Course Description
A survey of the religions of India, from ancient times until the present, through the distinctive beliefs, values, and practices of the major traditions. Topics covered include Vedic sacrificial polytheism, Upanishadic monism, Yoga, sectarian devotionalism, popular teachings. The course utilizes textual, historical, and anthropological sources. In the Spring 2009 term, special focus will be on Hindu theologies and tantric traditions.

Course Design
The course is organized around a textbook that provides a descriptive, historical framework. This is supplemented by translations of texts sacred to prominent religious schools. In addition to examining fundamental doctrines and practices, anthropological readings and films provide case studies of the living traditions known as “Hinduism.”
Lectures complement the readings and video assignments but do not replace them. Note that the Required Readings indicated in this syllabus should be completed before the designated class. For class and for the examinations, they should be analyzed carefully.

Standard reading assignments and lectures are central to our course of study and the exams; slides and films are also integral to developing a visually-informed understanding of specific traditions. Please bring the indicated literary sourcebook and ERE-s printouts to class.

Requirements:
1. Class Attendance and Participation, including class presentation assignments
2. Two mid-term examinations and comprehensive final examination.
3. Attendance at extra-class films and performances

Grading:
1. Map P/F
2. Exam I 20
3. Exam II (Extra-class) 25
4. Class Participation 15
5. Final Examination 40 pts.
   100 pts

Required Course Books:
Electronic Reserves [ERE-s]

Recommended Reading:

All texts have been ordered from the College Bookstore.
LECTURE TOPICS and ASSIGNMENTS

I. FOUNDATIONS

1. 1/15: Questionnaires; Review of Course Content and Design
   Problem of Orientalism in Studying India: Orientalism
   Required Reading:
   An Introduction to Hinduism, 1-4

2. 1/20: The Study of Religion; Geography of South Asia and “Greater India”
   The Indus Valley Civilization
   Required Reading:
   An Introduction to Hinduism, 5-22; 23-30

II. THE EARLY VEDIC AGE

3. 1/22: Vedic Hymns and Belief
   Required Reading:
   An Introduction to Hinduism, 30-50
   The Rig Veda, [ERE-s]

4. 1/27: Vedic Ritual
   Required Reading:
   An Introduction to Hinduism, 40-45
   The Rig Veda, [ERE-s]

// Map Assignment Due //
III. THE UPANISHADS AND YOGA: CLASSICAL HINDUISM

5. 1/29: Upanishads (I)
   Required Reading:
   *The Upanishads*, [ERE-s]

6. 2/3: Upanishads (II); Shramanas and Heterodoxies
   Required Reading:
   *An Introduction to Hinduism*, 75-92; *The Upanishads*, [ERE-s]
   MAP DUE

7. 2/5: Yoga Doctrine
   Required Reading:
   *An Introduction to Hinduism*, 93-102
   *Barbara Miller, Yoga Sutras of Patanjali*, i-xiv; 1-43

8. 2/10: Yoga Practice
   Required Reading:
   *Yoga Sutras of Patanjali*, 44-83

9. 2/12: Sadhus, Sanyassins, and other Renunciants
   Required Reading:
   Selections from the Sanyasa Texts [ERE-s]
   *An Introduction to Hinduism*, 83-4; 87-93

10. 2/17: Overview of Classical Orthodox Hinduism: Caste and Dharma
    Required Readings:
    *An Introduction to Hinduism*, 51-74
    Selections from the Dharmashastra [ERE-s]
    Recommended Reading:
Myths and Symbols in Indian Art, 3-22

11. 2/19: Overview of Classical Orthodox Hinduism II: Notions of Time, Kingship, and the Classical Philosophical Systems

Required Readings:
An Introduction to Hinduism, 67-74; 224-249
Selections from the Arthashastra [ERE-s]

12. 2/24: In Class Midterm Examination

IV. CLASSICAL DEVOTIONAL HINDUISM

13. 2/26: Vishnu and the Theology of Incarnation

Required Reading:
An Introduction to Hinduism, 103-127
Classical Hindu Mythology, 59-90

Recommended Reading:
Myths and Symbols in Indian Art, 23-58

3/1-3-8: NO CLASS, Spring Break

14. 3/10: Ramâyana[s]

Required Reading:
The Ramâyana [ERE-s]
15. 3/12: Krishna: Theologies of Divine Play and Love
   Required Reading:
   Classical Hindu Mythology, 100-146
   David Kinsley, The Sword and the Flute, 1-80

16. 3/17: Krishna and The Bhagavad Gita I *Discussion *
   Required Reading:
   Lars Martin Fosse, trans. The Bhagavad Gita, i-xxiv; 1-175

17. 3/19: Shiva Bhakti
   Required Reading:
   An Introduction to Hinduism, 148-158
   Classical Hindu Mythology 147-154; 198-206; 157-185; 212-218
   Recommended Reading:
   Myths and Symbols in Indian Art, 123-188

18. 3/24: Devê I: The Benevolent Goddess
   Required Reading:
   An Introduction to Hinduism, 174-184
   Classical Hindu Mythology, 98-99; 219-242
   Recommended Reading:
   Myths and Symbols in Indian Art, 189-216

19. 3/26: Devê II: Durga and Kali
   Required Reading:
   Classical Hindu Mythology, 98-99; 219-242
   David Kinsley, The Sword and the Flute, 81-150
V. Popular and Esoteric Hinduism of the Medieval Period

20. 3/31: Popular Bhakti: Krishna, Rama, and the Bhaktas
Required Reading:
*Songs of the Saints of India*, 91-174

21. 4/2: Popular Bhakti: The Divine Beyond Form and the Sants
Required Reading:
*Songs of the Saints of India*, 9-32
*Classical Hindu Mythology*, 215-218

**MID-COURSE EXAM II** Due

22. 4/7: Popular Bhakti: Muslim-Hindu Syncretism and Sikhism
Required Reading:
*Songs of the Saints of India*, 33-61; 62-88

23. 4/14: Tantric Hinduism [1]
Required Reading:
*An Introduction to Hinduism*, 126-130; 148-173
James Mallinson, trans. *The Shiva Samhita*

24. 4/16: Tantric Hinduism [2]
Required Reading:
*An Introduction to Hinduism*, 184-197
Excerpt from *The Goraksa Sataka* [ERE-s]
VI. Classical Hinduism in Practice and Folklore

25. 4/21: Serving the Gods: Puja and Darshan
Required Reading:
Diana Eck, Darsan: Seeing the Divine Image in India.

26. 4/23: The Hindu Life Cycle; Hindu Medicine
Required Reading:
An Introduction to Hinduism, 198-222

27. 4/28: Classical Doctrines in Popular Folklore
Required Reading:
A.N.D. Haksar, trans. The Hitopadesa [Assigned stories]

COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM