

Hindu Scriptures
Religion 840:204
Professor Edwin Bryant
Tue/Thur. 6th period 5.35 - 6.55 PM
Ruth Adams 207, DC
Office hours Tue 2.00-3.00 P.M., Loree 108

Course Description: An engagement with the Mahabharata Epic. The course will primarily consist of a close reading of an abridged version of the Epic (since the original is the longest literary Epic in the world at 100,000 verses). We will read the entire 12th book of the original, the Moksadharma section, which is the most philosophical section of the text, as well as most of the Harivamsa, which is an addition to the Epic containing perhaps the earliest known account of the Krishna story. While primary attention will be directed to the philosophical and theological content of the text, consideration will also be directed to its social and gender attitudes and presuppositions.

Course Prerequisites: None.

Course Requirement: Course requirements: All assigned reading. Students are expected to read whatever material is assigned for each particular week, and be prepared to discuss this in class. 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. In addition to this, each student will be assigned class presentations on the secondary reading. Students' attendance record and overall performance in class will factor into the remaining 10% of the 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, anyone intending to use a computer to take notes during class must sit in the front two rows. Students who send/check e-mail or text messages etc., during class, will have points deducted from their grade.

Required Reading

Available at the Douglass Coop:

Nityananda Dasa *Mahabharata* Mayodan: New Jaipur Press, 1998

Available from Sakai:

Sharma, I.C & Bimal, O.N. *The Mahabharata: Moksadharma Parva* vol VIII Delhi: Parimal, 2004

Dutt, M.N. *Harivamsa* Calcutta: Elysium, 1897.

Tue, Sept. 4th Introduction to the course

Thur, Sept 6th
Mahabharata pps 1-50

Tue, Sept. 11th
Mahabharata, pps 50-100; Moksadharma 1-25

Thur, Sept 13th
Mahabharata, pps 100-150; Moksadharma 25-50

Tue, Sept. 18th
Mahabharata, pps 150-200; Moksadharma 50-75

Thur, Sept 20th
Mahabharata, pps 200-250; Moksadharma 75-100

Tue, Sept. 25th
Mahabharata, pps 250-300; Moksadharma 100-125

Thur, Sept. 27th
Mahabharata, pps 300-350; Moksadharma 125-150

Tue, Oct. 2nd
Mahabharata, pps 350-400; Moksadharma 150-175

Thur, Oct. 4th
Mahabharata, pps 400-450; Moksadharma 175-200

Tue, Oct. 9th
Mahabharata, pps 450-500; Moksadharma 200-225

Thur, Oct. 11th
Mahabharata, pps 500-550; Moksadharma 225-250

Tue, Oct. 16th
Mahabharata, pps 550-600; Moksadharma 250-275

Thur, Oct. 18th

Mahabharata, pps 600-650; Moksadharma 275-300

Tue, Oct. 23rd

Mahabharata, pps 650-700; Moksadharma 300-325

Thur, Oct 25th

Harivamsa, pps 1-50; Moksadharma 325-350

Tue, Oct. 30th

Harivamsa, pps 50-100; Moksadharma 350-375

Thur, Nov. 1st

Harivamsa, pps 100-150; Moksadharma 375-400

Tue, Nov. 6th

Harivamsa, pps 150-200; Moksadharma 400-425

Thur, Nov. 8th

Harivamsa, pps 200-250; Moksadharma 425-450

Tue, Nov. 13th

Harivamsa, pps 250-300; Moksadharma 450-475

Thur, Nov. 15th

Harivamsa, pps 300-350; Moksadharma 475-500

Tue, Nov. 20th

Harivamsa, pps 350-400; Moksadharma 500-525

Thursday schedule. Nov 22nd – 25th Thanksgiving Recess

Harivamsa, pps 400-450; Moksadharma 525-550

Thur, Nov. Nov 22nd – 25th Thanksgiving Recess

Tue, Nov. 27th

Harivamsa, pps 450-500; Moksadharma 550-575

Thur, Nov. 29th

Harivamsa, pps 500-550; Moksadharma 575-600

Tue, Dec. 4th

Harivamsa, pps 550-600; Moksadharma 600-625

Thur, Dec. 6th

Harivamsa, pps 600-650; Moksadharma 625-642

Tue, Dec. 11th Last class. **Final Papers Due.**

Harivamsa, pps 650-700; Moksadharma 1-25

FINAL EXAM 12.00 AM -3.00 P.M. RAB 207 Wed Dec 19th