

## **JAINISM**

Religion 01:840:378:01

Spring 2024

### **COURSE INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

⇒ Prof. Anil Mundra (he/him/his)

- can send direct messages through Canvas
- [anil.mundra@rutgers.edu](mailto:anil.mundra@rutgers.edu)
- I will respond within 36 hours, usually less

### **COURSE MEETING DAYS, TIMES, LOCATION, MODALITY**

- In-person, attendance required
- Monday/Thursday 10:20-11:40
- Livingston Campus - Beck Hall (BE) 213

### **OFFICE HOURS / STUDENT SUPPORT HOURS**

⇒ 30 minutes before and after each class session in the classroom

⇒ by appointment on Zoom and at the Department of Religion, 64 College Ave.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS AND COURSE MATERIALS**

⇒ Sherry Fohr, *Jainism: A Guide for the Perplexed* (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2015). ISBN: 978-1-4411-5116-2

- available electronically through the Rutgers Library at <https://bit.ly/49hL9ZO>

⇒ other readings and media links available through course Canvas site

### **TECHNICAL / TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

⇒ Most of the course materials are electronic, so you will need reliable access to a computer. You are allowed to bring your laptop or tablet to class in order to consult readings and notes, but use of devices for anything unrelated to the course is strictly prohibited and will result in loss of an Attendance & Attention point.

- If you do not have the appropriate technology for financial reasons, please email the Dean of Students at [deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu) for assistance. If you are facing other financial hardships, please visit the Office of Financial Aid: <https://financialaid.rutgers.edu/>.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

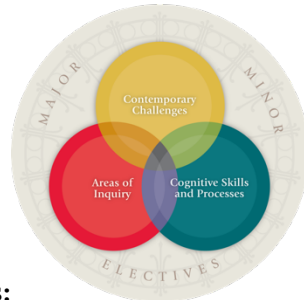
This is a writing-intensive course that will introduce a religion with millions of adherents worldwide and almost three millennia of documented history: Jainism. In addition to its contemporary manifestations, we will trace its earliest history, its classical period in India, and the developments that bring it into the modern globalized age. We will examine its doctrines and philosophies, as well as its embodiments in ritual and socio-political life. We will read Jain scripture and stories as well as secondary scholarly literature that interprets the primary texts and Jain practice, and we will witness (online and in-person) Jain displays of statuary, painting, song, and worship. We will write about how Jain ethics, metaphysics, cosmology, and devotion inform the lives of both monastics and everyday laypeople. We will come to appreciate the interrelation of all of the above elements, analyzing Jain literatures and arts in themselves and in their relation to Jain history, values, languages, culture, and technologies. In approaching these many facets, this course will be an appropriate introduction to religion in general, and by synthesizing these many facets in writing, we will practice communicating complex ideas to a general audience and refining our ideas through revision. There are no prerequisites; prior acquaintance with Indian religious history will be helpful but not required or presumed.

## **LEARNING GOALS**

- ⇒ By the end of this course, you will (among other things) be able to:
- distinguish major phases and sects in the history of Jainism;
  - synthesize the diverse aspects of Jain thought, practice, and culture in its various segments and communities, as well as some of the interconnections, discontinuities, and tensions between them, through writing that carefully handles its sources of evidence in ways that are appropriate for different audiences and purposes;
  - analyze Jain literatures and arts in themselves and in relation to Jain history, values, languages, culture, and technologies;
  - discern some of the impacts of gender, nationality, ethnicity, sect, and political power on experiences of being Jain;
  - challenge common assumptions about the boundaries between categories like Jain, non-Jain (especially Hindu), religion, spirituality, philosophy, faith, and reason, by citing concrete counterexamples;
  - read primary texts in translation and secondary scholarship, navigating differences of genre and method and assessing conflicts and disagreements;
  - communicate complex ideas effectively, in standard written English, to a general audience; and
  - respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers and instructors through successive drafts and revision.

⇒ General learning goals in the academic study of religion:

<https://religion.rutgers.edu/academics/undergraduate/learning-goals>



⇒ Core Learning Goals:

- AHP: Analyze arts and/or literatures in themselves and in relation to specific histories, values, languages, cultures, and technologies.
- WCr: Communicate complex ideas effectively, in standard written English, to a general audience, and respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers, instructors, &/or supervisors through successive drafts & revision.

