

BASIC PROGRAM of LIBERAL EDUCATION for ADULTS

Autumn Quarter 2024

Asian Classical Traditions Alumni Sequence: Tutorial

| INSTRUCTOR | DATES AND TIMES | LOCATION |
|--|---|---|
| Clare Pearson | COURSE LENGTH: Ten Weeks DATES: Oct. 1 - Dec. 10 (No class Nov. 26) | Remote Course |
| EMAIL: cepearson@uchicago.edu Instructor can be contacted through Canvas message | DAY OF THE WEEK: Tuesday TIMES: 9:30am to 11:00am | COURSE CODE and SECTION: BASC65111 24A1 PREREQUISITES: At least 2 years of the Basic Program |

Remote courses require you to login to Canvas to access the Zoom Classroom. **You will receive an invitation to join Canvas about a week before your course begins.** Please visit <https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts> to find Canvas login instructions, Zoom instructions, and student training sessions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Indian epic poem the *Mahâbhârata*, which took shape over a thousand years, is “seven times the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* combined, and a hundred times more interesting” (University of Chicago scholar Wendy Doniger). Like the *Iliad*, this epic centers on a war. The five Pandava brothers struggle against their hundred cousins, and the world takes sides between them. But war makes up only about a fifth of the epic—which also includes moral and philosophical stories, hero tales, origin stories, and accounts of exemplary women such as the Pandava brothers’ wife, Draupadi. We will use a modern retelling by the poet Carole Satyamurti that contains material from all eighteen books of the original. The result is a poetic version that gives contemporary readers a sense of the power and wonder of the whole.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. *Mahabharata: A Modern Retelling*. Satyamurti. Norton. ISBN 978-0393352498.

Students can purchase books at the University of Chicago Bookstore online at <https://www.bkstr.com/uchicagostore/shop/textbooks-and-course-materials> using the textbook order form, or by using the ISBN number to order the correct edition elsewhere.

WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

| DAY | AUTHOR | READING ASSIGNMENT |
|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| WEEK 1 Oct. 1 | <i>Mahâbhârata</i> | Foreword by Wendy Doniger; Book I, Ch. 1-5 (p. 3-69) |
| WEEK 2 Oct. 8 | <i>Mahâbhârata</i> | Book I, Ch. 7-13 (p. 70-152) |
| WEEK 3 Oct. 15 | <i>Mahâbhârata</i> | Book II (p. 153-210) |
| WEEK 4 Oct. 22 | <i>Mahâbhârata</i> | Book III (p. 211-298) |
| WEEK 5 Oct. 29 | <i>Mahâbhârata</i> | Books IV & V (p. 299-394) |
| WEEK 6 Nov. 5 | <i>Mahâbhârata</i> | Book VI; and Book VII, Ch. 37-38 (p. 395-504) |
| WEEK 7 Nov. 12 | <i>Mahâbhârata</i> | Book VII, Ch. 39-41 and Book VIII (p. 505-588) |
| WEEK 8 Nov. 19 | <i>Mahâbhârata</i> | Books IX, X and XII; and Book XII, Ch. 48-49 (p. 589-679) |
| WEEK 9 Dec. 3 | <i>Mahâbhârata</i> | Book XII, Ch. 50-53; Book XIII, all (p. 680-766) |
| WEEK 10 Dec. 10 | <i>Mahâbhârata</i> | Book XIV-end (p. 767-844) |

Students will receive an invitation to join the Graham School Student Community Canvas Site, a place to read announcements, have discussions, ask questions, and find resources.

DISABILITY INFORMATION

Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class meeting at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.