Hindu Scriptures
Religion: 840:204-01 Spring 2013
T-F 9:50-11:10
Hardenbergh A1 (CAC)

Instructor: Paul H. Sherbow
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Office Hours: TBA

Course Description:
The course will offer a close reading of the short, but significant Īśa Upaniṣad, focusing on issues arising from the text, and with reference to traditional commentaries. Additional passages from the Katha Upaniṣad, the Bhagavad-gītā, and the Bhāgavata Purāṇa will enrich our understanding of philosophical and religious background of the work.

Course Prerequisites:
None.

Course Requirements:
Mid-term and final examinations and a final paper (8-10 pgs) due the last day of class. The final paper gives students an opportunity to probe and research in more detail aspects of Hindu texts covered in the course.

Grading:
The mid-term will account for 20% of the total grade, the final examination 30% and the final paper 40%, and class attendance and participation 10%. Students will be called upon in class to answer questions pertaining to the week’s reading. No make-ups for missed exams will be given without valid medical proof or a signed letter from a student dean.
A = 100-90 B+ = 89-87; B = 86-80; C+ = 79-77; C = 76-70; D = 69-65; F = 64 and below.
Please note that outstanding class participation can make all the difference between grades.

Required Course Text:
Additional supplementary texts will be provided by the instructor.

Course Schedule
1 Tue / Jan 22
Īśa Upaniṣat - Introduction: Upaniṣat – derivation of the term; BU 5.1.1 – fullness (pūrṇatva) in relation to the Absolute;

2 Fri / Jan 25
Īśa Upaniṣat - Text 1: Īśa – concept and derivation of the term; the essence of controllership; the relation between Īśa and the universe; jagat – the moving; vāśya or pervasion / covering; ethical consequences of relationship with the Absolute.

3 Tue / Jan 29
Īśa Upaniṣat - Text 2-3 – necessity of work; concept of *karma*; consequence of non-work;

4 Fri / Feb 1
Īśa Upaniṣat - Text 4 – qualities of the Absolute:

5 Tue / Feb 5
Īśa Upaniṣat - Text 5-7 – results of knowledge of the Absolute

6 Fri / Feb 8
Īśa Upaniṣat - Text 8 – qualities of the Absolute

7 Tue / Feb 12
Īśa Upaniṣat - Texts 9-14 – *Vidyā* & *Avidyā*

8 Fri / Feb 15
Īśa Upaniṣat - Texts 15-18 – Preparation for Death

9 Tue / Feb 19
Kaṭha Upaniṣat

10 Fri / Feb 22
Kaṭha Upaniṣat

11 Tue / Feb 26
Kaṭha Upaniṣat

12 Fri / Mar 1
Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter II

13 Tue / Mar 5
Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter II

14 Fri / Mar 8
*Mid-term Examination*

15 Tue / Mar 12
Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter II

16 Fri / Mar 15
Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter II

17 Tue / Mar 26
Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter III

18 Fri / Mar 29
Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter III
19 Tue / April 2
Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter III

20 Fri / April 5
Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter III

21 Tue / April 9
Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter III

22 Fri / April 12
Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter V

23 Tue / April 16
Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter V

24 Fri / April 19
Bhagavad-gītā, Chapter V

25 Tue / April 23
Bhāgavata Purāṇa, Canto III

26 Fri / April 26
Bhāgavata Purāṇa, Canto III

27 Tue / April 30
Bhāgavata Purāṇa, Canto XI

28 Fri / May 3
Bhāgavata Purāṇa, Canto XI
Last Class – *Papers Due*