

BASIC PROGRAM of LIBERAL EDUCATION for ADULTS

Autumn Quarter 2024

Asian Classical Traditions Alumni Sequence: Seminar

INSTRUCTOR	DATES AND TIMES	LOCATION
Kendall Sharp	COURSE LENGTH: Ten Weeks DATES: Oct. 2 - Dec. 11 (No class Nov. 27)	In person at the Gleacher Center
EMAIL: krsharp@uchicago.edu Instructor can be contacted through Canvas message	DAY OF THE WEEK: Wednesday TIMES: 11:15am to 12:45pm	COURSE CODE and SECTION: BASC65111 24A2 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

This course introduces Basic Program alumni to three ancient Indian classics: the *Rigveda*, the *Upanishads*, and the *Bhagavadgita*. The *Rigveda* introduces readers to a world rich with mythic characters and stories, cosmic speculation, chariot warriors, horse sacrifices, cattle-raids, and ritual arcana. The *Upanishads* analyze those rituals and develop ideas like the transmigration of souls, *karma*, and the unity of all things. The *Bhagavadgita*, a philosophical interlude from the epic *Mahâbhârata* (read in the tutorial), presents a conversation between the warrior Arjuna and the god Krishna about *dharma* (duty), touching on the nature of the self and the operations of the universe.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. *The Rig Veda*, Doniger, tr. Penguin Classics, ISBN: 978-0140449891
2. *The Upanishads*, Olivelle, tr. Oxford World's Classics, ISBN: 978-0199540259
3. *van Buitenen, J. A. B. The Bhagavadgita in the Mahabharata. University of Chicago Press. 978-0226846620.*

Students can purchase books at the Gleacher Center Bookstore online at <https://chicagobooth.bncollege.com/shop/chicagobooth/page/find-textbooks> 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. 2	<i>Rigveda</i>	Hymns on Indra
WEEK 2 Oct. 9	<i>Rigveda</i>	Hymns on Soma
WEEK 3 Oct. 16	<i>Rigveda</i>	Hymns TBD
WEEK 4 Oct. 23	<i>Rigveda</i>	Hymns TBD
WEEK 5 Oct. 30	<i>Upanishads</i>	Pages TBD
WEEK 6 Nov. 6	<i>Upanishads</i>	Pages TBD
WEEK 7 Nov. 13	<i>Upanishads</i>	Pages TBD
WEEK 8 Nov. 20	<i>Bhagavad Gita</i>	Pages TBD
WEEK 9 Dec. 4	<i>Bhagavad Gita</i>	Pages TBD
WEEK 10 Dec. 11	<i>Bhagavad Gita</i>	Pages TBD

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.