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.


Recommended Reading.

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 Brhad Bhāgavatāmṛta 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 Brhad Bhāgavatāmṛta Vol 2 part II.2 (cont)- 3

Week XI.
Thur March 31st
Reading: Śrī Brhad Bhāgavatāmṛta Vol 2, part II.4

Week XII.
Thur April 7th
Reading: Śrī Brhad Bhāgavatāmṛta Vol 3, part II.5

Week XIII
Thur April 14th
Reading: Śrī Brhad Bhāgavatāmṛta Vol 3, part II.6

Week XIV
Thur April 21st
Reading: Śrī Brhad Bhāgavatāmṛta 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/  
Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: 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.

**Cheating and Plagiarism**  
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学术诚信政策. 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:

- Copying word for word (i.e. quoting directly) from an oral, printed, or electronic source without proper attribution.
- 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.
- Submitting a purchased or downloaded term paper or other materials to satisfy a course requirement.
- Incorporating into one’s work graphs, drawings, photographs, diagrams, tables, spreadsheets, computer programs, or other non-textual material from other sources without proper attribution.

A SPECIAL NOTE: Students often assume that because information is available on the Web it is public information, does not need to be formally referenced, and can be used without attribution. This is a mistake. All information and ideas that you derive from other sources, whether written, spoken, or electronic, must be attributed to their original source. Such sources include not just written or electronic materials, but people with whom you may discuss your ideas, such as your roommate, friends, or family members. They deserve credit for their contributions too!

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