

**Hindu Scriptures**  
 Religion: 840:204-01 Spring 2013  
 T-F 9:50-11:10  
 Hardenbergh A1 (CAC)

Instructor: Paul H. Sherbow  
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 Office Hours: TBA

**Course Description:**

The course will offer a close reading of the short, but significant *Īśa Upaniṣad*, focusing on issues arising from the text, and with reference to traditional commentaries. Additional passages from the *Kaṭha Upaniṣad*, the *Bhagavad-gītā*, and the *Bhāgavata Purāṇa* will enrich our understanding of philosophical and religious background of the work.

**Course Prerequisites:**

None.

**Course Requirements:**

Mid-term and final examinations and a final paper (8-10 pgs) due the last day of class. The final paper gives students an opportunity to probe and research in more detail aspects of Hindu texts covered in the course.

**Grading:**

The mid-term will account for 20% of the total grade, the final examination 30% and the final paper 40%, and class attendance and participation 10%. Students will be called upon in class to answer questions pertaining to the week's reading. **No** make-ups for missed exams will be given without valid medical proof or a signed letter from a student dean.

A = 100-90 B+ = 89-87; B = 86-80; C+ = 79-77; C = 76-70; D = 69-65; F = 64 and below.  
 Please note that outstanding class participation can make all the difference between grades.

**Required Course Text:**

Swami, A. C. Bhaktivedanta. *Śrī Īśopaniṣad*. Los Angeles: Bhaktivedanta Book Trust.  
 Additional supplementary texts will be provided by the instructor.

**Course Schedule**

**1 Tue / Jan 22**

Īśa Upaniṣat - Introduction: *Upaniṣat* – derivation of the term; BU 5.1.1 – fullness (*pūrṇatva*) in relation to the Absolute;

**2 Fri / Jan 25**

Īśa Upaniṣat - Text 1: *Īśa* – concept and derivation of the term; the essence of controllership; the relation between *Īśa* and the universe; *jagat* – the moving; *vāśya* or pervasion / covering; ethical consequences of relationship with the Absolute.

**3 Tue / Jan 29**

Īśa Upaniṣat - Text 2-3 – necessity of work; concept of *karma*; consequence of non-work;

**4 Fri / Feb 1**

Īśa Upaniṣat - Text 4 – qualities of the Absolute:

**5 Tue / Feb 5**

Īśa Upaniṣat - Text 5-7 – results of knowledge of the Absolute

**6 Fri / Feb 8**

Īśa Upaniṣat - Text 8 – qualities of the Absolute

**7 Tue / Feb 12**

Īśa Upaniṣat - Texts 9-14 – *Vidyā & Avidyā*

**8 Fri / Feb 15**

Īśa Upaniṣat - Texts 15-18 – Preparation for Death

**9 Tue / Feb 19**

Kaṭha Upaniṣat

**10 Fri / Feb 22**

Kaṭha Upaniṣat

**11 Tue / Feb 26**

Kaṭha Upaniṣat

**12 Fri / Mar 1**

Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter II

**13 Tue / Mar 5**

Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter II

**14 Fri / Mar 8**

\*Mid-term Examination\*

**15 Tue / Mar 12**

Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter II

**16 Fri / Mar 15**

Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter II

**17 Tue / Mar 26**

Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter III

**18 Fri / Mar 29**

Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter III

**19 Tue / April 2**

Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter III

**20 Fri / April 5**

Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter III

**21 Tue / April 9**

Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter III

**22 Fri / April 12**

Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter V

**23 Tue / April 16**

Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter V

**24 Fri / April 19**

Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter V

**25 Tue / April 23**

Bhāgavata Purāṇa, Canto III

**26 Fri / April 26**

Bhāgavata Purāṇa, Canto III

**27 Tue / April 30**

Bhāgavata Purāṇa, Canto XI

**28 Fri / May 3**

Bhāgavata Purāṇa, Canto XI

Last Class – \*Papers Due\*