

**Introduction to Hindu Philosophy; Spring 2017 840/730:368:01**

**Tillet Hall 232, Livingston Campus,**

Tuesday/Thursday 6th period on the LC 5:00-6:20

Instructor: Edwin Bryant. Tel: x 23289. E-mail: <edbryant@rci.rutgers.edu>.

Office Hours: Tue 2.00 - 3.00 PM. Loree 108, Douglass Campus.

**Course Description and Objectives:** This course will engage a sampling of important expressions of orthodox Hindu thought up to the medieval period. Attention will be paid to some of the prominent interconnections and points of contestation amongst some of the schools.

Course Requirement: Class attendance and participation (10% of the final grade); two non-cumulative quizzes (25% of the final grade each); a final cumulative quiz (40% of the final grade). 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, this is a large class and it is distracting to other students as well as the instructor if students chat to each other during the lectures.

**Students who do so, or send/check e-mail, surf the web or text messages etc., during class, will have points deducted from their grade.** Due to the prevalence of students using their computers for other purposes than engaging the class texts, I have requested the TA to monitor the usage of computers from the back of the class, so please do not become resentful if he performs his duties.

**Required Reading:**

**Books available at the Douglass Coop:** .

Bryant, Edwin, The Yoga Sūtras of Patañjali: A New Edition, Translation, and Commentary.

New York: Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2009

Hridayananda Dasa Gosvami, A Comprehensive Guide to Bhagavad Gita  
Krishna West

Inc, 2016.

**Books available on Sakai:**

Olivelle, Patrick. The Upaniṣads. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996, .

Dasti, Matthew. The Nyāya Sūtra: Selection with Early Commentary Hackett,  
Publishing:

Indianapolis, forthcoming available on Sakai.

**Tue Jan 17th**

*Focus:* General introduction to the course. The Vedic period.

*Readings:* Introduction to Indian Philosophy.

**Thur Jan 19th**

*Focus:* The Upaniṣads; India and the History of Philosophy.

*Readings:* Olivelle,

Bṛihadāraṇyaka 3: 4-9; 4: 1-5; 6: 2.

Chāndogya 6: 1-2; 9-15; 8: 7-15.

Taittirīya 2: 1-8.

**Tue Jan 24th**

*Focus:* The Upanisads;

*Readings:* Olivelle,

Kena 1-2.

Kaṭha (entire).

Īṣa (entire).

**Thur Jan 26th**

*Focus:* The Upanisads,

*Readings:* Olivelle,

Muñḍaka (entire).

Ṛvetāsvatara (entire).

Māñḍūkya (entire).

**Tue Jan 31st**

*Focus:* The Yoga Sūtras

*Readings:* Bryant, Introduction.

**Thur Feb 2nd**

*Focus:* The Yoga Sūtras

*Readings:* Bryant, chapter I (text & commentary).

**Tue Feb 7th**

*Focus:* The Yoga Sūtras

*Readings:* Bryant, chapter I (text & commentary).

**Thur Feb 9th**

*Focus:* The Yoga Sūtras

*Readings:* Bryant, chapter I cont. (text & commentary).

**Tue Feb 14th**

*Focus:* The Yoga Sūtras

*Readings:* Bryant, chapter II (text & commentary).

**Thur Feb 16th**

*Focus:* The Yoga Sūtras

*Readings:* Bryant, chapter II cont (text & commentary).

**Tue Feb 21st**

*Focus:* The Yoga Sūtras

*Readings:* Bryant, chapters II cont. & III. 1-3 (text & commentary).

