

Syllabus and Schedule: World Religions: Hinduism-2012-13

Required Text: The Complete Idiot's Guide to Hinduism (Second Edition), Author: Linda Johnsen, Published by: Alpha Books- Penguin Group (USA) Inc, 375 Hudson Street, New York, 10014, USA . ISBN: 978-1-59257-905-1

Course Description: Hinduism: World Religions - this course explores broadly the most important aspects of Hindu religion, culture and society as a historical continuity from the ancient times to modern times. The course pays special attention to the themes based on the ancient Hindu texts and literature with descriptive analysis of the present-day Hindu beliefs and practices, Gods, rituals, moral codes, philosophical and theological thoughts.

Course Objectives: Learn about the major religious traditions of the contemporary Hinduism in all its aspects with special emphasis to Hindu beliefs, practices, books, and core philosophical and theological thoughts.

Methods of Instruction: To make it easier to learn about and understand key Hindu beliefs and concepts, the course is structured around Linda Johnsen's book 'The Complete Idiot's Guide to Hinduism'. Multiple methods will be used for instruction to involve the participants, including individual and group activities, demonstrations, presentations, cooperative and individual task assignments, discussion, and lecture.

Student Learning Outcomes: After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the terms Hindu and Hinduism might mean.
- Analyze and explain the origin of Hinduism and how it came to be the religion it is today.
- Learn about and understand key Hindu beliefs about the self, the divine and the process of revelation.
- Identify and explain main aspects of Hindu religion and the diversity of its expressions.
- Become familiar with the origins, scriptures, beliefs, gods, rituals, customs, main philosophical, ethical and theological teachings of Hindu religion.
- Understand the key spiritual truths of Hinduism and how these are handed down
- Become aware of the contemporary situation and influence of Hindu religion in India and around the world.
- Understand and appreciate the cultural and religious diversity of Indian Society.

Class policies and attendance: Regular attendance, punctuality and class participation is a must. Failing to comply with these requirements will affect the final grade (details are going to be explained in the classroom). Missing classes regularly without any acceptable excuse will automatically lower down your grade, as to how much and how far depends upon the discretion of the instructor.

Exams: There will be five (5) in-classroom exams / tests, throughout the course of the semester (each exam carries 15% of the final grade). The student is expected to take exams on the date scheduled in the course outline.

Final grades for this course will be calculated using the following point system:

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| Assignments/Class projects | 25 points |
| First in-class exam / test | 15 points |
| Second in-class exam /test | 15 points |
| Third in-class exam / test | 15 points |
| Fourth in-class exam / test | 15 points |
| Fifth in-class exam /test | 15 points |

Class Preparation and Participation: Reading the assigned text before class is crucial for full participation in class discussion and activities. As a result, students will be evaluated on their preparation and participation in class.

Grade Point Scale:

| Grade | Points/Percentage | Explanation |
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| A | 96-100 | Indicates mastery of the course content accompanied by evidence of exceptional achievement in critical, independent, and creative thought competently expressed. |
| A- | 91-95 | |
| B+ | 88-90 | |
| B | 85-87 | Indicates a good grasp of the course content accompanied by evidence of marked achievement in critical, independent, and creative thought competently expressed. |
| B- | 81-84 | |
| C+ | 77-80 | |
| C | 73-76 | Indicates a minimal grasp of the course content by evidence of minimum achievement in critical, independent, and creative thought competently expressed. |
| C- | 60-72 | |
| F | Below 60 | Indicates an insufficient grasp of the course content accompanied by evidence of an unacceptably low level |

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| | | of achievement in critical, independent, and creative thought competently expressed. |
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Plagiarism: Our school considers plagiarism as a very serious breach of academic discipline. The teacher is obligated to report such instances to the Dean. This is punishable by a failing grade in the examination, paper, lab, report, etc.

Assignments/Project Presentations: Assignments must be submitted on the due date to receive full credit for the work. Late assignments will result in point deductions for each day they are overdue. Classroom protocol, attendance, and professionalism are part of your overall grade.

Reference Books:

Books available in our school Library:

1. Hinduism: Edited by Loui Renou, Published by George Braziller, Inc., 215 Park Avenue South, New York 3, 1961.
2. Great Religions of Modern Man-Hinduism: Edited by Loui Renou, Published by Washington Square Press, Inc, New York, 1963.
3. Hinduism-Its Historical Development: by Troy Wilson Organ, Published by Barron's Educational Series, Inc. Woodbury, New York, 1974.
4. Hinduism: by R.C. Zaehner, Published by Oxford University Press, London, 1972.
5. Hinduism: by Solange Lemaitre, Edited by Henri Daniel, Published by Hawthron Books, New York, 1959.
6. Responses to 101 Questions on Hinduism: by John Renard, Published by Paulist Press, 997 Macarthur Boulevard, Mahwah, New Jersey-07430, 1999.

Books available with the teacher:

7. Outlines of Hinduism: (third Edition) by T.M.P. Mahadevan, Published by Dr. Kavi Arya for Chetana Pvt.Ltd, 34-K, Dubash Marg, Kala Ghoda Bombay-400 001. 1999.
8. An Introduction to Hinduism: by Gavin Flood, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1996.
9. Hinduism-Religion and Philosophy: by R. Kumanr and S. Ram, Published by Crescent Publishing Corporation, 4831/24, Prahlad Street, New Delhi-110 002, 2008.

