Religion V2205: HINDUISM
Spring, 2013

Basics: Diana 504
Tuesdays, Thursdays, 2:40-3:55. Section meetings to be arranged in January.
Field trips: Temples, Saturday and Sunday, February 2-3
Metropolitan Museum of Art, April 5, 7

Instructors: Jack Hawley
Office hours: Thursday, 4-6 in Milbank 219a
Telephone: 854-5292 or 854-2597

Joel Bordeaux
Office hours: Tues. 4-5, 80 Claremont basement

Daniel Del Nido
Office hours: Mon. 1-2, 80 Claremont basement

Hans Herzl-Betz
Office hours: Fri. 10-11, 80 Claremont basement

Jay Ramesh
Office hours: Fri. 1-2, 80 Claremont basement

Books: The following are required and available for purchase at BookCulture. They will also be found on library reserve:

Diana L. Eck, Darśan
Gavin Flood, An Introduction to Hinduism
John Stratton Hawley and Donna Marie Wulff, eds., Devi: Goddesses of India
John Stratton Hawley with Shrivatsa Goswami, At Play with Krishna
John Stratton Hawley and Vasudha Narayanan, eds., The Life of Hinduism
Barbara Stoler Miller, tr., The Bhagavad-Gita
R. K. Narayan, The Ramayana
Patrick Olivelle, tr., Upaniṣads

Course Reserves:

A set of readings that accompany the course (the ones designated ** for required or *** for optional) is accessible through CourseWorks. Copies of all required readings not available in electronic form will also be found on reserve in the Barnard library.
Film Resources:

A number of films accompany this class. They provide a form of access to our subject that is impossible to duplicate on the printed page. In class, we will usually only have time to see clips, but the full film, in videotape form, is available for you to watch individually on the third floor of the Barnard library in the Media Center, on reserve. Special arrangements will be made for Had-Anhad (in connection with class, April 23).

Course Requirements and Grading System:

(1) Regular, wakeful attendance at lectures and section meetings. In addition, attendance at the following is mandatory: a temple visit (2/2-3), which will be followed by a one-page report; and a trip to the Metropolitan Museum (4/5-7). Attendance will be taken at section meetings. If you are prevented from being present at any section meeting, let your section leader know the reason in advance. In section discussions, students are expected to participate in an active, thoughtful way (10% of the course grade).

(2) Two short essays (five pages each), to be submitted to your section leader as an MSWord attachment to email by 5:00 Monday, February 25 and 5:00 Monday, April 15. Unexcused late submissions will not be accepted (each 20% of the course grade).

(3) A midterm exam on March 11 (20% of the course grade).

(4) A cumulative final exam (30% of the course grade). The exam is scheduled to be held on May 16th from 1:10-4:00.

(5) Note: All of the above requirements must be met for a passing grade to be received.

Your Own Work:

In this as in every other class you take, both in papers and on exams, it is expected that the work you submit will be your own. Please be careful to attribute to others thoughts that were originally theirs. There is no shame in being dependent on the work of others. We all are, and it is an honor. On the other hand—perhaps by the same token—it is important to speak your own mind. We are interested both in your own thoughts and in the way you have assimilated the thoughts of others, and expect you to indicate the difference between one and the other. Plagiarized work will put you in danger of failing the course.
COURSE SYLLABUS

**Key:** Assignments are listed according to the day on which the reading is due, as follows:

(   ) Required readings from books available for purchase are listed without any special insignia.
( * ) Handouts distributed in class are indicated with a single asterisk, but only certain of them are listed here.
( ** ) Required readings available at the course website in CourseWorks are listed with a double asterisk.
( *** ) Elective readings are listed with a triple asterisk. These are either to be found in the e-reserve section of CourseWorks or represent sections of assigned texts that you are not required to read.


(1) Tues., January 22: Introduction to the course.

(2) Thurs., January 24: The one and the many: Hindu conceptions of deity


* Selections from the Veda, including Rig Veda 1.1, 10.90, 10.128; and Atharva Veda 2.19-20.

(3) Tues., January 29: Central concepts: *dharma, karma, sansāra, caste*


(4) Thurs., January 31: Central actions: *pūjā, mūrti, prasād, kīrtan*


Eck, Darśan, pp. 77-92.


