IDH 3931
Ramayana: Divine Loophole
Allysa Peyton, Assistant Curator of Asian Art, Harn Museum of Art
W: Period 8 (3:00-3:50pm), Hume 0119
Office hours by appointment (at the Harn Museum): abrowne@harn.ufl.edu

The *Ramayana* is an ancient Indian epic poem that follows the life and adventures of the divine prince Rama, who must rescue his wife Sita from the demon-king Ravana. In the Hindu tradition, it presents the teachings of Hindu sages on the duties of relationships and portrays ideal characters. Artist and veteran Pixar artist Sanjay Patel (*Monster's Inc., A Bug's Life*) illustrates one Hindu mythology's best-known tales in a whimsical and accessible style, "teeming with powerful deities, love-struck monsters, flying monkey gods, magic weapons, demon armies, and divine love." (http://www.gheehappy.com/)

The class will focus on the characters of the story, narrative, and methods of illustration. As a class, we will learn more about Hindu deities, the role of the *Ramayana* in historical and contemporary contexts, and study objects held in museum collections, including UF's Harn Museum of Art, www.harn.ufl.edu.

Assignments will include book chapter readings/study, vocabulary review, object studies and comparison, and some creative writing/drawing assignments to be assigned. (No prior creative writing or drawing experience required) There will be 2 quizzes during the semester.

Requirements:
Assignments submitted late, but within twenty-four hours of the due date, will be penalized a full letter grade. Attendance and class participation is expected. Excused absences are consistent with UF policies in the undergraduate catalog and require appropriate documentation. (https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx)

Accommodations:
Students Requiring Accommodations Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. If you need other accommodations, please contact me early in the semester.

Required Texts:
Sanjay Patel, *Ramayana: Divine Loophole*, ISBN 978-811871075
Valmiki, R.K. Narayan, *The Ramayana*, ISBN 978-0143039679

Schedule of Classes and Readings:
Readings for the week should be completed before the class period.

Week1: Wednesday, January 8: Introduction and Overview
 • Setting the Ramayana in Context
 • About Sanjay Patel

Assignment (for next week):
The Ramayana, reading Prologue, page 3-6 & I. Rama's Initiation, pages 7-21.
Divine Loophole, reading, pages 13-24.

Week 2: Wednesday, January 17: Characters and Themes
 • Hinduism 101
 • Caste system
 • Literary Elements
 • Discussion

Assignment (for next week):
The Ramayana, reading 2. The Wedding, pages 22-32.
Divine Loophole, reading, pages 26-29.

Week 3: Wednesday, January 24
 • Discussion

Assignment (for next week):
The Ramayana, reading 3. Two Promises Revealed, pages 33-61.
Divine Loophole, reading, pages 134-139.

Week 4: Wednesday, January 31
 • Discussion

Assignment (for next week):
The Ramayana, reading 4. Encounters in Exile, pages 62-73.
Divine Loophole, reading, pages 30-44.

Week 5: Wednesday, February 7
 • Quiz #1
 • Discussion

Assignment (for next week):
The Ramayana, reading 5. The Grand Tormenter, pages 74-89.
Divine Loophole, reading, pages 150, 158.

Week 6: Wednesday, February 14

• Discussion

Assignment (for next week):
The Ramayana, reading 6. Vali, pages 90-105.
Divine Loophole, reading, pages 152-155.

Week 7: Wednesday, February 21
        • Discussion

Assignment (for next week):
The Ramayana, reading 7. When the Rains Cease, pages 106-120 & 8. Memento from Rama, pages 121-123.
Divine Loophole, reading TBD.

Week 8: Wednesday, February 28
        • Discussion

Assignment (for week of March 14th, after Spring Break):
The Ramayana, reading 9. Ravana in Council, pages 124-129 & 10. Across the Ocean, pages 130-133.
Divine Loophole, reading/review TBD.

Week 9: Wednesday, March 7: No Class, UF Spring Break

Week 10: Wednesday, March 14
        • Discussion

Assignment (for next week):
The Ramayana, reading 11. The Siege of Lanka, pages 134-138 & 12. Rama and Ravana in Battle, pages 139-147
Divine Loophole, reading/review TBD.

Week 11: Wednesday, March 21
        • Discussion

Assignment (for April 4th):
The Ramayana, reading 13. Interlude, pages 148-149 & 14. The Coronation, pages 150-153.
Divine Loophole, reading/review TBD.

Week 12: Wednesday, March 28: Topic/Assignment TBD
• Quiz #2 (take-home quiz)

Week 13: Wednesday, April 4: The End. And Modern & Contemporary Renditions
        • Presentation

• Discussion

Class viewing, *Sita Sings the Blues*, part 1.

Week 14: Wednesday, April 11: Other Modern & Contemporary Renditions
        • Class viewing, *Sita Sings the Blues*, part 2.
**Preparing for next weeks' visitors.

Week 15: Wednesday, April 18
Skype Interview with Sanjay Patel.

Week 16: Wednesday, April 25
Guest artist from Sequential Art Workshop, http://sequentialartistsworkshop.org/wordpress/ ,
mini workshop on illustration/sequencing. (Bring a pencil!)

Evaluation of Grades:

Assignment	Total Points	Percent of Grade
Class participation	450	45%
Quizzes (2)	400	40%
Special Projects/Interview questions	150	15%
TOTAL	1000	100%

More information on grades and grading policies is here:
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

- **Class Demeanor**: Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and social media and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum.

- **University Honesty Policy:** UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. The Honor Code (https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conducthonor-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx , 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.