

Ancient and Medieval

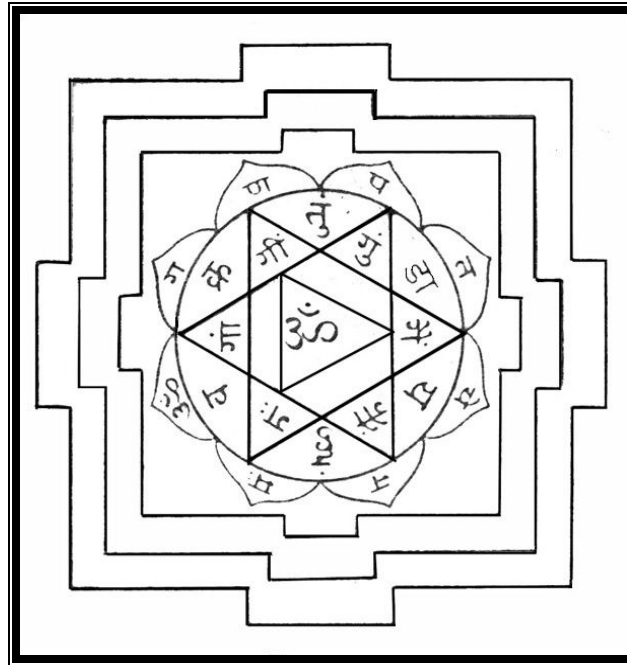
# Hinduism

Religious Studies 165, Spring 2009

Professor Todd Lewis 425 Smith

Office Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 1-2, and by appointment

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## 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	<u>40 pts.</u>
	100 pts

### Required Course Books:

Gavin Flood, *An Introduction to Hinduism*. Cambridge University Press, 1996  
 Cornelia Dimmitt and J.A.B. van Buitenen, trans. *Classical Hindu Anthology: A Reader in the Sanskrit Purānas*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1978.  
 J. Hawley & M. Juergensmeyer. *Songs of the Saints of India*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. NY: Oxford, 1988.  
 David Kinsley, *The Sword and the Flute*. University of California Press, 2000  
 A.N.D. Haksar, trans. *The Hitopadesa* Penguin, 2007  
 Lars Martin Fosse, trans. *The Bhagavad Gita*. Yogavidya.com, 2007  
 Barbara S. Miller, trans. *Yoga Sutras of Patanjali*. NY: Bantam, 1992.  
 Diana Eck, *Darsan: Seeing the Divine Image in India*. Columbia University Press, 1998  
 Lars Martin Fosse, trans. *The Bhagavad Gita*. Yogavidya.com, 2007  
 James Mallinson, trans. *The Shiva Samhita*. Yogavidya, 2008  
 Electronic Reserves [ERE-s]

### Recommended Reading:

Heinrich Zimmer, *Myths and Symbols of Indian Art and Civilization*. Princeton Univ. Press, 1970.

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*

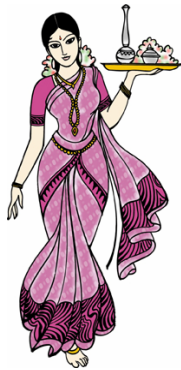
11. 2/19: Overview of Classical Orthodox Hinduism II: Notions of Time, Kingship, and the Classical Philosophical Systems

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* | \*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: *Devî 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: *Devî 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

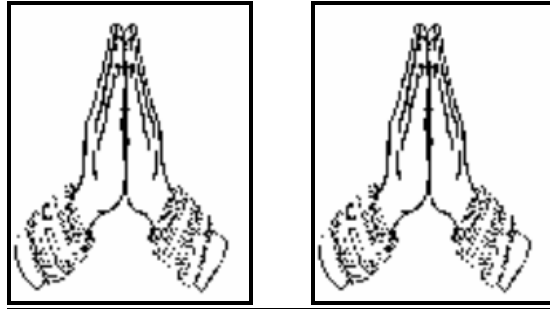
James Mallinson, trans. *The Shiva Samhita*

24. 4/16: Tantric Hinduism [2]

Required Reading:

*An Introduction to Hinduism*, 184-197

Excerpt from *The Goraksa Satika* [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**