(5) Thurs.- Fri., January 31-February 1: Sections—The Basics So Far

(6) Sat.-Sun., February 2-3: Temple visits

* Shri Maha Vallabha Ganapathi Devasthanam (The Hindu Temple Society), Flushing, Queens
* ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness), Manhattan
* America Sevashram Sangh, Jamaica, Queens
* BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha, Flushing, Queens

To get a sense of diasporic Hindu self-representation on the World Wide Web, browse sites affiliated with the three local groups on which our weekend visits will focus:

- [http://www.nyganeshtemple.org](http://www.nyganeshtemple.org)
- [http://www.radhagovinda.net/govinda/](http://www.radhagovinda.net/govinda/)
- [http://www.barnard.edu/religion/hinduismhere/seva.html/](http://www.barnard.edu/religion/hinduismhere/seva.html/)
- [http://www.swaminarayan.org/](http://www.swaminarayan.org/)
- [http://www.swaminarayan.org/globalnetwork/america/newyork.htm](http://www.swaminarayan.org/globalnetwork/america/newyork.htm)

Also of interest may be student portraits and papers from “Hinduism Here” (Spring, 2003 and 2005) online at [http://www.barnard.edu/religion/hinduismhere](http://www.barnard.edu/religion/hinduismhere). In regard to Guyanese-American Hinduism, see the sections on the America Sevashram Sangha, the Arya Spiritual Center, and the Phagwah Parade. An excellent general resource is the Pluralism Project at Harvard University [www.pluralism.org](http://www.pluralism.org), whose website is searchable by religious tradition, by geographical locale, and in other ways as well. See especially [http://www.pluralism.org/profiles/index/tradition:7](http://www.pluralism.org/profiles/index/tradition:7)

**NB: Please send a report** on your observations of, reactions to, and questions about your temple visit to your section leader by email by 6:00 Monday, February 4. This report should be no more than a single page double-spaced.

II. **The Path of Insight (Iñāna)**

(7) Tues., February 5: The earlier Upanishads
Patrick Olivelle, *Upanisads* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996), introduction (pp. xxiii-lvi); Brhadaranyaka Upanisad 1.1-2.1 (pp. 7-26), 3-4 (pp. 34-71); and Chandogya Upanisad 6 (pp. 148-156).

**Film Resources:** "Four Holy Men: Renunciation in Hindu Society" [Call Number: VIDEO BL1241.53.F68 1976g] and “The Fourth Stage: A Hindu's Quest for Release" [Call Number: VIDEO BL1237.44.F68 1990g].

**(8) Thurs., February 7: The later Upanishads**


**(9) Thurs.- Fri., February 7-8: Sections—Upanishads**

**(10) Tues., February 12: Shankara**


** Sengaku Mayeda, ed. and tr., *A Thousand Teachings: The Upadesasahasri of Sankara* (Albany: SUNY Press), introduction, chapters 1-2, pp. 3-18. [Please note that the entirety of Mayeda’s introduction is available through CLIO in electronic form.]


**(11) Thurs., February 14: Shankara’s *Thousand Teachings***

** Sankaracharya, tr. Swami Jagadananda, *Upadesasahasri: A Thousand Teachings* (Madras: Ramakrishna Math, 1979), the following sections:


**(12) Tues., February 19: The Bhagavad Gītā in the Mahābhārata**


(13) Thurs., February 21: The Bhagavad Gītā and its three yogas

Miller, tr., Bhagavad-Gita, entire (pp. 21-154).

(14) Thurs.- Fri., February 21-22: Sections—Shankara’s nondualism and the Gītā’s what?

(15) The first essay is due as an email attachment at 5:00, Monday, February 25.

III. The Path of Action (Karma)

(16) Tues., February 26: Sāmkāra / Life-cycle rites – birth and childhood

Flood, Introduction, chapter 9 (beginning), pp. 198-205.


