

# Hinduism

Fall 2016

01: 840: 224: 01

Section 3: T-Th 2:50-4:10 FH-A5

Instructor: Paul H. Sherbow

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Office Hours: Tu 2 – 2:30

Loree 108

## Course Description:

This course will introduce the Hindu religious tradition through close readings of primary texts in several categories: select hymns of the *R̥gveda*, *Manu-smṛti*, *Mahābhārata*, *Bhagavad-gītā*, *Viṣṇu Purāṇa*, *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*, and later devotional (*bhakti*) works such as the *Hari-bhakti-vilāsa* and *Bhaktirasāmṛta-sindhu*.

**Course Requirements:** adequate preparation of assigned primary texts and supplementary readings, demonstrated by thoughtful contributions to **class discussion** and **short response papers** as assigned; **three comprehensive, in-class quizzes** based on assigned readings and class lectures; a **final 5-6 page paper** due the last day of class. Regular participation in classroom discussion is expected.

## This course fulfills the following SAS core curriculum requirements:

Social and Historical Analysis - Understand the bases and development and human and societal endeavors across time and place. Explain and be able to assess the relationship among assumptions, method, evidence, arguments, and theory in social and historical analysis.

Historical Analysis (HSt) - Explain the development of some aspect of a society or culture over time, including the history of ideas or history of science. Employ historical reasoning to study human endeavors.

**Grading:** Grades will be based on three quizzes (60%), a final paper (20%) and classroom participation, including occasional, short response papers (20%). Students will be called upon in class to answer questions pertaining to the week's reading, as well as participate in discussion. **No** make-ups for missed exams will be given without valid medical proof or a signed letter from a student dean. Extra credit may be earned through in-class presentations. A = 100-90; B+ = 89-85; B = 84-80; C+ = 79-75; C = 74-70; D = 69-65; F = 64 and below.

## Required Course Texts:

Shattuck, Cybelle. *Hinduism*. Prentice-Hall, ISBN 0-13-266255-8

## Course Schedule

### 1 Tu / Sept 6

General Introduction to Hinduism; literary context; the Veda and its parts; gods & seers; the Sanskrit language.

## 2 Th / Sept 8 – Ṛg-veda

Hymns to Agni, Viṣṇu, Puruṣa; Three worlds; fire sacrifice; Six Vedāṅgas

Readings: 1) Shattuck. *Hinduism*, 'Philosophical Foundations' (pp. 18-26)

2) **RV 1.1** 'Agni' (see #3 pp. 36-37, 329; #4 pp. 1-4; #5 pp. 58-69).

**RV 1.154** 'Viṣṇu' (see #4 pp. 390-391; #5 pp. 343-350).

**RV 10.90** 'Puruṣa' (see #4 pp. 422-426).

3) Panikkar, Raimundo. *The Vedic Experience*: (pp. 30-43, 88-94, 150-153, 325-332; 346-353) [on SAKAI]

4) Wilson, H. H. *Ṛgveda Samhitā* [on SAKAI]

5) Aurobindo. *The Secret of the Veda* [on SAKAI]

## 3 Tu / Sept 13 – Manu-smṛti

Creation; Social Structure (*varṇāśrama*) / King & Sage

Readings: 1) Shattuck. *Hinduism*: 'Varnashrama-dharma' (pp. 31-34)

2) Doniger, Wendy. *The Laws of Manu*: Chapters 1-2 (pp. 3-42) [on SAKAI]

3) Sharma, R. N. *Ancient India According to Manu* (pp. 37-69) [on SAKAI]

## 4 Th / Sept 15 – Śatapatha & Jaiminīya Brāhmaṇas / Sāṅkhya & Yoga Darśanas

Tales of the Gods; Vedic Saṃskāras; Sāṅkhya categories of elements; Yoga

Readings: 1) Shattuck. *Hinduism*: 'Family Dharma', 'Samskaras-Life-Cycle Rituals' (pp. 78-84)

2) *Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa*: 2.2.4.1-8; 1.8.1.1-6 / *Jaiminīya Brāhmaṇa*: 1.42-44; 1.97-98.

