

Krishna.

Spring 2016.

Edwin Bryant

01:840:357:01 (Cross-listed with 16:840:557:01

Thursday, 2nd - 3rd period, College Ave Campus.

Office hours Tuesday 1.45 - 2.45 PM

(and by appointment before or after class).

Course Description.

The course consists of an analysis of *bhakti* yoga through the lens of a 16th century devotional tradition that was pivotal to what is sometimes called a renaissance of Kṛṣṇa devotion across the North of the Indian subcontinent. It features direct translations from the classical Sanskrit text, *Śrīmad Bhāgavata Purāṇa* featuring primary episodes from Kṛṣṇa's incarnation, as well as stories about paradigmatic Kṛṣṇa devotees who serve as spiritual exemplars for the tradition. It engages an analysis of *bhakti*, devotion to Kṛṣṇa, from the theological perspectives of a highly scholastic pre-modern Vedānta tradition. It also undertakes a reading of a tome that sets out to illustrate this theology through two spiritual travelogues: one a tour and hierarchization of the different states of embodied life and of human religiosity; the other, a journey through the spiritual cosmography featuring the variegated transcendent domains promoted by this tradition.

Course objectives.

To provide students with an extensive understanding of the Deity of Kṛṣṇa and of some of the contours of Hindu devotion associated with him. To expose students to how such classical texts become increasingly theologized and elaborated upon over the course of time (hermeneutics).

Course Requirements.

There will be two quizzes. Additionally, students will be expected to submit an 8-10 page paper related to the course material, which will afford them an opportunity to undertake a focused written research project. Students will be assessed and graded as follows: class attendance and participation (10%); first quiz (25%); second quiz, (25%); research paper (40%). A 7 page paper writing guide is provided all students containing comprehensive instructions on research paper writing.

Required Reading

All reading is available for download from SAKAI.

Bryant, Edwin *Bhakti Yoga in the Krishna Tradition* New York: Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, *in press*.

Dāsa, Gopīparāṇadhāna *Śrī Bṛhad Bhāgavatāmṛta of Śanātna Gośvāmī* Vols I, II & III Los Angeles: the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, vol I, 2002; vol II, 2003; vol III, 2005

Recommended Reading.

Bhaktivedānta Swāmī KRSNA. Los Angeles: the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, 1970 (first edition). Available for download: <https://www.vedabase.com/en/kb>

Bryant, Edwin *Krishna: the Beautiful Legend of God*. London: Penguin, 2004.

All readings are expected to be done by the subsequent week (e.g. we will discuss *Bhakti Yoga* part I.1-3, which is listed under Week I, the following week on Jan 28th).

Week I.

Thur Jan 21st

Introduction to the course.

Reading: *Bhakti Yoga*, Part I.1 - I.3.

Introduction to the text and tradition; definition of *bhakti*; analysis of *bhakti yoga* as practice; analysis of the *bhakta* as practitioner.

Week II.

Thur Jan 28th

Reading: *Bhakti Yoga*, Part I.4-5.

Discussion of Kṛṣṇa as Godhead and recipient of *bhakti* in the context of Indian philosophy and theology; some academic considerations; the placement of Kṛṣṇa *bhakti* in the context of various *yoga* soteriologies.

Week III.

Thur Feb 4th

Reading: *Bhakti Yoga*, Part II.

Tales of exemplars of the tradition, and some of their teachings.

Week IV.

Thur Feb 11th

Reading: *Bhakti Yoga*, Part III, entire

Highlights from Kṛṣṇa's incarnation.

Note, for the remainder of the readings:

The *Śrī Bṛhad Bhāgavatāmṛta* was written in 2 parts, but these have been broken up into 3 volumes by the publisher. Part I, with seven chapters, takes up Volume 1, while part II, also with seven chapters, has been divided between volumes 2 & 3 (chapters 1-4 in vol 2, and chapters 5-6 in volume 3).

Week V.

Thur Feb 18th

Reading:

Śrī Bṛhad Bhāgavatāmṛta Vol I.1-3

Week VI.

Thur Feb 25th

Reading: *Śrī Bṛhad Bhāgavatāmṛta* Vol I.4-5

Week VII.

Thur March 3rd

Reading: *Śrī Bṛhad Bhāgavatāmṛta* Vol I.6-7.

Week VIII.

Thur March 10th

Reading: *Śrī Bṛhad Bhāgavatāṃṛta* Vol 2. Part II.1-2

QUIZ I (this will take up the second period only)

Week IX.

Thur March 18th SPRING BREAK

Week X.

Thur March 24th

Reading: *Śrī Bṛhad Bhāgavatāṃṛta* Vol 2 part II.2 (cont)- 3

Week XI.

Thur March 31st

Reading: *Śrī Bṛhad Bhāgavatāṃṛta* Vol 2, part II.4

Week XII.

Thur April 7th

Reading: *Śrī Bṛhad Bhāgavatāṃṛta* Vol 3, part II.5

Week XIII

Thur April 14th

Reading: *Śrī Bṛhad Bhāgavatāṃṛta* Vol 3, part II.6

Week XIV

Thur April 21st

Reading: *Śrī Bṛhad Bhāgavatāṃṛta* Vol 3, part II.7

Week XIV

April 28th

QUIZ II (this will take place in the second class period)

ALL FINAL PAPERS DUE May 5th, 5.00 PM. Loree 108, Douglass Campus. Hard copies must be delivered, no electronic copies.

Student-Wellness Services:

Just In Case Web App

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

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<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at:

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.

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Short version: Don't cheat. Don't plagiarize.

Longer version: Cheating on tests or plagiarizing materials in your papers deprives you of the educational benefits of preparing these materials appropriately. It is personally dishonest to cheat on a test or to hand in a paper based on unacknowledged words or ideas that someone else originated. It is also unfair, since it gives you an undeserved advantage over your fellow students who are graded on the basis of their own work. In this class we will take cheating very

seriously. All suspected cases of cheating and plagiarism will be automatically referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs, and we will recommend penalties appropriate to the gravity of the infraction. The university's policy on Academic Integrity is available at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy>. I strongly advise you to familiarize yourself with this document, both for this class and for your other classes and future work. To help protect you, and future students, from plagiarism, we require all papers to be submitted through Turnitin.com.

Since what counts as plagiarism is not always clear, I quote the definition given in Rutgers' policy:

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the use of another person's words, ideas, or results without giving that person appropriate credit. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or appropriate indentation and both direct quotation and paraphrasing must be cited properly according to the accepted format for the particular discipline or as required by the instructor in a course. Some common examples of plagiarism are:

- ñ Copying word for word (i.e. quoting directly) from an oral, printed, or electronic source without proper attribution.
- ñ Paraphrasing without proper attribution, i.e., presenting in one's own words another person's written words or ideas as if they were one's own.
- ñ Submitting a purchased or downloaded term paper or other materials to satisfy a course requirement.
- ñ Incorporating into one's work graphs, drawings, photographs, diagrams, tables, spreadsheets, computer programs, or other non-textual material from other sources without proper attribution.

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Judgments about plagiarism can be subtle. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask for guidance fro