**Thur Feb 23rd**

*Focus:* **Quiz I.**

**Tue Feb 28th**

*Focus:* **Nyāya Sutras**

*Readings:* Introduction 1-16 & Knowledge sources, 17-51

**Thur March 2nd**

*Focus:* Nyāya Sutras

*Readings* Chapter I, Knowledge sources, 17-51 (continued)

**Tue March 7th**

*Focus:* Nyāya Sutras

*Readings:* : Chapter 2, Doubt and the philosophical Method, 52-75

**Thur March 9th**

*Focus:* Nyāya Sutras

*Readings:* Chapter 3, In Defense of the Real, 76-92

**Tue March 14th & Thur March 16th SPRING RECESS**

**Tue March 21st**

*Focus:* Nyāya Sutras

*Readings:* Chapter 9, Debate 217-247

**Thur March 23rd**

*Focus:* Nyāya Sutras

*Readings:* Chapter 4, Self, 93-118

**Tue March 28th**

*Focus:* Nyāya Sutras

*Reading:* Chapter 6, God, 145-170

**Thur March 30th**

*Focus:* **Quiz II.**

**Tue April 4th**

*Focus:* The Bhagavad Gîtå

*Readings:* A Comprehensive Guide Chapters

Part I: Introduction 3; Historical Context 4; The Origins of the Gîtå 6; Part II: Individual  
Eternal Persons

(Puruṣa) 9; Part III: Nature's Three Modes (Guṇa) 12; Part IV: Action, Reaction,  
Bondage (Karma) 17;

Part V: Sacrifice or Offering (Yajña) 21

**Thur April 6th**

*Focus:* The Bhagavad Gîtå

*Readings:* A Comprehensive Guide

Part VI: God (Kṛṣṇa) 33; Features of God 33; God's Expansive Being (Vibhūti)  
37; The

Supreme Person (Parama-Puruṣa) 45; Terms Reserved for Souls (Bhūta, Jīva,  
Dehin) 48; Kṛṣṇa's Original Form (Rūpa) 52; Part VII: Yoga 59; The Power of  
Reason (Buddhi) 59; Spiritual Practice (Yoga) 64; Equality (Samatvam) 65;  
Renunciation (Sannyāsa) 70

**Tue April 11th**

*Focus:* The Bhagavad Gîtå

*Readings:* A Comprehensive Guide

Part VIII: Karma-yoga (Action-Yoga) 75; Arjuna's Problem 75; The Need for  
Action 76; Action as Yoga and Yajña 76; Career as Yoga 78; Inaction in Action  
80; Part IX: Jñāna-yoga (Knowledge-Yoga) 84; Knowledge as a Spiritual Path

84; True Principles of Life (Tattva) 85; Scripture (Veda, Çästra, Gîtä) 89; Spiritual Teachers 93; Sincere Students 97; Seeing the Truth (DârṢana) 98; Part X: Dhyāna-yoga (Meditation-Yoga) 105; Meditation as Spiritual Practice 105; Meditation as Spiritual Offering 108

### **Thur April 13th**

*Focus:* The Bhagavad Gîtä

*Readings:* A Comprehensive Guide

Part XI: Bhakti-yoga (The Yoga of Devotion) 109; Hierarchy of Yogas and Yogés 109; Knowledge of Kṛṣṇa 110; How to Attain Kṛṣṇa 114; Constancy in Devotional Practice 118; Purity in Devotional Practice 119; Compassion Toward All Beings 120; The Offering of Pure Love 121; Part XII: Mukti (Liberation) 126; Negative Liberation (Freedom from) 126; Positive Liberation (Freedom to) 128; Brahman, the Supreme Imperishable 133; Reaching Kṛṣṇa 137  
Part XIII: Conclusion 145

### **Tue April 18th**

*Focus:* The Bhagavad Gîtä

*Readings:* Chapter One 151; Chapter Two 155; Chapter Three 161

### **Thur April 20th**

*Focus:* The Bhagavad Gîtä

*Readings:* Chapter Four 165; ; Chapter Five 169; Chapter Six 172; Chapter Seven 176

### **Tue April 25<sup>th</sup>**

*Focus:* The Bhagavad Gîtä

*Readings:* Chapter Eight 178; Chapter Nine 181; Chapter Ten 184; Chapter Eleven 187; Chapter Twelve 192; Chapter Thirteen 194

### **Thur April 27<sup>th</sup>**

*Focus:* The Bhagavad Gîtä

*Readings:* Chapter Fourteen 197; Chapter Fifteen 200; Chapter Sixteen 202; Chapter Seventeen 204;  
Chapter Eighteen 207

**Final Exam, May 10, 4:00-7:00 p.m.**