3) Shubhanarayanan, N. *Occult Psychology of the Hindus*. (selections) [on SAKAI]

## 5 Tu / Sept 20 – Muṇḍaka Upaniṣad

Readings: 1) Shattuck. *Hinduism*: 'Philosophical Speculation in Upanishads' (p 27-31)

2) *Muṇḍaka Upaniṣad*: Olivelle transl. (pp 268-277) [on SAKAI]

**Focus verses**: MU 1.1.1-9; 1.2.1, 7-13; 2.1.2-6; 3.1.1-3; 3.2.3-5

3) Select comments: Śaṅkara, Dayānanda, Nikhilananda, Radhakrishnan, Dave, etc. [on SAKAI]

## 6 Th / Sept 22 – Kaṭha Upaniṣad

Readings: 1) *Kaṭha Upaniṣad*: Olivelle transl. (pp 231-247) [on SAKAI]

**Focus verses**: KU 1.20-29; 2.1-11, 18-23; 3.3-13.

2) Select comments: Nikhilananda, Radhakrishnan, Dave, etc. [on SAKAI]

## 7 Tu / Sept 27 – Īśā, Kena, Taittirīya & Māṇḍūkya Upaniṣads

Readings: 1) *Īśa Upaniṣad*: Olivelle transl. (pp 248-251) [on SAKAI]

2) *Kena Upaniṣad*: Olivelle transl. (pp 226-230) [on SAKAI]

3) *Taittirīya Upaniṣad*: Olivelle transl. (pp 177-193) [on SAKAI]

4) *Māṇḍūkya Upaniṣad*: Olivelle transl. (pp 288-290) [on SAKAI]

**Focus verses**: ĪU 1-3, 17-18. KenaU 1.1-8. TU 2.1-2. MāṇḍU 1-12.

5) Select comments: Śaṅkara, Madhva, A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami, Nikhilananda, Radhakrishnan, Dave, etc. [on SAKAI]

### 8 Th / Sept 29 – Bṛhadāraṇyaka, Chāndogya & Śvetāśvatara Upaniṣads

- 1) *Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad*: Olivelle transl., chapt 3 (pp 34-52) [on SAKAI]
- 2) *Chāndogya Upaniṣad*: Olivelle transl., chapt 6 (pp 148-156) [on SAKAI]
- 3) *Śvetāśvatara Upaniṣad*: Olivelle transl., chapt 1 (pp 252-255) [on SAKAI]  
**Focus verses: BU 3.3; 6, 8. CU 6.1.4-6, 2.1-3; 13.1-3. ŚU 1.1-7.**
- 4) Select comments: Nikhilananda, Radhakrishnan, Dave, etc. [on SAKAI]

### 9 Tu / Oct 4 – Hitopadeśa / Rāmāyaṇa

Princely education; stories from *Hitopadeśa*; *Rāmāyaṇa* summary; *Bāla-kāṇḍa* selections

- Readings: 1) Shattuck. *Hinduism*: ‘Classical & Medieval Hinduism’ (pp. 35-41)  
 2) *Hitopadeśa* (Satyanarayana Dasa transl.): selections [on SAKAI]  
 3) *Rāmāyaṇa*: *Bāla-kāṇḍa* selections

### 10 Th / Oct 6 – Quiz #1

### 11 Tu / Oct 11- Mahābhārata: Ādi & Vana Parvas

Ocean Churning; Śakuntalā; Nala & Damayanti; Sagara; Ganga; Cyavana; Sibi; Vaivasvata; Savitri; etc.

- Readings: 1) Shattuck. *Hinduism*: ‘Classical & Medieval Hinduism’ (pp. 35-41)  
 2) Smith, Daniel. *Mahābhārata*: selections [on SAKAI]

### 12 Th / Oct 13 – Mahābhārata: Udyoga, Bhīṣma, Droṇa & Karṇa Parvas

Nahaṣa; Fowler & Birds; Yama & Viśvāmitra; Yayāti; Śikhaṇḍi; Viśvopākhyāna; etc.

- Readings: Smith, Daniel. *Mahābhārata*: selections [on SAKAI]

### 13 Tu / Oct 18 – Mahābhārata: Śalya, Strī, Śānti, Anuśāsana & Aśvamedha Parvas

Viśvāmitra; Bāka Dalbhya; Vasiṣṭha; Namuci; Śṛtavati; Kūni Garga; Kuru; Bhūmi; etc.

