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RELS 395.01: Hinduism

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Time: TR 11:10–12:30

Room: FA302

Instructor: Anthony Tribe

Office hours: TW 1:10-2:00

Office: LA 152 (Phone: 243-6844)

Course Goals and Contents

In this course we shall aim to develop an understanding of the richness, diversity and complexity of Hindu religious traditions, in both contemporary and historical perspective.

We will use both primary sources (translations of Hindu texts) and secondary sources (analytical and descriptive texts by scholars), as well as documentary videos, as materials.

The first section of the course will consist of an introduction and overview, with the goal of providing, firstly, a 'map of possibilities' for understanding contemporary Hinduism, and secondly, a sense of the traditions' historical development. In sections two and three we will explore aspects of Hindu thought and practice.

Course Requirements

Attendance, reading, participation in discussion, quizzes as required, plus

Two Mid-Term Exams

One (five-seven page) Paper

Required Books (available from the UC Bookstore)

- Kim Knott, *Hinduism, a Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Thomas J. Hopkins, *The Hindu Religious Tradition*, Dickenson, 1971.
- R. K. Narayan, *The Ramayana*, Penguin Books, 1977.
- Barbara Stoler Miller (trans.), *The Bhagavad Gita*, Bantam Books, 1986.
- Barbara Stoler Miller (trans.) *Yoga: Discipline of Freedom—The Yoga Sutra attributed to Patanjali*, University of California Press, 1996.
- David R. Kinsley, *Hindu Goddesses. Visions of the Divine Feminine in the Hindu Religious Tradition*, University of California Press, 1986.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Readings should be completed by the date indicated	* Asterisk indicates material on reserve in the library	Reading assignments in parenthesis are supplementary
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Section 1. Hindu Religious Traditions: an Introduction and an Overview

Date	Topic	Readings
Jan 30	Introduction to Course— Hinduism or Hinduisms? Religious Diversity & Unity, Continuity & Change	
Feb 1	Sacred Texts & their Transmission	Knott, <i>Hinduism, a Very Short Introduction</i> , chs. 1 & 2 (Hopkins, <i>The Hindu Religious Tradition</i> , ch. 1)
Feb 6	i. The Socio-Religious Ideology of Class (<i>varṇa</i>) ii. God—Masculine, Feminine and Neuter	Knott, ch. 3 Hopkins, ch. 3
Feb 8	Narrative Traditions as Transmitters of Religious Ideas and Values— Cosmology & Duty (<i>dharma</i>)	Knott, ch. 4 (On the <i>āśramas</i> , see Hopkins, 73–86)
Feb 13	The <i>Rāmāyaṇa</i>	Finish <i>The Ramāyaṇa</i>
Feb 15	Evolution of Notions of Deity & the Development of 'Temple Hinduism'	Knott, ch. 5 (On <i>pūjā</i> , see Hopkins, 110–12)
Feb 20	Evolution of Brahmanical Ideas (<i>brahman</i> , <i>karman</i> , <i>saṃsāra</i> , <i>mokṣa</i>)	Knott, ch. 6 Hopkins, ch. 8
Feb 22	Richard Gombrich's Typology of Indian Religion(s)	Knott, ch. 7
Feb 27	The Impact of Colonialism, Nationalism and the West	Knott, chs. 8 & 9
Mar 1	First Exam	

**Section 2. Currents in Hindu Thought—The *Bhagavad Gītā* (and its interpreters)
and Patañjali's *Yoga Sūtras***

Mar 6	Background to the <i>Gītā</i>	Hopkins, 90–95 (69–73, 87–90) Barbara Stoler Miller (trans.), <i>The Bhagavad-Gita</i> , 21–69 (chs. 1–6), 1–13 (introduction), 162–8 (glossary of key terms)
Mar 8	The <i>Gītā</i> 's Theory of Action and Knowledge	<i>The Bhagavad-Gita</i> , 71–113 (chs. 7–12)
Mar 13	Theism & Devotion in the <i>Gītā</i>	<i>The Bhagavad-Gita</i> , 115–61 (chs. 13–18)
Mar 15	Interpretations of the <i>Gītā</i> : 1. Śaṅkara	Hopkins, 119–121 * “Śaṅkara and the Two Levels of Truth,” N. Smart in <i>Hindu Patterns of Liberation</i>
Mar 19-23: Spring Break		
Mar 27	Interpretations of the <i>Gītā</i> : 2. Rāmānuja, Madhva & Gandhi	Hopkins, 121–4 * “Rāmānuja and the Knowledge of God,” “Madhva and Personal Particularity,” N. Smart and “Gandhi, Aurobindo and Modern Hinduism,” Robert McDermott in <i>Hindu Patterns of Liberation</i>
Mar 29	Background to Patañjali's <i>Yoga Sūtras</i>	Hopkins, 64–9 Barbara Stoler Miller (trans.) <i>Yoga: Discipline of Freedom— The Yoga Sutra attributed to Patanjali</i> , ix–xiv (Preface), 1– 25, (Introduction)
Apr 3	Patañjali's Sāṃkhya Ontology	<i>Yoga Sūtra</i> , 29–59 (chs 1–2)
Apr 5	Patañjali's Path to Liberation (<i>kaivalya</i>) and its interpreters	<i>Yoga Sūtra</i> , 60–83 (chs 3–4)
Apr 10	Second Exam	

Section 3. Aspects of Hindu Practice—Devotion, the Goddess, and Tantra

Apr 12	Contexts: Viṣṇu and Śiva in the Epics and Purāṇas	Hopkins, 87–90, 95–107
Apr 17	<i>Bhakti</i> (“devotion”), its Phenomenology and Modes of Expression	Hopkins, 117–8, 124–5
Apr 19	Introduction to the Divine Feminine in the Hindu Religious Tradition — The Goddess, One and Many — Goddesses of Village and Land	<i>Hindu Goddesses</i> , Introduction, chs. 12, 13
Apr 24	The Goddess as Divine Consort: Lakṣmī, Pārvatī and Sarasvatī	<i>Hindu Goddesses</i> , chs. 2–4
Apr 26	The Goddess as Human Consort: Sītā and Rādhā	<i>Hindu Goddesses</i> , chs. 5, 6
Mar 1	The Goddess as Warrior and as Supreme: Durgā and Devī	<i>Hindu Goddesses</i> , chs. 7, 9
Mar 3	Tantric Hinduism: 1	Hopkins, 112–17
May 8	Tantric Hinduism: 2	Hopkins, 126–30
May 10	Kālī, Goddess Terrifying and Kind: Tantric & Devotional Perspectives	<i>Hindu Goddesses</i> , chs. 8, 11

Third Exam: Paper (due Tuesday May 14th, 9:00 am)