

Hindu Philosophy

David Buchta

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Course Number: 01:730/840:368:01

Course Time: 9:00-12:25

Location: College Avenue Campus, Scott Hall 114

Course Overview:

This class will give a brief overview of some of the fundamental canonical literature of Hindu philosophical traditions, the epistemological framework which governed discourse within the Hindu framework and a number of the most prominent schools of thought.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, students should be able to identify key themes from the Vedas and Upaniṣads, to explain the various sources of valid knowledge accepted within Hindu philosophical traditions, to correlate various philosophical positions with the different schools of thought covered in the course and to summarize the dialogical structure of Bhagavad-gītā.

Required Texts:

The only book students are required to purchase is a translation of Bhagavad-gita. The following translation is available in the Rutgers Barnes and Noble:

The Bhagavad Gita, translated by Laurie L. Patton, Penguin Classics, 2008.

Other translations may be used with the instructor's permission. (The translations of Miller, Edgerton, and Sargeant are acceptable). All other readings will be made available on the "Resources" section of Sakai.

Recommended Texts:

Mohanty, J. N., *Classical Indian Philosophy*, Rowman & Littlefield, 2000.

The Rig Veda, translated by Wendy Doniger, Penguin, 1982.

Upaniṣads, translated by Patrick Olivelle, Oxford University Press, 2008

Tarka-Saṃgraha of Annambhaṭṭa, edited by Yashwant Vasudev Athalya, Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, 1963.

Radhakrishnan and Moore, *A Sourcebook in Indian Philosophy*, Princeton University Press, 1967.

The Yoga Sūtras of Patañjali, translated by Edwin Bryant, North Point Press, 2009.

Grading:

Attendance and Participation: 30%

First Test (1/4): 10%

Second Test (1/11): 20%

Third Test (1/15): 40%

Given the intensive nature of this winter session course, attendance and participation is mandatory. Each day's attendance will, in effect, be worth 2 % of the total grade. If a student is physically present but does not participate or demonstrates not having read the assigned material, the instructor may give only half attendance credit for that day.

The test will consist of short answers and will be cumulative. Questions for the test may be taken from the assigned readings or the classroom lectures.

Please note: There are no make-ups for the quizzes 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. There are no exceptions to these conditions. Any scheduling conflicts caused by religious observances must be reported to the instructor by the second day of class.

Class Schedule:

Week 1: Textual and Epistemological Foundations

12/28: Introduction, Vedas and Upaniṣads

Readings: *Classical Indian Philosophy* (Chapter 1: 1-7); *The Rig Veda* (selections: pp. 25-32, 46-51, 71-83); *Upaniṣads* (selections: *Brhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad* 2.4, 3, 6.1-2; *Chāndogya Upaniṣad* 6; *Īśā Upaniṣad*). Each student should choose a theme identified in the Mohanty reading and a passage in the primary sources that exemplify that theme.

12/29: *Tarka-saṅgraha*, part 1: Ontological Categories

Readings: *Tarka-saṅgraha* 1-34, 56-71

12/30: *Tarka-saṅgraha*, part 2: Perception and Inference

Readings: *Tarka-saṅgraha* 35-44

12/31: *Tarka-saṅgraha*, part 3: Inference, concluded

Readings: *Tarka-saṅgraha* 45-47

1/1: *Tarka-saṅgraha*, part 3: Testimony and Comparison

Readings: *Tarka-saṅgraha* 48-55; *Classical Indian Philosophy* (15-17, 31-32)

Week 2: Schools of Hindu Philosophy

1/4: Test 1; Vaiśeṣika and Nyāya

Readings: *Nyāya-kusumāñjali* Chapter 3 (pp. 32-57), Additional readings TBD

1/5: Sāṅkhya

Readings: *Sāṅkhya-kārika* translation in *Sourcebook in Indian Philosophy* (pp. 426-445)

1/6: Yoga

Readings: *Yoga-sūtras*, Bryant translation

1/7: Vyākaraṇa and Mīmāṃsā

Readings: *Sourcebook*, Pūrva-mīmāṃsā (pp. 486-505); DSa, "Vedāpauruṣeyatvam...", pp. 192-200, Additional Readings TBD

1/8: Vedānta

Readings: TBD

Week 3: Textual Foundations, part 2: *Bhagavad-gītā*

1/11: Test 2; *Bhagavad-gītā*, part 1: Introduction, The Body and the Self

Readings: *Bhagavad-gītā* Chapters 1-2; Additional Readings TBD

1/12: *Bhagavad-gītā*, part 2: Karma-yoga and Jñāna-yoga

Readings: *Bhagavad-gītā* Chapters 3-6, Additional Readings TBD

1/13: *Bhagavad-gītā*, part 3: Bhakti-yoga

Readings: *Bhagavad-gītā* Chapters 7-12, Additional Readings TBD

1/14: *Bhagavad-gītā*, part 4: Summary and Conclusion

Readings: *Bhagavad-gītā* Chapters 13-18, Additional Readings TBD

1/15: Test 3; Conclusions and Connections