- Readings: Smith, Daniel. *Mahābhārata*: selections [on SAKAI]

### 14 Th / Oct 20 – Mahābhārata: Bhagavad-gītā

Four yogas; spirit-soul (*ātmā*), various topics; Śaṅkara / Rāmānuja

- Reading: *Bhagavad-gītā* (Radhakrishnan transl.): (chapters 2-3) [on SAKAI]

### 15 Tu / Oct 25 – Viṣṇu Purāṇa

Personality of Viṣṇu / Vāsudeva; Creation; Time; Varāhāvatāra; Secondary Creation

- Readings: 1) *Viṣṇu Purāṇa* (H. H. Wilson transl.) Book I, Chapters 1-5 [on SAKAI]  
 2) Shattuck. *Hinduism*: ‘Classical & Medieval Theism’ (pp. 41-52)

### 16 Th / Oct 27 – Viṣṇu Purāṇa

Four Varṇas; Further Creation; Rudra; Lakṣmī; Dakṣa; Story of Dhruva

- Readings: *Viṣṇu Purāṇa* (H. H. Wilson transl.) Book I, Chapters 6-13 [on SAKAI]

### 17 Tu / Nov 1 – Viṣṇu Purāṇa

Story of Prahlāda; Universal Viṣṇu; Seven Spheres; Planets, Sun & Moon;  
Readings: *Viṣṇu Purāṇa* (H. H. Wilson transl.) Book I, Chapters 17-22; Book II,  
Chapters 7-12 [on SAKAI]

**18 Th / Nov 3 – Quiz #2**

**19 Tu / Nov 8 – Viṣṇu Purāṇa**

Story of Bharata; Varṇāśrama duties; Saṁskāras,  
Readings: *Viṣṇu Purāṇa* (H. H. Wilson transl.) Book II, Chapters 13-16; Book III,  
Chapters 7-10 [on SAKAI]

**20 Th / Nov 10 – Bhāgavata Purāṇa**

Story of Kṛṣṇa Part I: appearance & childhood in Vraja  
Readings: *Bhāgavata Purāṇa* (Tagare transl.) 10<sup>th</sup> Canto, Chapters 1-14 [on SAKAI]

**21 Tu / Nov 15 – Bhāgavata Purāṇa**

Story of Kṛṣṇa Part II: youth in Vraja & Mathurā  
Readings: *Bhāgavata Purāṇa* (Tagare transl.) 10<sup>th</sup> Canto, Chapters 15-26 [on SAKAI]

**22 Th / Nov 17 - Bhāgavata Purāṇa / Kabir / Mirabai**

Three Paths; Good & Bad value judgements; Medieval Non-dual Bhakti  
Readings: 1) *Bhāgavata Purāṇa* (Tagare transl.) 11<sup>th</sup> Canto, selections [on SAKAI]  
2) Shattuck. *Hinduism*: ‘The Bhakti Movement’ (pp. 59-63)

**23 Tu / Nov 22 – Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhu**

Devotional Practices & Formal Temple Worship  
Readings: 1) *Bhakti-rasāmṛta-sindhu* (Bhanu Swami transl.) Parts I-II [on SAKAI]  
2) Shattuck. *Hinduism*: ‘The Modern Period I’ (pp. 64-77)

**Thanksgiving Break**

**24 Tu / Nov 29 – Hari-bhakti-vilāsa**

Observing Ekādaśī & annual holidays (Rāma-navamī, etc.)  
Readings: *Hari-bhakti-vilāsa* (transl. TBA) [on SAKAI]

**25 Th / Dec 1 – Hari-bhakti-vilāsa / Hari-nāma-cintāmaṇi**

The Holy Name  
Readings: 1) *Śikṣāṣṭakam / Hari-bhakti-vilāsa* (selections) [on SAKAI]  
2) *Hari-nāma-cintāmaṇi* (translation) chapters 1-10 [on SAKAI]

**26 Tu / Dec 6 – Voices of Modern Hinduism**

Ram Mohan Roy, Dayananda, Ramakrishna, Vivekananda, Aurobindo, Gandhi  
Readings: 1) Shattuck. *Hinduism*: ‘The Modern Period II’ (pp. 89-101)  
2) Vivekananda’s 1893 Speech to the Parliament of the World’s Religions  
3) Gandhian writings

**27 Th / Dec 8 – Quiz #3**

**28 Tu / Dec 13 - Summary Discussion – Final Student Presentations**  
**Final Paper Due**

Additional information and regulations for students:

**All of your work must be your own. Please be familiar with the Rutgers University Academic Integrity Policy:**

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

Violations include: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying other access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity.

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