

Religion 427

## **Bhakti Yoga**

Tue 9.15-12.15, DC, Loree 131

Instructor: Edwin Bryant.

Tel: x 23289. E-mail: <edbryant@rci.rutgers.edu>.

Office Hours: Thursday 12.30 AM- 1.30.00 PM, Loree 108.

### **Course Description and Objectives:**

An encounter with of an expression of bhakti associated with the School inaugurated by Chaitanya Mahaprabhu in the 16<sup>th</sup> century focused on devotion to Lord Krishna. The course will primarily consist of an in depth reading of one of the principle philosophical texts, the Bhakti Sandarbha, written by perhaps the most important scholastic of the tradition, Jiva Gosvami. This text outlines and justifies the specifics of this path of Krishna devotion, situating and contextualizing it within the knowledge systems of the day.

**Course Requirement:** All assigned reading. A mid-term exam (20% of the total grade), final exam (30%), and term paper (8-10 pgs, 40%) due the last day of class. Students' attendance record and overall performance in class will factor into the remaining 10% of the grade. Students are expected to read whatever material is assigned for each particular week, and be prepared to discuss this in class. Any student called upon who has obviously not done the assigned reading will lose grade points. Additionally, each student will be assigned class presentations on the secondary reading.

Any student using a cell phone in any way during class will lose points. Computers are allowed for note taking, but any student using the computer for any other reason, such as surfing the web or going on Facebook, will lose grade points and no longer be allowed to bring the computer to class (and I will check from time to time). **No make-ups for missed exams will be given without valid medical proof or a signed letter from a student dean.**

## **Required Reading**

*Available at the Douglass Coop:*

Satya Narayana Dasa, Sri Bhakti Sandarbha Vrindavana: Jiva, 2006, vols I, II & III

Venkatesananda, Swami. The Srimad Bhagavata Purana New York: SUNY, 1989.

*Available on electronic reserves at Alexander library and on Sakai:*

Tagare G.V. trans The Bhagavata Purana part I, II & III (books I-IX) New Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1976

### **Week I. Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>**

*Focus:* No class

### **Week II. Sept 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>**

*Readings:* The Srimad Bhagavata Purana, books I-IV pps 1-114

### **Week III. Sept 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>**

*Readings:* The Srimad Bhagavata Purana, books V-IX, pps 149-234

### **Week IV. Sept 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>**

*Readings:* The Srimad Bhagavata Purana, books X-XII, pps 235-385

### **Week V. Sept 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>**

*Readings:* Sri Bhakti Sandarbha, Vol I, Introduction and Chap 1, pps xxiii-81.

### **Week VI. Oct 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>**

*Readings:* Sri Bhakti Sandarbha, Vol I, Chap 1, pps 82-208

.

### **Week VII. Oct 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>**

*Readings:* Sri Bhakti Sandarbha, Vol I, Chap1, pps 209-346

**Week VIII. Oct 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>**

*Readings:* Sri Bhakti Sandarbha, Vol I, Chap 2, pps 347-479

**Mid-Term Exam**

**Week IX. Oct 26<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup>**

*Readings:* Sri Bhakti Sandarbha, Vol I, Chap 3, pps 480-549

**Week X. Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>**

*Readings:* Sri Bhakti Sandarbha, Vol II, Chaps 1-3 (entire), pps 596-684.

**Week XI. Nov 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>**

*Readings:* Sri Bhakti Sandarbha, Vol III, Chap 1 & 2 pps 691-763

**Week XII. Nov 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>**

*Readings:* Sri Bhakti Sandarbha, Vol III, Chap 3, pps 764-836

**Week XIII. Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>**

*Readings:* Sri Bhakti Sandarbha, Vol III. Chap 3 cont, pps 837-1044

**No Class Nov 25<sup>th</sup> due to Thanksgiving.**

**Week XIV. Nov 30<sup>th</sup>-Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>**

*Readings:* Sri Bhakti Sandarbha, Vol III, Chap 4, pps 1044 – 1150.

**Week XV Dec 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>**

*Readings:* Concluding comments. **ALL TERM PAPERS DUE.**

**Final exam:**

**Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00 – 11:00 a.m.**