

# Hinduism

Spring 2017

01: 840: 224: 01

Section 3: T-Th 2:50-4:10 FH-A5

Instructor: Paul H. Sherbow

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Office Hours: Tu 1:30-2

Loree 108

## Course Description:

This course will introduce Hindu religious traditions through close readings of selections from primary texts, including the *R̥gveda*, *Upaniṣads*, *Manu-smṛti*, *Rāmāyaṇa*, *Mahābhārata*, *Bhagavad-gītā*, *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*, and later devotional (*bhakti*) works.

**Course Requirements:** adequate preparation of assigned primary texts and supplementary readings, demonstrated by thoughtful contributions to **class discussion** and **short response papers** as assigned; **three comprehensive, in-class quizzes** based on assigned readings and class lectures; a **final examination**, as scheduled in the exam period at the end of the term; a **8-page paper** due the last day of class. Regular attendance and participation in classroom discussion is expected.

## This course fulfills the following SAS core curriculum requirements:

Social and Historical Analysis - Understand the bases and development and human and societal endeavors across time and place. Explain and be able to assess the relationship among assumptions, method, evidence, arguments, and theory in social and historical analysis.

Historical Analysis (HSt) - Explain the development of some aspect of a society or culture over time, including the history of ideas or history of science. Employ historical reasoning to study human endeavors.

**Grading:** Grades will be based on the three quizzes and final exam (60%), the final paper (20%) and class participation, including occasional, short response papers (20%). Students will be called upon in class to answer questions pertaining to the week's reading, as well as participate in discussion. **No** make-ups for missed exams will be given without valid medical proof or a signed letter from a student dean. Extra credit may be earned through in-class presentations, for which the last day of class is reserved. A = 100-90; B+ = 89-85; B = 84-80; C+ = 79-75; C = 74-70; D = 69-65; F = 64 and below.

## Required Course Texts:

All reading assignments are posted in the resource section of the course SAKAI site.

## Course Schedule

### 1 Tu / Jan 17

General Introduction to Hinduism; literary context; the Veda and its parts; gods & seers; the Sanskrit language.

## 2 Th / Jan 19 – Ṛg-vedic Hymns & Ritual

Readings: **RV 1.1** ‘Agni’ (Panikkar pp. 36-37, 329; Wilson pp. 1-4)

**1.27** ‘Agni’ (Wilson pp. 64-65)

**1.32** ‘Indra’ (Griffith) [class handout]

**1.154** ‘Viṣṇu’ (Wilson pp. 390-391)

**10.90** ‘Puruṣa’ (Wilson pp. 422-426)

## 3 Tu / Jan 24 – Manu-smṛti

Creation; Social Structure (*varṇāśrama*) / King & Sage

Reading: Doniger, Wendy. *Laws of Manu*: Chapters 1-2 (pp. 3-42)

## 4 Th / Jan 26 – Elements of Sāṅkhya / Saṁskāra Rituals

Vedic Family Saṁskāras; Sāṅkhya categories of elements

Reading: Shubhanarayanan, N. *Occult Psychology of the Hindus*. (selections)

## 5 Tu / Jan 31 – Muṇḍaka Upaniṣad

Reading: *Muṇḍaka Upaniṣad*: Olivelle (pp. 268-277)

**Focus verses: MU 1.1.1-9; 1.2.1, 7-13; 2.1.2-6; 3.1.1-3; 3.2.3-5.**

## 6 Th / Feb 2 – Kaṭha Upaniṣad

Reading: *Kaṭha Upaniṣad*: Olivelle (pp. 231-247)

**Focus verses: KU 1.20-29; 2.1-11, 18-23; 3.3-13.**

## 7 Tu / Feb 7 – Īśā, Kena & Taittirīya Upaniṣads

Readings: 1) *Īśa Upaniṣad*: Olivelle (pp. 248-251)

2) *Kena Upaniṣad*: Olivelle (pp. 226-230)

3) *Taittirīya Upaniṣad*: Olivelle (pp. 177-193)

**Focus verses: ĪU 1-7, 16-18. KenaU 1.1-8. TU 2.1-2.**

## 8 Th / Feb 9 – Hitopadeśa

Reading: *Hitopadeśa* ‘Mitra-lābha’ (Satyanarayana Dasa transl.)

