This class will introduce students to the history, textual traditions, and religious practices of Hinduism. We will examine the historical development of classical Hinduism in India, the development of the Hindu tradition over time, the changes wrought by its encounters with the west, and, finally, elements of modern Hindu thought. Our primary goal will be to gain a preliminary overview of Hindu traditions and some sense of the traditions’ diversity through time and across geographic regions. The student will become familiar with basic terminology, literature, beliefs, practices, and history of the Hindu tradition. Religious Studies is an interdisciplinary enterprise and we will examine the Hindu tradition from several perspectives, to include: literary, philosophical, art historical, anthropological, sociological, historical, philological, and phenomenological.

This class has a Foreign Studies designation with respect to the General Education curriculum. As such this course intends to increase students’ global awareness by introducing them to an important aspect of Asian culture in order to foster an understanding of cultural, social, political, religious, and/or economic systems outside the European tradition.

**TEXTS**

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**  
(Flood): *An Introduction to Hinduism*, Gavin Flood  
(Gita): *The Bhagavad Gita: Krishna’s Counsel in Time of War*, Barbara Stoler Miller  
(Eck): *Darśan: Seeing the Divine Image in India*, Diana Eck  
(Haberman): *Journey through the Twelve Forests: An Encounter with Krishna*, David Haberman  
(Narayan): *Storytellers, Saints, and Scoundrels*, Kirin Narayan  
Other Class Readings are available on Blackboard.

**EVALUATION**

**CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION** are crucial to your success in this class. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. You will be allowed three absences throughout the semester. Any absences in excess of this will directly affect your grade. You will be expected not only to have read all assigned readings by the class period, but also to have reflected upon them. Participation can be as easy as asking for clarification on a concept, or as challenging as trying to engage the instructor directly on the relevance of the material to your everyday life. Participation is the best way to ensure you understand the material, and that is the best way to ensure you do well in the class.

At the end of the second week of class there will be a MAP QUIZ. In the first two weeks of class you will be introduced to the map of India. For the quiz you will need to label a blank map.
demonstrating your knowledge of the general features of Indian geography and the cities from throughout India history. The Map Quiz will be on September 3rd.

There will be one SHORT QUIZ, which will assess your knowledge of a smaller section of the course. The quiz will be composed of multiple choice and short answer questions. This will be the best indicator for how well you are absorbing the material, and how well you will do on the exams and essays. The Short Quiz will be on September 15th.

ESSAY ONE will give you the opportunity to develop the ability to express the ideas you have learned in class in writing. This assignment is to be two pages in length. (Two normal size sheets with default Word margins with 12 pt font.) For this essay you must describe the history of the development of the term karma in the Hindu tradition. Essay One will be due at the beginning of class on October 1st.

The MID-TERM EXAMINATION will assess your knowledge of the material covered in the first half of the class. The Exam will be mainly short answer with one or two short essays. The Mid-Term Exam will be on October 8th.

In ESSAY TWO you will need to demonstrate your ability to present an argument. This assignment is five pages in length. (Five normal size sheets with default Word margins with 12 pt font.) Essay Two will be due at the beginning of class on November 24th. You will be able to select topics from a list provided by the instructor after the mid-term examination.

The FINAL EXAMINATION will assess your knowledge of all the material covered in class. The Exam will be short answer and short essays. The Final Exam will be on December 13th from 2:00–5:00 p.m.

Various aspects of performance will be weighted as listed below:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Map Quiz</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short Quiz</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay One</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Examination</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Essay Two</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
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ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:
“Lebanon Valley College expects its students to uphold the principles of academic honesty. Violations of these principles will not be tolerated. A student shall neither hinder nor unfairly assist the efforts of other students to complete their work. All individual work that a student produces and submits as a course assignment must be the student’s own. Cheating and plagiarism are acts of academic dishonesty. Cheating is an act that deceives or defrauds. It includes, but is not limited to, looking at another's exam or quiz, using unauthorized materials during an exam or quiz, colluding on assignments without the permission or knowledge of the instructor, and furnishing false information for the purpose of receiving special consideration, such as postponement of an exam, essay, quiz or deadline of an oral presentation. Plagiarism is the act of submitting as one’s own the work (the words, ideas, images, or compositions) of another person or persons without accurate attribution. Plagiarism can manifest itself in various ways: it can arise from sloppy note-taking; it can emerge as the incomplete or incompetent citation of resources; it can take the form of the wholesale submission of other people’s work as one’s own, whether from an online, oral or printed source. The seriousness of an instance of plagiarism—its moral character as an act of academic dishonesty—normally depends on the extent to which a student intends to deceive and mislead the reader as to the authorship of the work in question. Initially, the instructor will make this determination.” (From LVC’s Undergraduate Academic Regulations and Procedures: http://www.lvc.edu/catalog/acad-reg-procedures.aspx?bhiw=1024)

