

**Western Encounter with Hinduism**  
**Professor Edwin Bryant**  
**Religion 840: 405**  
**Tue 2<sup>nd</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> 10.55 AM - 1.55 P.M., Loree 131**  
**Office hours Tue 2.00-3.00 P.M., Loree 108**  
**edbryant@rci.rutgers.edu**

**Course Description and Objectives:** This course will attempt an overview of representations of India in Western contexts and sources stemming from the earliest interactions between West and East, the subsequent cultural and intellectual exchanges, the eventual colonialization of the subcontinent, and the post-colonial aftermath. While touching on early Greek, Chinese and Muslim depictions of Hindus and Hinduism, the course will especially focus on the Colonial era. Attention will be especially paid to the Orientalist construction of Hinduism during this period.

**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.

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**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**

Wilhelm Halbfass, *India and Europe* (Albany: SUNY Press, 1988)

King, R. *Orientalism and Religion*. New York: Routledge, 1999

Breckenridge C. and Veer, Peter *Orientalism and the Postcolonial Predicament*

Philadelphia: U Penn press, 1993

Tue, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> Introduction to the course.

Tue, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>  
Halbfass, chapters 1-5

Tue, Sept 18<sup>th</sup>  
Halbfass, chapters 6-11

Tue, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>  
Halbfass, chapters 12-16

Tue, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Halbfass, chapters 17-19

Tue, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>  
Halbfas, chapters 20-24

Tue, Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>  
King, chapters 1-3

Tue, Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>  
King, chapters 4-6

Tue, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>  
King, chapters 7-9

Tue, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>  
Breckenridge and van der Veer, chapters 1-2

Tue, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>  
Breckenridge and van der Veer, chapters 3-4

Tue, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>  
No class due to Thursday schedule. Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Recess

Tue, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>  
Breckenridge and van der Veer, chapters 5-7

Tue, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>

Breckenridge and van der Veer, chapters 9-10

Tue, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> Last class **Final Papers Due.**

**FINAL EXAM 8.00 AM - 11.00 A.M. Loree 131 Friday Dec 21<sup>st</sup>**