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Office Hours: by appointment

840:322 HINDUISM

The course is a survey of the culture, beliefs, and practices that constitute the religion of Hinduism. We will explore the important Hindu scriptures and discuss topics like the three paths to liberation, Hindu philosophy, Hindu worship, Yoga, and Hinduism in modern times.

Readings

Flood, Gavin. *An Introduction to Hinduism*.

Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Eck, Diana L. *Darsan*.

New York: Columbia University Press, 2nd edition, 1996.

The Upanishads,

trans. by Juan Mascaró. London: Penguin Books, 1965.

The Bhagavad-Gita,

trans. by Barbara Stoler Miller. New York: Bantam Books, 1986.

Requirements

1. Class Attendance and Participation (15% of the final grade). You are expected to attend every class meeting. Every session missed, without proper explanation provided through the dean's office will result in 1 point reduction of your final grade. You are responsible for materials covered in lectures, much of which goes beyond required readings. Your participation in class discussion will show how well you have understood the readings and where clarification is necessary. It is therefore essential to keep up with the reading assignments.

2. Course Paper. A short course paper of 4-5 pages is required. The topic of the paper must be chosen by May 31 from among those given by the instructor. The course readings are the main sources of the paper. The paper should be submitted before or on June 28.

3. Exams and Grading. There will be two exams: a mid-session exam and the final exam. The final grade will be calculated in this manner: mid-session exam=35%; final exam=35%; Course paper=15%; class attendance=15%.

Grading System: A=100-90, B+=89-87, B=86-80, C+=79-77, C=76-70, D=69-65, F=64 and below. Incompletes, i.e. "T" grades, ordinarily will not be given.

Schedule*Class Day**Topics, Readings*

May 29

Introduction, the Vedas, Early Hinduism
An Introduction to Hinduism, Chapters 1-2,

May 31

Early Hinduism, Vedic Religion
An Introduction...., Chapters, 1-2.
(Paper topic to be given in writing to the instructor)

June 5

The Upanishads
The Upanishads (entire book).
An Introduction...., Chapter 3.

June 7

The Upanishads, Early Ascetic Culture
The Upanishads
An Introduction...., Chapter 4.

June 12

The Dharma Sastras, Epic Tradition
An Introduction...., Chapter 5.

June 14

Mid-session exam
The Bhagavad-Gita
The Bhagavad-Gita (Chapters 1-9)

June 19

The Bhagavad-Gita
The Bhagavad-Gita (Chapters 10-18)

June 21

Samkhya and Yoga; Later Hindu Philosophy
An Introduction...., Chapter 10.

June 26

Puranic Theism; Hindu Goddess
An Introduction...., 5, 6, 7, 8

June 28

Paper due
Hindu Worship
An Introduction, Chapter 9.
Darsan (entire book).

July 3

Hinduism in Modern Times; Conclusion.
An Introduction, Chapter 11

July 5

Final Exam