I. Course Description

This course examines Rāmāyaṇa story traditions with a primary focus on its many literary and oral variants.

II. Course Texts

All texts are required. You must have a copy of the text(s) with you in class.

5. A course reader: Pick-up at Davis Textbooks (236 A Street) Ph: 530-758-2311.

III. Breakdown of Course Requirements

1. Discussion Questions (25%)
2. Two Essays (10% and 15%)
3. Final Essay (30%)
4. Participation and Student Professionalism (20%)

IV. Course Requirements

1. Discussion Questions (25%)

Students will post brief commentary and discussion questions for every class session. These summaries (100-200 words) and questions must be posted by 8:00 pm on the day prior to class session (Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday by 8:00 pm). All students must read through the comments and the questions before class session, and students must bring copies of the same to class. If there is more than one assigned source for the class session, you need respond to only one. In other words, you only have to post one response per class session.
You will receive a grade midway through the quarter that reflects your contributions on the forum. This will be worth 10% of the allotted 25% of the grade. The remaining 15% will be allotted at the end of the quarter.

I will look for the following elements in your contributions:

a. Postings that reflect an engagement with the source(s)
b. Postings that demonstrate a comprehensive and cumulative understanding of the material. By this I mean that your forum postings reflect what we read and discuss in class. In a sense, I expect you to build your own narrative about the Rāmāyaṇa as the course develops.
c. Postings that engage (in a courteous, respectful and professional manner) the thoughts and contributions of your peers.
d. Your ability to engage with the postings in class discussions.
e. Posting clear, well-thought out responses. Don’t post something at the last minute. Consider what it is you want to say about the text. You may use the forum posting to also ask questions about material that you did not understand, or arguments in secondary sources that you wish to critique.

All students may miss four forum contributions for the entire quarter—two in the first half and two in the latter half of the quarter. You will lose 1 point for every posting missed beyond the four that are allowed.

There is a forum created on Smartsite for this purpose, and I will create specific threads for each topic.

V. Essays (25%)

In your first essay (10%), you will develop one of your forum postings using a secondary source. (500 words)

Your second essay (15%) will further develop your first essay from a comparative perspective. (1000 words)

*All students will be expected to meet with at least once before the papers are due.*

Details on the paper topics will be posted on Smartsite in time for your essay.

VI. Final Paper (30%)

Your final essay will engage secondary sources and an alternate *The Rāmāyaṇa* we have discussed in class. There is no outside research required for this class. You may also develop the ideas of your second paper. Further details on the final paper will be posted on Smartsite.

I will post excerpts/short stories based on the *Rāmāyaṇa* on Smartsite. You may use these sources for your final paper.

*All students will be expected to meet with me at least once before the final papers are due.*

VII. Participation and Student Professionalism (20%)
Attendance is not mandatory in this class, but it is expected. This is a discussion-heavy (and reading heavy) course, so it is imperative that you are present in class and are prepared.

I expect you to come to class having completed the assigned readings. Come prepared to ask and answer questions, and to discuss them. I do not want you to be passive learners, who simply listen to me. I encourage you to engage both the material and me in dialogue. This is what will make for a fruitful and productive class.

In order to facilitate discussions and questions, we will begin discussion on the Smartsite forum.

During class time, I ask that you place your cell-phones on silent. Please do not text, facebook, or engage in other kinds of social media in class.

You are required to bring your readings to class.

VIII. Plagiarism and Cheating

I will report any form of plagiarism and cheating to the SJA immediately. So, please do not engage in plagiarism and/or cheating. If you have doubts about what constitutes plagiarism, please talk to me. Purchasing papers online, having someone else write your papers, copying off a website, and using someone else’s research without proper acknowledgment and/or citation are some of the most common forms of plagiarism.

IX. Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>98-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95-98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>85-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>75-80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>70-75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>65-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>60-65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>55-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>45-50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>45 and below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

X. Extra Credit Options

I will announce extra credit opportunities in class and via email. You may earn up to 6 extra credit points by attending lectures or participating in events. In order to receive the credit, you must attend the announced event and submit a short written statement about it. Each extra credit assignment is worth 2 points.

These brief write-ups are due 1 week after the event, and must be submitted to me in class as a hard copy.

XI. Assignment Due Dates

a. Discussion posts on the Smartsite forum every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday by 8:00 p.m. Students may miss four posts over the course of the quarter without penalty.
b. First Essay: Tuesday, May 1 by 12 noon as a hard copy in the box outside my office, 813 Sproul
c. Second Essay: Tuesday, May 22 by 12 noon as a hard copy in the box outside my office, 813 Sproul
d. Final Essay, Tuesday June 12 by 12 noon.
**Reading Schedule**

Readings are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Readings are to be completed prior to the date for which they are assigned.

**Week 1: Introduction**

M: April 2

*Introductions*

W: April 4


F: April 6


**Week 2: Beginnings**

M: April 9


W: April 11


F: April 13


**Week 3: Wilderness**

M: April 16


W: April 18


F: April 20


Week 4: In Between Lands

M: April 23

W: April 25

F: April 27

Week 5: Lanka

M: April 30

Paper 1 due Tuesday, May 1 by 12 noon

W: May 2

F: May 4


Week 6: War

M: May 7

W: May 9

F: May 11


Week 7: The Never-ending Story

M: May 14


W: May 16


F: May 18

1. Pudumaipittan. Narada Ramayāṇam

Week 8: More Retellings and Variants

M: May 21


Paper 2 due, Tuesday May 22 by 12 noon

W: May 23


F: May 25

2. Film: Sita Sings the Blues

**Week 9: The Rāmāyaṇa and the Political Imagination**

M: May 28 (Memorial Day)

No class

W: May 30


F: June 1


**Week 10: Reinvention and Beyond**

M: June 4


W: June 6

1. Review and discussion of final papers

**Final Paper Due: June 12th by noon**