

**Western Encounter with Hinduism**

**Professor Edwin Bryant**

**Religion: 16:840:594 / 01:840:405**

**Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>; 12.35 AM - 3.35 P.M.**

**Hickman Hall 119, Douglass Campus**

**Office hours Tue 11.00-12.00 A.M., Loree 108**

**[edbryant@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:edbryant@rci.rutgers.edu)**

**Course Description and Objectives:** This course will attempt an overview of representations of India in Western contexts and sources stemming from the earliest interactions between West and East, the subsequent cultural and intellectual exchanges, the eventual colonialization of the subcontinent, and the post-colonial aftermath. While touching on early Greek, Chinese and Muslim depictions of Hindus and Hinduism, the course will especially focus on the Colonial era. Attention will be especially paid to the Orientalist construction of Hinduism during this period, and to recent responses by Hindu intellectuals.

**Course Prerequisites:** None.

**Course Requirement: Course requirements:** All assigned reading. Students are expected to read whatever material is assigned for each particular week, and be prepared to discuss this in class. Each student will be regularly assigned class presentations on the reading. **Grading:** Attendance and class participation (this latter includes engaging the weeks reading in class discussions as well as presentations) 20% of the final grade; two quizzes (20% each for a total of 40% of the final grade); and term paper (15-20 pgs), 40% of the final grade due the last day of class., and this will be factored into the.

**Please note: there are no make-ups for missed quizzes or exams except in the case of an absence caused by an unexpected emergency and evidenced by a doctor's or dean's note. In the event of such a documented emergency, the instructor must be informed of the impending absence immediately (i.e. on the day of the quiz), and the make-up must be taken on the day after the quiz. There are no exceptions to these conditions.**

**Also, students who send/check e-mail or text messages etc., during class, will have points deducted from their grade.**

### **Required Reading**

Halbfass, Wilhelm *India and Europe* Albany: SUNY Press, 1988.

Oddie, Geoffrey *Imagined Hinduism* New Delhi: Sage, 2006.

Pennington, Brian *Was Hinduism Invented?* New York: oxford, 2005

Balagangadhara, S.N. *Reconceptualizing India Studies*–New York, Oxford: 2012

Tue, Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> Introduction to the course.

Tue, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>

Halbfass, chapters 1-6

Tue, Sept 16<sup>th</sup>

Halbfass, chapters 7-12

Tue, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>

Halbfass, chapters 13-18

Tue Sept 30<sup>th</sup>

Halbfass, chapters 19-24

Tue, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>

Oddie, chapters 1-5

Tue, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>

Oddie, chapters 6-10

Tue, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>

**QUIZ I** Pennington, chapters 1-3

Tue, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>

Pennington, chapters 4-6

Tue, Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>

Balagangadhara S.N. chapters 1-4

Tue, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>

Balagangadhara S.N. chapters 5-8

Tue, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>

To be determined

Tue, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>

Thursday schedule. Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Recess

Tue, Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>

To be determined

Tue, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>

To be determined **QUIZ II.**

Tue, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> Last class **Final Papers Due.**