

**Hinduism**  
**Religion 840:322**  
**Winter Session Study Abroad**  
**December 21, 2012-January 18 2013**

Instructor: Professor Satyanarayana Das.  
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**Time and Place:**

Jiva Institute  
380 Sheetal Chaya Raman Reti  
Vrindavan UP 281121 India

The course runs from December 30, 2012 -January 18, 2013 in India. All students are expected to arrive at the Jiva Institute by December 30.

**Course Description:**

The course will attempt an initial introduction to the plethora of traditions and cultural expressions grouped under the heuristic label of 'Hinduism,' with a subsequent more in depth focus on the Krishna devotional tradition as expressed in two texts central to that tradition, one philosophical, and one Epic, and as manifest on the present-day religious landscape of Vrindavan. In class, emphasis will be directed both to examining the philosophy and theology of these texts, and to considering their presentations of sacred history, ultimate reality, and self-transformation through their own terms and categories through a phenomenological lens. Attention will also be directed to considering the socio-cultural world which inform these texts, and which they in turn inform. The course will include tours to Vrindavan devotional sites, and exposure to a variety of Vrindavan cultural forms such as music, drama, pilgrimage, architecture, ritual and meditative practices.

**Course Prerequisites:**

None.

**Course Requirements:**

Students will be required to read the entirety of Flood's 'Introduction to Hinduism' before arriving in Vrindavan, as familiarity with the main contours of this text will be assumed for the two exams. There will be two cumulative exams on the three readings. The exams will consist of short answer questions testing the students' mastery over the information covered in the course, as well as mini-essay questions testing their insights and more in-depth understanding of the material. Course participation in class, cultural programs, and cultural excursions is required.

**Grading:**

The two exams will comprise 80% of the total grade and class attendance and participation 20%. Students will be called upon in class to answer questions pertaining to the reading. Students are expected to participate in all cultural programs and excursions. **No** make-ups for missed exams will be given other than in the event of an emergency.

A = 100-90 B+ = 89-87; B = 86-80; C+ = 79-77; C = 76-70; D = 69-65; F = 64 and below.  
Please note that outstanding class participation can make all the difference between grades.

### **Required Course Books**

***IMPORTANT: Students are responsible for obtaining their own books before arrival. Course books are not available in India.***

Flood, Galvin An Introduction to Hinduism Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996

Das, Sukavak The Bhagavad Gita Los Angeles: Sri Publications, 2004

Bryant, Edwin Krishna: the Beautiful Legend of God: Srimad Bhagavata Purana Book X  
London, Penguin 2003.

### **Preparatory Reading (to be performed before arrival).**

**Reading:** Flood, entire.

### **Week One**

**Reading:** The Bhagavad Gita (entire)

Exam I January 8, 2012.

### **Week Two**

**Reading:** The Srimad Bhagavata Purana Book X (entire)

Exam II January 17, 2012.