## GRADING SCALE

A = 90-100; B+ = 85-89; B = 80-84; C+ = 75-79; C = 70-74; D = 60-69

⇒ Warning grades will be submitted for poor performance and poor attendance

## ASSESSMENT / GRADING COMPONENTS

Students can expect to spend roughly 3-5 hours per week on course preparation. Grades will be based on the following components. *Unexcused late submission of any assignment will result in a 1-point loss (=1% of your final grade).*

⇒ Attendance and Attention (25%):

- See Attendance policy at bottom of this syllabus.
- You are expected to come to each session having read/watched the required materials listed for that week, and prepared to actively engage in class.
- Use of devices for anything unrelated to the course is prohibited and will result in loss of 1 point. See Technology section above.

⇒ Weekly responses (25%): In advance of one class session per week, write a paragraph or two totaling 100-200 words and upload it to the Canvas discussion forum at least one hour before class begins.

- Unless otherwise instructed in a particular week, these responses should: identify one general theme from the materials for that class; illustrate that theme by quoting and explaining at least one piece of textual evidence, citing it appropriately; and raise a relevant outstanding question that you'd like to further understand.
- This exercise is meant to help you engage with the course materials, extract and consolidate information and concepts from them, generate text for your paper assignments, and facilitate

classroom dialogue. The goal is to analyze the assigned literary and artistic materials in themselves and in relation to Jain histories, values, cultures, and technologies.

- You will receive 2 points for responses that satisfy the assignment above, and 1 point for those that do not; in the latter case, however, I will give you an opportunity to complete the assignment and regain the lost point. Late posts will receive 1 point until class time, and no credit after class begins.

⇒ Midterm Paper (20%)

- 1%: Thesis statement proposal approved by February 1
- 3%: Prepare a paper outline with quotations from the course materials by February 8
- 3%: Submit a first draft of the paper for peer review by February 15
- 3%: Submit a second draft of the paper for instructor review by February 22
- 10%: Revise your second draft and submit final paper by March 14

⇒ Final Paper (30%)

- 1%: Thesis statement proposal approved by April 4
- 5%: Prepare a paper outline with quotations from the course and other materials by April 11
- 4%: Submit a first draft of the paper for peer review by April 18
- 5%: Submit a second draft of the paper for instructor review by April 25
- 15%: Revise your draft and submit final paper by May 8

## SCHEDULE OF MATERIALS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Assigned materials will be posted in Canvas Modules and are to be read/watched *in advance* of the session listed:

### **Thursday, January 18**

Watch: *Frontiers of Peace* film (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKwu9E1XHxQ>)

### **Monday, January 22**

Read: Christopher Key Chapple, “Ahiṃsā and the Jaina Religion,” in *Nonviolence to Earth, Animals, and Self*, pp. 9-15

### **Thursday, January 25**

Read: Padmanabh Jaini, “Jain Concept of the Sacred”

Workshop: Writing complex arguments for a general audience: how to craft a compelling thesis and an introduction that presents the problem to which it is a solution

### **Monday, January 29**

Read: Canonical discourses (pages 1-14): “Knowledge of the Weapon” (*Ācārāṅga Sūtra* 1.1)

### **Thursday, February 1**

Read: Canonical discourses (pages 15-29): “Righteousness” and “The Pillow of Righteousness” (*Ācārāṅga Sūtra* 1.4 and 1.8)

Assignment: Midterm paper thesis statement approval



**Monday, February 5**

Read: *That Which Is* (Jain *Tattvārtha Sūtra* selections)

**Thursday, February 8**

Assignment: Midterm paper outline

**Monday, February 12**

Watch: “Life of Jain Monks (Glimpses)” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqExyhLTFaA>)

**Thursday, February 15**

Assignment & Workshop: Midterm paper first draft for peer review

**Monday, February 19**

Read: N. K. Singhi, “A study of Jains in a Rajasthan town,” pages 139 and 143-149

**Thursday, February 22**

Assignment: Midterm paper draft for instructor review

**Monday, February 26**

Read: Brianne Donaldson and Ana Bajželj, *Insistent Life: Principles for Bioethics in the Jain Tradition*, pp. 110-111, 152-163 and 179-181

**Thursday, February 29**

Read: *Jainism: A Guide for the Perplexed*, chapter 1: “The religious, historical, and cultural contexts of Jain narratives”

**Monday, March 4**

Read: *Jainism: A Guide for the Perplexed*, chapter 2: “Why Jainism survives: Jain sects and sub-sects” (start at p. 20)

**Thursday, March 7**

Read: *Jainism: A Guide for the Perplexed*, chapter 3: “Jain ethics and exemplars for renouncers: The twenty-four re-founders (Jinas) of Jainism”

