

Religion 368
Hindu Philosophy
Spring 2012
Introduction to Hindu Philosophy
Location: Regina Heldrich Science Building #106
Douglass Campus
5th period (3.55-5.15 PM)
Instructor: Edwin Bryant.
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Office Hours: Tue 12.30-1.30 PM. Loree 108, Douglass Campus.

Course Description and Objectives: This course will attempt an overview (and no more) of some of the main schools of orthodox Hindu thought up to the medieval period. Attention will be paid to some of the prominent interconnections and points of contestation amongst some of these schools. The course will utilize primary texts wherever possible.

Course Prerequisites: None.

Course Requirement: Class attendance and participation (10% of the final grade); two non-cumulative quizzes (25% of the final grade each); a final cumulative exam (40% of the final grade).

Please note: there are no make-ups for missed quizzes or exams 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 (i.e. on the day of the quiz), and the make-up must be taken on the day after the quiz. There are no exceptions to these conditions.

Also, this is a large class and it is distracting to other students as well as the instructor if students chat to each other during the lectures. Students who do so, or send/check e-mail or text messages etc., during class, will have points deducted from their grade.

Required Reading

Books available at the Douglass Coop:

Siderits, Mark. Buddhism as Philosophy: An Introduction. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc, 2007.

Olivelle, Patrick. The Upanisads. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996.

Shukavak Das, Bhagavad Gita. Riverside, CA: Shri, 2004.

Bryant, Edwin, The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali: A New Edition, Translation, and Commentary. New York: Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2009

Readings available on Sakai:

Chatterjee, S and Datta, D. An Introduction to Indian Philosophy. Calcutta: Calcutta University Press, 1984.

Larson, Gerald. Classical Samkhya. Delhi: Motilal, 1969.

Mayeda, Sengaku A Thousand Teachings. New York: SUNY Press, 1992

Handout on Gunas (from Sukavak's Gita)

Readings from Ramanuja's Vedantasara.

Tue Jan 17th

Focus: General introduction to the course. The Vedic period.

Readings: Handout of Introduction & Vedic hymns.

Thur Jan 19th

Focus: The Upanisads

Readings: Olivelle,

Brihadaranyaka **1**: 1-2, 4; **2**: 1, 3-5; **3**: 4-9; **4**: 2-5; **6**: 2.

Tue Jan 24th

Focus: The Upanisads

Readings: Olivelle,

Chandogya **3**: 14; **4**: 4; **5**: 3-10; **6**: 1-2; 9-15; **8**: 7-15.

Taittiriya **2**: 1-8.

Aitareya **1**: 1.

Kausitaki **4**: 1-20.

Thur Jan 26th

Focus: The Upanisads,

Readings: Olivelle,

Kena (entire).

Katha (entire).

Isa (entire).

Svetasvatara (entire).

Tue Jan 31st

Focus: The Upanisads

Readings: Olivelle,

Mundaka (entire).

Prasna (entire).

Mandukya (entire).

Thur Feb 2nd

Focus: Samkhya

Readings: Flood, 224-249 (Sakai); Handout on Gunas (Sakai).

Tue Feb 7th

Focus: Samkhya

Readings: Larson, 237-277 (Sakai).

Thur Feb 9th

Focus: Buddhism

Readings: Siderits, chapters 1-3.

Tue Feb 14th

Focus: Buddhist Ethics; The Hindu School of Logic, Nyaya

Readings: Siderits, chapters 4-5.

Thur Feb 16th

Focus: Abhidharma & Mahayana Buddhism

Readings: Siderits, chapters 6-7.

Tue Feb 21st

Focus: Yogacara Buddhism

Readings: Siderits, chapter 8.

Thur Feb 23rd

Focus: **Quiz I.**

Tue Feb 28th

Focus: Madhyamaka & Dinnaga Buddhism

Readings: Siderits, chapters 9-10.

Thur March 1st

Focus: The Yoga Sutras

Readings: Bryant, chapter I (text & commentary).

Tue March 6th

Focus: The Yoga Sutras

Readings: Bryant, chapter I cont. (text & commentary).

Thur March 8th

Focus: The Yoga Sutras

Readings: Bryant, chapter II (text & commentary); Jain Ethics of Non-Injury (Sakai).

Spring break

Tue March 20th

Focus: The Yoga Sutras

Readings: Bryant, chapters II cont. & III. 1-3 (text & commentary).

Thur March 22nd

Focus: Vedanta Introduction; The Advaita-Vedanta of Shankara

Readings: Selections from Mayeda for Shankara (Sakai).

Tue March 27th

Focus: The Vishista-Advaita of Ramanuja

Readings: Yatindra-Mata Dipika, i-47 (Sakai).

Thur March 29th

Focus: The Vishista-Advaita of Ramanuja

Readings: Yatindra-Mata Dipika, 48-89 (Sakai).

Tue April 3th

Focus: The Vishista-Advaita of Ramanuja

Readings: Yatindra-Mata Dipika, 90-137 (Sakai).

Thur April 5th

Focus: The Vishista-Advaita of Ramanuja

Readings: Yatindra-Mata Dipika, 138-175 (Sakai).

Tue April 10th

Focus: **Quiz II.**

Thur April 12th

Focus: The Gita

Readings: Chapters 1-2.

Tue April 17th

Focus: The Gita

Readings: Chapters 3-6.

Thur April 19nd

Focus: The Gita

Readings: Chapters 7-12.

Tue April 24th

Focus: The Gita

Readings: Chapters 13-17.

Thur April 26th

Focus: The Gita

Readings: Chapters 18.

Final Exam May 4th, 12-3.00 pm HSB