref_=fn_al_tt_1> ; available in DVD at Carroll’s library
Gandhi, directed by Richard Attenborough, 1982
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0083987/> ; available in DVD at Carroll’s library
Lion, directed by Garth Davis, 2016
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt3741834/> ; available on Netflix
Water, directed by Deepa Mehta, 2006
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0240200/?ref_=nm_knf_i1>

[ Recommended: Slumdog Millionaire, directed by Danny Boyle & Loveleen Tandan, 2008
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1010048/?ref_=fn_al_tt_1>
Paul Merton in India, TV mini-series 2008
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1232520/?ref_=fn_al_tt_1>
Stories by Rabindranath Tagore, TV series 2015
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4853764/?ref_=fn_al_tt_1> ; available on Netflix]
CLASS SCHEDULE

MEETING 1 — INTRO
PREP — Syllabus
Narayan, R. K. *The Ramayana*

MEETING 2 — INDIA: A (VERY) SHORT SOCIAL HISTORY
PREP — *Gandhi*, 1982
Narayan, R. K. *The Ramayana*

MEETING 3 — INDIA: ORIENTALISM, EXOTICISM AND THE WESTER MYTH OF ASIA
PREP — *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, 2011
Narayan, R. K. *The Ramayana*

MEETING 4 — INDIA: A (VERY) SHORT CULTURAL HISTORY
PREP — *Water*, 2006
Narayan, R. K. *The Ramayana*

MEETING 5 — INDIA: RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY
PREP — Narayan, R. K. *The Ramayana*

MEETING 6 — INDIA: YESTERDAY, TODAY AND OUR CCE
PREP — *Lion*, 20016