Film Resource: “Hindu Sacraments of Childhood.” [Call number: VIDEO BL 1226.2.H56 1968g]

(17) Thurs., February 28: Sāmkāra / Life-cycle rites – marriage and death


***two one-page selections from “India Today” on Hindu funeral practices
**Film Resource:** "Indian Pilgrimage: Kashi" [Call Number: VIDEO BL1239.36.K27 I53 1969g]

(18) Tues., March 5: Hindu calendars


(19) Thurs., March 7: Divali and Holi


** Film Resource:** “Holi: Festival of Color” [Call Number: VIDEO BL1239.82.H65 H654 1999g]

(20) Thurs.-Fri., March 7-8: Sections—Analyzing rituals

** Please note:** March 10 is Mahasivaratri, “the great night of Shiva.”

(21) Tues., March 12: Midterm exam

IV. *The Path of Love (Bhakti)*

(22) Thurs., March 14: Bhakti and the Bhakti Movement


** NB: March 18-22, Spring break**
A little warning. We’ll be reading the entirety of R. K. Narayan’s (relatively short) version of the Ramayana for class on April 2. The Ramayana is a great read—one of the world’s most famous. You might want to designate it your special vacation companion.

(23) Tues., March 26: Brindavan’s Krishna

Hawley with Goswami, At Play with Krishna, pp. 52-73, 155-226.


*** Eck, Darśan, pp. 59-75 (on pilgrimage).

(24) Thurs., March 28: Radha and Krishna

Hawley with Goswami, At Play with Krishna, pp. 106-154.


(25) Thurs.-Fri., March 28-29: Sections—Radha and Krishna

(26) Tues., April 2: Sita and Rama


(27) Thurs., April 4: Shiva and Shakti

Lecturer: Jay Ramesh

Flood, Introduction, chapters 7-8 (pp. 148-197), on Shaiva and Shakta Traditions.

** [Pushpadanta], The Mahimnastava; or, Praise of Shiva’s Greatness, ed. and tr. by W. Norman Brown (Poona, American Institute of Indian Studies, 1965).

(28) Fri., April 5, and Sun., April 7: The Gods at the Met

Field trip to the South Asian galleries of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in prearranged groups at four times: Friday the 5th at 3:00; Sunday the 7th at 1:00, 2:15,
3:30. We meet in the main gallery, up the stairs from Fifth Avenue, near the group tours desk to the left.

If for an unavoidable reason you are unable to make one of these three times, please let us know. The sky will not fall in; it will only droop uncomfortably. You can get the tour manifest, talk with your TA and/or a fellow class-member, and give yourself a tour in the week following. But it’s far better if you can join one of our scheduled group tours.

(29) Tues., April 9: The Ramayana performed


*** Nina Paley, Sita Sings the Blues: [http://sitasingstheblues.com](http://sitasingstheblues.com).

(30) Thurs., April 11: The Contentious Ramayana

** Guest lecturer: Bharati Jagannathan, Miranda House, University of Delhi; Visiting Faculty, University of Pennsylvania


(31) Thurs.-Fri. April 11-12: Sections—Many Ramayanas

(32) Your second essay is due as an email attachment submitted to your TA by 5:00 on Monday, April 15.

(33) Tues., April 16: Goddess and mother

** J. S. Hawley and Donna Wulff, eds., Devi: Goddesses of India, introduction (by J. S. Hawley) and chapter on Devi (by Thomas Coburn), pp. 1-48.


(34) Thurs., April 18: Kali

Guest Lecturer: Rachel McDermott

Hawley and Wulff, eds., Devi, chapters on Kali and Bhagavati (by David Kinsley, Sarah Caldwell, and Rachel McDermott), pp. 77-86, 195-226, and 281-313.

(35) Tues., April 23: Kabir

Linda Hess and Shukdev Singh, The Bījak of Kabir (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2002 [orig., 1983]), introduction (pp. 1-37) and selections from the poetry as follows: Šabdās 2, 4-11; Ramainī 7; Sākhīs 200-225.


(36) Thurs., April 25: Ravidas and Dalit Religion

Guest lecturer: Joel Lee


(37) Thurs.-Fri., April 25-26: Sections—Goddesses and Saints

V. Politics, Identity, and the Present

(38) Tues., April 30: Rama in politics—Ayodhya, 1992


**Film Resource:** “In the Name of God” [Call number: VIDEO DS486.A96 I6 1991g]

(39) **Thurs, May 2: Hinduism militant and tolerant**


(40) **Time TBA: Informal review for the final**

(41) **Final examination:** The final exam will be held on Thursday, May 16, 1:00-4:00. It is likely that an alternate exam will be scheduled for Friday, May 10, 1:00-4:00.