

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 184b/SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES 358b
THE RAMAYANA
SPRING 2010
HUGH M. FLICK, JR.
SILLIMAN COLLEGE DEAN'S OFFICE
432-0701

January 13 Introduction. Background.

“Foreword,” R. Thapar in Questioning Ramayanas, pp. vii-xii.

“Questioning and Multiplicity Within the Ramayana Tradition,” P. Richman in Questioning Ramayanas, pp. 1-21.

“Three Hundred Ramayanas: Five Examples and Three Thoughts on Translation,” A.K. Ramanujan in Many Ramayanas, pp. 22-49.

January 20 Balakanda—Rama’s birth and childhood

The Ramayana of Valmiki Vol 1 Balakanda-pp. 3-13; 60-81; 121-195 (Sargas 1-36)

<https://classesv2.yale.edu/portal/> “All in the (Raghu) Family: A Video Epic in Cultural Context,” P. Lutgendorf.

“Krttibasa’s Apophatic Critique of Rama’s Kingship,” T.K. Stewart and E.C. Dimock in Questioning Ramayanas, pp. 243-264.

January 27 Balakanda continued—Rama’s Marriage

The Ramayana of Valmiki Vol 1 Balakanda-pp. 14-59; 196-269 (Sargas 37-76).

<https://classesv2.yale.edu/portal/> “Sita’s Story,” M. Peltier.

<https://classesv2.yale.edu/portal/> “Sita Vibhusita: The Jewels for her Journey,” A. Hildebeitel.

“Yes to Sita, No to Ram: The Continuing Hold of Sita on Popular Imagination in India,” M. Kishwar in Questioning Ramayanas, pp. 285-308.

<https://classesv2.yale.edu/portal/> “Three Ways of Falling in Love: Tulsidas’s Phulvari Episode and the Ways it is Portrayed in Contemporary Electronic Media,” H. Pauwels.

February 3 Ayodhyakanda—Rama’s Exile

The Ramayana (Sattar)-pp. 101-166.

<https://classesv2.yale.edu/portal/> “Literary and the Changing Concept of Text: Women’s Ramayana Mandali in Central India,” J. Flueckiger.

“A Ramayana of Their Own: Women’s Oral Tradition in Telegu,” V.N. Rao in Many Ramayanas. pp. 114-136

“The Voice of Sita in Valmiki’s Sundarakanda,” S. Sutherland Goldman in Questioning Ramayanas, pp. 223-238.

February 10 Ayodhyakanda continued—Arrival in the forest

The Ramayana (Sattar)-pp. 167-226.

<https://classesv2.yale.edu/portal/> “Epic Transmission and Adaptation: A Folk Ramayana in South India,” S. Blackburn.

<https://classesv2.yale.edu/portal/> “Descent into Performance: Rama Avatar in a Folk Tradition of Kerala,” S. Blackburn.

February 17 Aranyakanda-Life in the forest

The Ramayana (Sattar)-pp. 229-302.

“Mutilation of Surpanaka,” P. Richman in Many Ramayanas, pp. 67-88.

“Dining Out at lake Pampa: The Shabari Episode in Multiple Ramayanas,” P. Lutgendorf in Questioning Ramayanas, pp. 119-136.

February 24 Kishkindakanda—Gaining allies

The Ramayana (Sattar)-pp. 305-401.

<https://classesv2.yale.edu/portal/> “My Hanuman is Bigger Than Your Hanuman,” P. Lutgendorf.

<https://classesv2.yale.edu/portal/> “Banking on the Name,” P. Lutgendorf.

March 3 Sundarakanda—Hanuman’s journey Midterm Paper due in class.

The Ramayana (Sattar)-pp. 405-508.

<https://classesv2.yale.edu/portal/> “Monkey in the Middle: The Status of Hanuman in Popular Hinduism,” P. Lutgendorf.

<https://classesv2.yale.edu/portal/> “Valmiki’s Hanuman: Characterization and Occluded Divinity in the Ramayana,” R. Goldman and S. Sutherland.

March 24 Yuddhakanda—The Battle of Lanka

The Ramayana (Sattar)-pp. 511-628.

<https://classesv2.yale.edu/portal/> “Battle As Metaphor in Tamil Folk and Classical Traditions,” D. Shulman.

<https://classesv2.yale.edu/portal/> “The Ghost From the Anthill: Valmiki and the Destiny of the Ramakatha in South and South-East Asia,” R. Goldman.

March 31 Uttarakanda

The Ramayana (Sattar)-pp. 629-687.

“Fire and Flood: The Testing of Sita in Kampan’s Iramavataram,” D. Shulman in Many Ramayanas, pp. 89-113.

<https://classesv2.yale.edu/portal/> “The Great Sacrifice of Ramayana Recitation: Ritual Performance of the Ramcaritmanas,” P. Lutgendorf.

<https://classesv2.yale.edu/portal/> “Life as Theater: Performing the Ramayana in Ayodhya,” P. van der Veer.

April 7 Performing the Ramayana

<https://classesv2.yale.edu/portal/> “Words Made Flesh: The Benaras Ramlila Commentary,” P. Lutgendorf.

<https://classesv2.yale.edu/portal/> “The Ram Lila,” Norvin Hein.

<https://classesv2.yale.edu/portal/> “Raja and Praja: Presentational Convention in the Ramlila at Ramnagar,” A. Kapur.

April 14 Political uses of the story

<https://classesv2.yale.edu/portal/> “Imagining Ayodhya: Utopia and Its Shadows in a Hindu Landscape,” P. Lutgendorf.

<https://classesv2.yale.edu/portal/> “Interpreting Ramraj: Reflections on the ‘Ramayan,’ Bhakti, and Hindu Nationalism,” P. Lutgendorf.

<https://classesv2.yale.edu/portal/> “The Politics of Devotion to Rama,” P. van der Veer.

April 21 Conclusion

“Rama and the Political Imagination in India,” S. Pollock in The Journal of Asian Studies Vol 52, No. 2 (May 1993). pp. 261-297. www.JSTOR.com or

<https://classesv2.yale.edu/portal/>

Requirements:

- 1) Seminar attendance and participation.
- 2) Seminar Presentation—Each student must make a class presentation of approximately 15 minutes on the arguments and main points in one of the articles in the syllabus.
- 3) Midterm paper--3-5 pages. Topics to be handed out. Due in class 3 March.
- 4) Final Paper--12-15 pages. Write a paper on a topic of your choice having to do with some aspect of the Ramayana. All topics must be approved Dean Flick. Due in the Silliman College Dean's Office, Monday, 3 May.

NOTE: All footnotes and bibliographies must be done using the Chicago Stylebook Method.

All articles are on the **Yale Classes v2 server** which you can get to via <https://classesv2.yale.edu/portal/>

Course Books (Available at the Labyrinth Bookstore and on reserve in CCL):

R. Goldman (trans.) The Ramayana of Valmiki: An Epic of Ancient India Vol 1 Balakanda
Valmiki (Abridged and Translated by Arshia Sattar) The Ramayana.

P. Richman (ed) Many Ramayanas

P. Richman (ed) Questioning Ramayanas

There are lots of websites on the Ramayana (Google it to see over a million sites). You can get an idea concerning these at the following representative sites:

<http://www.ramayana.com/>

<http://www.valmikiramayan.net/>

Hinduism Research--<http://www.library.yale.edu/rsc/religion/hindu.htm>