World Religions: Hinduism – Schedule 2012-13 :

| N0 | Month | | Syllabus |
|-----------|-------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Jan | | A brief Introduction to the origin of Hinduism-Hindu, India, Ancient Indian civilization (videos 1&2). |
| 2 | Jan | The Eternal Religion | Chapter-1: Time for God (Hindu Universe, Who is a Hindu, Hinduism world records,) |
| 3 | Jan | | Chapter-1: Time for God (A recyclable universe, Inner vision) |
| 4 | Jan | | Chapter-2: Hindus in History: (The history that vanished, Back to the beginning) |
| 5 | Jan | | Chapter-2: Hindus in History: (Reclaiming the Hindu heritage, Our Hindu connections, the Hindu homeland) |
| 6 | Jan | | Chapter-4: Matrix of the Hindu Tradition: (Veda-the Hindu bible, Vedic Sages, Vedic Gods) |
| 7 | Jan | | Chapter-4: Matrix of the Hindu Tradition: (Sampling the Veda, Upanishads: Liberating literature |
| 8 | Jan | | Chapter-5: The People’s Religion: (Epics-The Hindu Homer, Ramayana, |
| 9 | Jan | | Chapter-5: The People’s Religion: (Mahabharata, Bhagavad Gita, Puranas) |
| 10 | | | <i>First Test-15 marks</i> |
| 11 | Feb | What Hindus Believe | Chapter: 6: One God with many names: (My god is not better than yours, The tolerant religion, The Vedic vision, Ramakrishna Samples Religions, <i>What Missionaries are Missing, Did Jesus Visit India?</i>) |
| 12 | Feb | | Chapter: 7: Born again :(Caught in the Spin Cycle,What is my Karna?) |
| 13 | Feb | | Chapter: 7: Born again: (Your Fate is Your Choice, Life Between Lives |
| 14 | Feb | | Chapter: 8: Turning on your inner light: (Secrets of the Subtle Body, “Who am I”, Spiritual Mentoring, Getting On the Internet, Getting Off the Wheel) |
| 15 | Feb | | Chapter: 9 Blind men describe an Elephant: (Six Views of One Reality, Nyaya: The Logical Approach Vaisheshika: The Atomic Theory, Mimamsa: The Way to Heaven) |

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| 16 | Feb | | Chapter: 9 Blind men describe an Elephant: (Sankhya: Spirit and Matter, Yoga: Techniques for Higher Awareness, Vedanta: It is all an Illusion!, The Whole Elephant |
| 17 | | | Second Test-15 marks |
| 18 | Mar | Who Hindus Worship | Chapter 10: Can you show me God: (Unthinkable truth, “Idol Worship”: Worshipping an Ideal, The Spirit in the Trees, Show me the Devil, God and the Guru, The Guru Within |
| 19 | Mar | | Chapter 11: Meet the Hindu Gods: (Brahma: A Retired Creator, Vishnu: The Loving Protector, Shiva: Lord of the Yogis, Ganesha: The Elephant Headed God, Hanuman: Monkeying Around, Murugan: The Spear of God, Surya: The Divine Sun. Krishna). |
| 20 | Mar | | Chapter 12: Meet the Hindu Goddesses: (Shakti: Feminine Power, Lakshmi: Showers of Gold, Parvathi: Divine Wife and Mother, Durga: Take no Prisoners! Kali: The Really Scary One, Lalita: The Supreme Seductress, Bharat Mata: Mother India). |
| 21 | Mar | | Chapter 14 The main Denominations: (Vaishnavas: “ Hare Krishna!”, Shaivaites: “Om Namah Shivaya!”, Shaktas: “ :Fai Ma”, Hindu Spin-offs) |
| 22 | | | Third Test-15 Marks |
| 23 | Apr | How Hindus Live | Chapter 15: A Classical Religion: (What Turns You On?, What is Life For?, Metamorphoses, Women First |
| 24 | Apr | | Chapter 16: Living Right: (Doing the Right Thing, Actions to Avoid, Ten Actions to Practice Daily, Antidotes to Bad Behavior, Moral Challenges) |
| 25 | Apr | | Chapter 17 Sacraments and Holy Days: (Living Life Holy, Rite from the Start, A Wedding to Last Forever, Life After Death, Sacred Times, Celebrating Spirit). |
| 26 | Apr | | Chapter 18 Temple and Sacred Sites (Take Off Your Shoes!, Alter in the Living Room, Hindu Hot Spots, The Goddess Drops In) |
| 27 | | | Fourth Test – 15 Marks |
| 28 | May | Theology in Practice | Chapter 19 A Robe of Fire: (Meeting with Remarkable Men, Renouncers, Shipwrecked Aliens, The Fortunate Few |
| 29 | May | | Chapter 20 The Rewarding Life : (The Supreme Sacrifice, Breaking the Cycle, At Peace with Life, Everyone’s Mother, Action in Inaction) |
| 30 | May | | Chapter 21: An Ever-Expanding Heart: (The Heart and the Head, The Divine Relationship, The Saint Factory, What is in a Name?, All Blessed Out |

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| 31 | May | | Chapter 22 The Razor's Edge: (Lead Me from the Unreal, Study, Think, Act!, Knowing the Unknowable, The Most Dangerous Path) |
| 32 | May | | Chapter 23 The Royal Road: (The Eight Limbs of Yoga, The Flight to God, Psychic Science, Spiritual Expansion, Is Yoga Hindu?) |
| 33 | | | <i>Fifth Test - 15 marks</i> |
| | | * | Symbols & Hare Krishna movement (ISKCON) |

Roy Plathottathil (Teacher)