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Office Hours: by appointment

840:322 HINDUISM

The course is a survey of the culture, beliefs, and practices that constitute the religion of Hinduism. We will explore the important Hindu scriptures and discuss topics like the three paths to liberation, Hindu philosophy, Hindu worship, Yoga, and Hinduism in modern times.

Readings

Flood, Gavin. *An Introduction to Hinduism*.
Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Eck, Diana L. *Darsan*.
New York: Columbia University Press, 2nd edition, 1996.

The Upanishads,
trans. by Juan Mascaró. London: Penguin Books, 1965.

The Bhagavad-Gita,
trans. by Barbara Stoler Miller. New York: Bantam Books, 1986.

Requirements

1. Class Attendance and Participation (15% of the final grade). You are expected to attend every class meeting. Every session missed, without proper explanation provided through the dean's office will result in 1 point reduction of your final grade. You are responsible for materials covered in lectures, much of which goes beyond required readings. Your participation in class discussion will show how well you have understood the readings and where clarification is necessary. It is therefore essential to keep up with the reading assignments.

2. Course Paper. A short course paper of 4-5 pages is required. The topic of the paper must be chosen by May 30 from among those given by the instructor. The course readings are the main sources of the paper. The paper should be submitted before or on June 27.

3. Exams and Grading. There will be two exams: a mid-session exam and the final exam. The final grade will be calculated in this manner: mid-session exam=35%; final exam=35%; Course paper=15%; class attendance=15%.

Grading System: A=100-90, B+=89-87, B=86-80, C+=79-77, C=76-70, D=69-65, F=64 and below. Incompletes, i.e. "T" grades, ordinarily will not be given.

Schedule

Class Day

Topics and Readings

May 28	Introduction, Early Hinduism, The Vedas <i>An Introduction to Hinduism</i> , Chapters 1-2,
May 30	The Vedas, Vedic Religion <i>An Introduction...</i> , Chapters, 1-2. (Paper topic to be given in writing to the instructor)
June 4	The Upanishads <i>The Upanishads</i> (entire book). <i>An Introduction...</i> , Chapter 3.
June 6	The Upanishads, Early Ascetic Culture <i>The Upanishads</i> <i>An Introduction...</i> , Chapter 4.
June 11	The Dharma Sastras, Epic Tradition <i>An Introduction...</i> , Chapter 5.
June 13	Mid-session exam The Bhagavad-Gita <i>The Bhagavad-Gita</i> (Chapters 1-9)
June 18	The Bhagavad-Gita <i>The Bhagavad-Gita</i> (Chapters 10-18)
June 20	Later Hindu Philosophy <i>An Introduction...</i> , Chapter 10.
June 25	Puranic Theism; Cult of the Goddess <i>An Introduction...</i> , 5, 6, 7, 8
June 27	Paper due Hindu Worship <i>An Introduction</i> , Chapter 9. <i>Darsan</i> (entire book).
July 2	Hinduism in Modern Times; Conclusion <i>An Introduction</i> , Chapter 11
July 4	Final Exam