

Hindu Scriptures

Fall 2017

01: 840: 204

T-Th 2:50-4:10 HH-B5

Instructor: Paul H. Sherbow

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Office Hours: Tu 1:30-2

Loree 108

Course Description:

This course will explore Hindu texts on the subjects of dharma, knowledge, yoga, ritual worship, and general morality. Several *Upaniṣads*, select chapters of the *Bhagavad-gītā*, teachings and allegorical stories from the *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*, and procedure for ritual *pūjā* from the *Hari-bhakti-vilāsa* provide our primary textual material. Class discussion will focus on essential philosophical and religious truths contained in the readings.

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** and a **final exam** in the exam period following the end of term (60%), an **8-page 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:

All readings are available on the course SAKAI site (Resources).

Course Schedule

1 Tu / Sept 5

General Introduction to categories of Hindu literature: Veda, Smṛti, Purāṇa, Tantra.

2 Th / Sept 7

Om as original source, expressor of divinity, and as meditative tool

Readings: Gāyatrī-mantra explanation (Panikkar / Aurobindo)

Muṇḍaka Upaniṣad passage; *Yoga-sūtra* 1.23-29; Bryant commentary

3 Tu / Sept 12

Om & Three levels of consciousness

Reading: Radhakrishnan. *Principal Upaniṣads: Māṇḍūkya Upaniṣad* (pp. 671-673)

4 Tu / Sept 14

Reading: *Śvetāśvatara Upaniṣad* (Olivelle translation / Nikhilananda commentary)

5 Th / Sept 19

Introduction to the Buddhi (intelligence), Buddhi-yoga

Reading: *Bhagavad-gītā*: Chapter 2

6 Tu / Sept 21

Reading: *Bhagavad-gītā*: Chapter 3

7 Th / Sept 26

Constitutional nature of Divinity; material nature

Reading: *Bhagavad-gītā*: Chapter 4

8 Tu / Sept 28

Reading: *Bhagavad-gītā*: Chapter 5

9 Th / Sept 30

Transcending the *Guṇas*;

Reading: *Bhagavad-gītā*: chapter 14; *Bhāgavata Purāṇa* Canto 11, chapter 13

10 Th / Oct 5 – Quiz #1

11 Tu / Oct 10

Readings: *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*: Canto 11, chapter 20

12 Th / Oct 12

Readings: *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*: Canto 11, chapter 21

13 Tu / Oct 17

Readings: *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*: Canto 11, chapter 22

14 Th / Oct 19

Readings: *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*: Canto 11, chapter 24

15 Tu / Oct 24

Readings: *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*: Canto 11, chapter 25

16 Th / Oct 26

The Teachings of Rṣabhadeva

Readings: *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*: Canto 5, chapters 5-6

17 Tu / Oct 31

The Teachings of Rṣabhadeva (cont)

Readings: *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*: Canto 5, chapters 7-9

18 Th / Nov 2 – Quiz #2

19 Tu / Nov 7

The Story & Teachings of Bharata

Readings: *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*: Canto 5, chapters 10-12

20 Th / Nov 9

The Allegory of Purañjana

Readings: *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*: Canto 4, chapter 28

21 Tu / Nov 14

The Allegory of Purañjana (cont)

Reading: *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*: Canto 4, chapter 29

22 Th / Nov 16

The Allegory of Purañjana (cont)

Reading: *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*: Canto 4, chapters 30-31

23 Tu / Nov 21

Reading: *Hari-bhakti-vilāsa: Vilāsa 4*

Thanksgiving Recess

24 Tu / Nov 28

Reading: *Hari-bhakti-vilāsa: Vilāsa 4*

25 Th / Nov 30

Reading: *Hari-bhakti-vilāsa: Vilāsa 5*

27 Tu / Dec 5

Reading: *Hari-bhakti-vilāsa: Vilāsa 5*

28 Th / Dec 7 – Quiz #3

29 Tu / Dec 12 - Summary Discussion – Final Student Extra-credit Presentations

Final Paper Due

December... TBA

Final Examination

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.

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must follow the procedures outlined at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Full disability policies and procedures Extra 31

Texts:

Bhag 5...

Bhag 7...

Bhag 11

Bhag 12

LBhag

Bg 4 & 5

MandukyaU

PrasnaU

SK

Bg Buddhi (Resnick)

Devi Bhaga

MB Santi