**Monday, March 11 & Thursday, March 14**

Spring Recess: No Class

Assignment: Submit midterm paper by March 14

**Monday, March 18**

Workshop: Library research

**Thursday, March 21**

Read: *Jainism: A Guide for the Perplexed*, chapter 4: “Exemplars for nuns and laywomen: virtuous women”

Workshop: Evidence and warrants: how to muster the sources to support your thesis and show how it does so

**Monday, March 25**

Read: *Jainism: A Guide for the Perplexed*, chapter 5: “Exemplars for laymen: Kings and gods”

**Thursday, March 28**

Read: *Jainism: A Guide for the Perplexed*, chapter 6: “Conclusion: Festivals, prayer, and worship”

**Monday, April 1**

Read: Manisha Sethi, *Escaping the World: Women Renouncers Among Jains* (selections)

**Thursday, April 4**

Assignment: Final paper thesis and sources approval

Read: Whitney Kelting, *Singing to the Jinas: Jain Laywomen, Maṇḍa! Singing, and the Negotiations of Jain Devotion* (selections)

**Monday, April 8**

Read: John Cort, *Framing the Jina* (selections)

**Thursday, April 11**

Assignment: Final paper outline

**Monday, April 15**

Read: Anil Mundra, “Identity” (<https://globalcritical.as.ua.edu/self-and-persistence/identity/>) and “Anekāntavāda” (<https://globalcritical.as.ua.edu/self-and-persistence/anevantavada/>) in *Keywords For Cross-Cultural Studies Of Self And Persistence*

**Thursday, April 18**

Assignment & Workshop: Final paper first draft for peer review

**Monday, April 22**

Read: Melanie Barbato, *Jain Approaches to Plurality: Identity As Dialogue* (selections)

**Thursday, April 25**

Assignment: Final paper second draft for instructor review

Temple visit: Meet in front of Beck Hall (or directly at Jain Center of New Jersey, with prior approval)

**Monday, April 29**

Course conclusion

## **POLICIES**

### **Attendance**

- ⇒ Unexcused tardiness of more than 10 minutes will result in a loss of one-half of a credit point for that session, and unexcused absences lose a whole credit point for that session (1% of total course grade).
- ⇒ If you are feeling ill, please do not come to class; message me to let me know and your absence will be excused, and we will determine together how to catch up on missed material.
- ⇒ Please review the University attendance policy and report absences here:  
<https://sasundergrad.rutgers.edu/degree-requirements/policies/attendance-and-cancellation-of-classes>

### **Disabilities and Accommodations**

It is of the utmost importance that every student here should have an equitable chance of engagement and success. This course is for each of you, and I aim to ensure that it does not raise barriers in relation to any aspects of your identity. These aspects may include (but are not limited to) diversities of ability, as well as gender, religion, race, ethnicity, nationality, geography, home language, etc. Please let me know how I can support your flourishing.

- In order to receive accommodations, please contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled: <https://ods.rutgers.edu>

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Rutgers University takes academic dishonesty very seriously. By enrolling in this course, you assume responsibility for familiarizing yourself with the Academic Integrity Policy and the possible penalties (including suspension and expulsion) for violating the policy. As per the policy, all suspected violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to):

- Cheating
- Plagiarism
- Aiding others in committing a violation or allowing others to use your work
- Failure to cite sources correctly
- Fabrication
- Using another person's ideas or words without attribution, including re-using a previous assignment
- Unauthorized collaboration
- Sabotaging another student's work

If you are ever in doubt, please discuss with me and consult the University's website on Academic Integrity: <http://nbacademicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>

## **STUDENT SUPPORT AND MENTAL WELLNESS**

Helpful resources to support academic success and mental wellness:

- Student Success Essentials: <https://success.rutgers.edu>
- Student Support Services: <https://www.rutgers.edu/academics/student-support>
- The Learning Centers: <https://rlc.rutgers.edu/>
- The Writing Centers (including Tutoring and Writing Coaching): <https://writingctr.rutgers.edu>
- Office of Disability Services: <https://ods.rutgers.edu>
- Rutgers Libraries: <https://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/>
- Office of Veteran and Military Programs and Services: <https://veterans.rutgers.edu>
- Student Health Services: <http://health.rutgers.edu/>
- Counseling, Alcohol and Other Drug Assistance Program & Psychiatric Services (CAPS): <http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/>
- Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance: [www.vpva.rutgers.edu/](http://www.vpva.rutgers.edu/)