## 9 Tu / Feb 14 – Rāmāyaṇa

Reading: *Rāmāyaṇa: Bāla-kāṇḍa* selections

## 10 Th / Feb 16 – Quiz #1

## 11 Tu / Feb 21- Mahābhārata

Readings: 1) Ganguli (*Mahabharata, Ādi Parva*, chapters 1-3)

2) Smith, Daniel. *Mahābhārata*: selections

## 12 Th / Feb 23 – Bhagavad-gītā

Arjuna’s dilemma, Kṛṣṇa’s initial teachings

Reading: *Bhagavad-gītā* (chapters 1-2) plus traditional comments (handout)

**Focus verses: BG I 1, 34-47; II 1-4, 11-27, 31-47.**

**13 Tu / Feb 28 – Bhagavad-gītā**

Self realization, *karma*, *jñāna*

Reading: *Bhagavad-gītā* (chapters 2-5)

**Focus verses:** **BG II** 54-57, 60-64; **III** 1-5, 8-17, 27-29, 33-43; **IV** 1-11, 34-35.

**14 Th / March 2 – Bhagavad-gītā**

*Aṣṭāṅga-yoga*, *bhakti*, devotional practices

Reading: *Bhagavad-gītā* (chapters 6-9)

**Focus verses:** **BG VI** 1-18, 45-47; **VII** 1-8, 12-19, 20-23; **VIII** 5-8, 16-20-28; **IX** 20-34

**15 Tu / March 7 – Bhagavad-gītā**

Analysis of the world, Ātmā & Paramātmā, the three *guṇas*

Reading: *Bhagavad-gītā* (chapters 13-18)

**Focus verses:** **BG XIII** 1-3; **XIV** 5-17; **XV** 1-3; **XVI** 1-16; **XVII** 2-3; **XVIII** 61-66.

**16 Th / March 9 – Viṣṇu Purāṇa**

Four Varnas; Further Creation; Rudra; Lakṣmī; Dakṣa; Story of Dhruva

Readings: *Viṣṇu Purāṇa* (H. H. Wilson transl.) Book I, Chapters 6-13

**Spring Break****17 Tu / March 21 – Viṣṇu Purāṇa**

Story of Prahlāda; Universal Viṣṇu; Seven Spheres; Planets, Sun & Moon;

Readings: *Viṣṇu Purāṇa* (H. H. Wilson transl.) Book I, Chapters 17-22; Book II, Chapters 7-12

**18 Th / March 23 – Quiz #2****19 Tu / March 28 – Yoga Darśana / Vedānta Darśana**

Readings: *Yoga-sūtra* & *Brahma-sūtra* selections

**Focus sūtras:** **YS** 1.1-18; **BS** 1.1.1-4

**20 Th / March 30 – Bhāgavata Purāṇa**

Story of Kṛṣṇa Part I: appearance & childhood in Vraja

Reading: *Bhāgavata Purāṇa* (Tagare transl.) 10<sup>th</sup> Canto, Chapters 1-14

**21 Tu / April 4 – Bhāgavata Purāṇa**

Story of Kṛṣṇa Part II: youth in Vraja & Mathurā

Reading: *Bhāgavata Purāṇa* (Tagare transl.) 10<sup>th</sup> Canto, Chapters 15-26

**22 Th / April 6 - Bhāgavata Purāṇa / Kabir / Mirabai**

Three Paths; Good & Bad value judgements; Medieval Non-dual Bhakti

Reading: *Bhāgavata Purāṇa* (Tagare transl.) 11<sup>th</sup> Canto, selections

**23 Tu / April 11 – Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhu**

Devotional Practices & Formal Temple Worship

Reading: *Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhu* (Bhanu Swami transl.) Parts I-II

**24 Th / April 13 – Hari-bhakti-vilāsa**

Reading: *Vilāsas* I-II: Mantra, Initiation (*dīkṣā*)

**25 Tu / April 18 – Hari-bhakti-vilāsa**

Reading: *Vilāsa* III: Good conduct (*sadācāra*), Daily duties (*nitya-kṛtya*)

**26 Th / April 20 – Voices of Modern Hinduism**

Ram Mohan Roy, Dayananda, Ramakrishna, Vivekananda, Aurobindo, Gandhi

Readings: Vivekananda's 1893 Speech to the Parliament of the World's Religions

Selections from Gandhian writings

**27 Tu / April 25 – Quiz #3**

**28 Th / April 27 - Summary Discussion – Final Student Presentations**

**Final Paper Due**

**Friday May 5 / 12-3 pm      Final Examination**

Additional information and regulations for students:

**All of your work must be your own. Please be familiar with the Rutgers University Academic Integrity Policy:**

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

Violations include: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying other access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity.

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