

Western Encounter with Hinduism

Religion: 16:840:505 / 01:840:405

Thur 6-7th period, 5.35-8.35 PM. Loree 131, Douglass Campus
Office hours Tue 1-2 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 post-colonial reactions. 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, and to colonial and post-colonial responses by Hindu intellectuals.

Course Prerequisites: None.

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, and class participation will be factored into the final grade. Each student will be regularly assigned class presentations on the reading.

Grading: Attendance, class participation, and student presentations 20% of the final grade (this includes engaging the weeks reading in class discussions). Please note: one final grade point is deducted for every unexcused class absence (since this is a double period, two points are deducted if an entire week's class, viz., the full double period, is missed); more than 10 such absences will result in a Fail grade for the entire course.

There will be two quizzes (20% each for a total of 40% of the final grade).

A term paper (15 pgs.) on a related topic accounts for the remaining 40% of the final grade; this is due the last day of class.

Please note: there are no make-ups for missed quizzes 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 within 24 hours of the quiz. There are no exceptions to these conditions.

Also, students who send/check e-mail or text messages etc., during class, will have points deducted from their grade.

Required Reading:

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

Oddie, Geoffrey *Imagined Hinduism* New Delhi: Sage, 2006.

Pennington, Brian *Was Hinduism Invented?* New York: Oxford, 2005

Nandy, Ashis. *The Intimate Enemy*. Oxford, University Press, 1983

Note: The readings below are due by the date indicated.

Tue, Sept. 5th Introduction to the course.

Tue, Sept. 12th **Readings:** Halbfass, chapters 1-6

Tue, Sept 19th **Readings:** Halbfass, chapters 7-12

Tue, Sept. 26th **Readings:** Halbfass, chapters 13-18

Tue Oct 3rd **Readings:** Halbfass, chapters 19-24

Tue, Oct. 10th **Readings:** Oddie, chapters 1-5

Tue, Oct. 17th **Readings:** Oddie, chapters 6-10

Tue, Oct. 24th **Readings:** Pennington, chapters 1-3 **QUIZ I**

Tue, Oct. 31st **Readings:** Pennington, chapters 4-6

Tue, Oct. 7th **Readings:** Nandy, Ashis, entire.

Tue, Nov. 14th **Readings:** To be determined

Tue, Nov. 21st **Readings:** To be determined **NO CLASS** (Thursday schedule). However, assigned readings due next class.

Tue, Nov. 28th **Readings:** To be determined

Tue, Dec. 5th **Readings:** To be determined **QUIZ II**.

Tue, Dec. 12th **Readings:** Last class Final Papers Due.