

**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

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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.

I. *The Basics: Concepts, Practices, Places*

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

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

Diana L. Eck, *Darśan: Seeing the Divine Image in Hinduism* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1985), pp. 1-58.

** Sitansu S. Chakravarti, *Hinduism: A Way of Life* (Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1991), pp. 23-43; partly excerpted in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 249-254.

* 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, saṃsāra, caste*

Gavin Flood, *An Introduction to Hinduism* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996), introduction and chapters 1-3, pp. 1-74.

*** David Kinsley, *Hinduism: A Cultural Perspective* (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1993), pp. 84-96.

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

J. S. Hawley and Vasudha Narayanan, "Introduction" in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 1-16.

Stephen Huyler, "The Experience: Approaching God," in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 33-41.

Eck, *Darśan*, pp. 77-92.

*** Lawrence A. Babb, *The Divine Hierarchy* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1975), pp. 31-67.

(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.radhagovinda.net/govinda/>

<http://www.barnard.edu/religion/hinduismhere/seva.html/>

<http://www.angelfire.com/al/bharatsevashramsangh/centers.html>

<http://www.swaminarayan.org/>

<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>. 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), 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>.

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 (Jñāna)*

(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

Flood, *Introduction*, chapter 4, pp. 75-102.

Olivelle, *Upanisads*, Katha, Isa, Svetasvatara, and Mandukya Upanisads, pp. 231-265, 288-290.

*** Flood, *Introduction*, chapter 10, pp. 224-245.

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

(10) Tues., February 12: Shankara

Flood, *Introduction*, chapter 10, on Vedanta: pp. 238-246.

** Sengaku Mayeda, ed. and tr., *A Thousand Teachings: The Upadeśasāhasrī 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.]

** Sankaracharya, tr. Swami Jagadananda, *Upadeśasāhasrī: A Thousand Teachings* (Madras: Ramakrishna Math, 1979), Prose section, chapter 1, "Enlightening the Disciple," pp. 1-32.

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

** Sankaracharya, tr. Swami Jagadananda, *Upadesahasri: A Thousand Teachings* (Madras: Ramakrishna Math, 1979), the following sections:
Poetry, chapter 17:1-45, "Right Knowledge," pp. 191-205;
Poetry, chapter 18:1-30, "That Thou Art," pp. 218-226.

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

Flood, *Introduction*, chapter 5, pp. 103-127.

Barbara Stoler Miller, tr., *The Bhagavad-Gita: Krishna's Counsel in Time of War* (New York: Bantam, 1986), introduction, pp. 1-13.

*** Daniel H. H. Ingalls, "The Friendly Dice Game," revised by Gary A. Tubb, introduction, pp. 1-20.

*** Kinsley, *Hinduism*, pp. 11-39.

(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: *Saṃskāra* / Life-cycle rites – birth and childhood

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

** Vasudha Narayanan, “May We See a Hundred Autumns: Life-Cycle Rituals in the Hindu Tradition,” Chapter 15 in *The Hindu Tradition/s: An Introduction* (forthcoming)

** Doranne Jacobson, “Golden Handprints and Red-Painted Feet: Hindu Childbirth Rituals in Central India,” in Doranne Jacobson and Susan Wadley, *Women in India: Two Perspectives* (Columbia, MO: South Asia Books, 1977), pp. 137-155. An excerpt is available in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 63-75.

*** Babb, *The Divine Hierarchy*, pp. 69-101.

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

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

Flood, *Introduction*, chapter 9 (continued), pp. 205-208.

** Jonathan Parry, *Death in Banaras* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994), pp. 151-190.

** David M. Knipe, “Sapindikarana: The Hindu Rite of Entry into Heaven,” in Frank Reynolds and Earle Waugh, ed., *Religious Encounters with Death* (College Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1977), pp. 111-124.

Agehananda Bharati, “Death Beyond Death: The Ochre Robe,” in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 76-87.

***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

Flood, *Introduction*, chapter 9 (continued), pp. 211-223.

** Vasudha Narayanan, "Feasting and Fasting: Domestic Celebrations and Votive Rituals," Chapter 16 in *The Hindu Tradition/s: An Introduction* (forthcoming)

*** Babb, *The Divine Hierarchy*, pp. 123-176.

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

Om Lata Bahadur, "Divali: The Festival of Lights," in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 91-98.

** J. S. Hawley, "Krishna's Cosmic Victories," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 47:2 (1979), pp. 201-221.

McKim Marriott, "Holi: The Feast of Love," in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 99-112.

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 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

** J. S. Hawley, "Bhakti," in Ainslie T. Embree, gen. ed., *The Encyclopedia of Asian History*, vol. 1, pp. 154-157.

Flood, *Introduction*, chapter 6, pp. 128-147.

J. S. Hawley in association with Shrivatsa Goswami, *At Play with Krishna* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1981; Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1992), pp. 3-51.

(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.

Shrivatsa Goswami and Margaret Case, "The Miraculous: The Birth of a Shrine," in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 53-59.

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

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

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

Donna Wulff, "Radha," in J. S. Hawley and D. M. Wulff, eds., *Devi: Goddesses of India* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996), pp. 109-134.

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

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

R. K. Narayan, *The Ramayana*, entire: pp. 1-157.

** Linda Hess, "Rejecting Sita: Indian Responses to the Ideal Man's Cruel Treatment of His Ideal Wife," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 67:1 (1999), pp. 1-32.

*** Emily Hudson, "Rāma, the Ambiguous Exemplar: Perfection and Meaning-Without-Saying in the *Vālmīki Rāmayana*," paper delivered to the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, November 1, 2010.

(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

Linda Hess, "An Open-Air Ramayana: Ram-Lila, The Audience Experience," in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 115-139.

Philip Lutgendorf, "A Ramayana on Air: 'All in the (Raghu) Family,' A Video Epic in Cultural Context," in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 140-157.

** Velcheru Narayana Rao, "A Ramayana of Their Own: Women's Oral Tradition in Telugu," in Paula Richman, ed., *Many Ramayanas: The Diversity of a Narrative Tradition in South Asia* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991), pp. 114-136.

*** Nabaneeta Dev Sen, "Lady Sings the Blues: When Women Retell the Ramayana," paper delivered at the Columbia Sita Symposium, May, 1998.

*** Nina Paley, *Sita Sings the Blues*: <http://sitasingstheblues.com>.

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

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

** A. K. Ramanujan, "Three Hundred Rāmāyaṇas: Five Examples and Three Thoughts on Translation," in Paula Richman, ed., *Many Rāmāyaṇas: The Diversity of a Narrative Tradition in South Asia* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991), pp. 22-49.

(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.

Kathleen Erndl, "Possession by Durga," in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 158-170.

Lisa Lassell Hallstrom, "God Came as a Woman: Anandamayi Ma," in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 173-183.

(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: Śabdas 2, 4-11; Ramainī 7; Sākhīs 200-225.

** *Had-Anhad (Bounded-Boundless): Journeys with Ram and Kabir*, a film by Shabnam Virmani (2008). [DVD PK2095.K3 Z693 2008g](http://www.cultureunplugged.com/play/2831/Had-Anhad--Journeys-With-Ram---Kabir--Bounded-Boundless-). The full film, which is required to be seen before class, can be viewed at: <http://www.cultureunplugged.com/play/2831/Had-Anhad--Journeys-With-Ram---Kabir--Bounded-Boundless->.

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

Guest lecturer: Joel Lee

** J. S. Hawley and Mark Juergensmeyer, "Guide to Transliteration and Pronunciation," "Introduction," and Chapter 2, "Kabir," in *Songs of the Saints of India* (Delhi Oxford University Press, 2004), pp. xxi-xxii, 3-7, and 34-61.

J. S. Hawley with Mark Juergensmeyer, "A Dalit Poet-Saint," in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 199-227.

(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

** Peter van der Veer, *Religious Nationalism: Hindus and Muslims in India* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994), pp. 1-24.

** Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, *Hindutva: Who is a Hindu?* (New Delhi: Bharati Sahitya Sadan, 1989 [originally 1923]), title page - p. 12.

J. S. Hawley, "Militant Hinduism: Ayodhya and the Momentum of Hindu Nationalism," in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 257-265.

Vasudha Narayanan, "Tolerant Hinduism: Shared Ritual Spaces—Hindus and Muslims at the Shrine of Shabul Hamid," in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 266-270.

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

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

Vasudha Narayanan, "Hinduism in Pittsburgh: Creating the South Indian 'Hindu' Experience in the United States," in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 231-248.

Shrinivas Tilak, "Hinduism for Hindus: Taking Back Hindu Studies," in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 271-287.

Laurie Patton and Chakravarthi Ram-Prasad, with Kala Acharya, "Hinduism with Others: Interlogue," in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 288-299.

*** John J. Thatamanil, "Managing Multiple Religious and Scholarly Identities: An Argument for a Theological Study of Hinduism," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 68:4 (2000), pp. 791-803.

(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.