Details on plagiarism and how to avoid it can also be found at this site:
http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis_plagiarism.php
You will be held responsible for understanding what is and what is not plagiarism. I will not give anyone a second chance on this issue.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
If you have a physical, medical, psychological, or learning disability that is going to impact your attendance or require accommodation, please let me know. In order to ensure that your learning needs are appropriately met, you will need to provide documentation of your disability or medical condition to the Director of Disability Services in Humanities 206-D, 867-6071. The Office of Disability Services will then provide a letter of verification of disability that describes the accommodations needed for this class.

ABSENCE FOR RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:
If you must miss class for the observance of a religious holy day, inform the instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible, so that arrangements can be made to complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence. Notice given at least fourteen days prior to the classes scheduled on dates the student will be absent will constitute an excused absence. For religious holy days that fall within the first two weeks of the semester, notice should be given on the first day of the semester.

SYLLABUS:
The syllabus is a tentative schedule and is subject to change as the need arises students will be made aware of any changes with enough time to adequately prepare for class.
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week One:
(Aug. 27): Introduction

Week Two:  **(Map Quiz on Sep. 3)**
(Sep. 1): Introduction
   Flood: 1–22; map
(Sep. 3): First Urbanization
   Flood, 23–35; Thapar, 79–88

Week Three:
(Sep. 8): Vedic Literature
   Flood, 35–50
(Sep. 10): Vedic Literature (continued)
   selections from RV, Brahmaṇas, and Upaniṣads

Week Four:  **(Short Quiz on Sep. 15)**
(Sep. 15): Second Urbanization
   Flood, 75–102
(Sep. 17): Kalpasūtras: Public Ritual
   Altar or Fire video

Week Five:
(Sep. 22): Kalpasūtras: Household Ritual
   Flood, 198–208; selections from Grhyasūtras
(Sep. 24): Kalpasūtras: Dharma
   Flood, 51–74

Week Six:  **(Essay One due on Oct. 1)**
(Sep. 29): Dharmaśāstra
   Manu, Introduction and selections
(Oct. 1): Epics: Mahābhārata
   Flood, 103–109; van Buitenen, xiii–xliv

Week Seven:  **(Mid-term Exam on Oct. 8)**
(Oct. 6): Epics: Mahābhārata (continued)
   Mahābhārata
(Oct. 8): Mid-term Exam

Week Eight:
(Oct. 13): No Class, Fall Break
(Oct. 15): Epics: Bhagavad Gita
   Gita
Week Nine:
  (Oct. 20): Popular Hinduism: Purāṇas
       Flood, 109–127, selections from Purāṇas
  (Oct. 22): Tantra
       Flood, 158–173, 189–193, Parry, “Sacrificial Death…”

Week Ten:
  (Oct. 27): Saṃkhyā and Yoga
       Flood, 224–249
  (Oct. 29): Popular Hinduism: The Goddess
       Goddess (film); Flood, 174–197

Week Eleven:
  (Nov. 3): Popular Hinduism: The Goddess (continued)
       Erndl, 18–36 (general), 105–134 (possession)
  (Nov. 5): Popular Hinduism: Pūjā
       Eck 3–58

Week Twelve:
  (Nov. 10): Essay Work Day
  (Nov. 12): Popular Hinduism: Pilgrimage
       Haberman 3 – 23 (This, I…),
       38 (It was…) – 49 (Descriptions…)
       theory bit: 68 (regardless…) – 76 (Although…)
       78 (Construction…) – 101 (On his travels…),
       107 (The day we…) – 110 (Part of an…),
       121 (Leaving Anyor) – 127 (The pressures…),
       129 (Maganlal Sharma…) – 135 (Long ago…),
       141 (The palaces) – 153 (I was now…),
       165 (The trek…) – 171 (The next morning…)
       177 (We came next…) – 181 (1 very much…)
       187 (The Gaudiya…) – 201 (That evening)
       209 (We were up…) – 223

Week Thirteen:
  (Nov. 17): Popular Hinduism: Sadhus
       Four Holy Men (film); Narayan 37–62
  (Nov. 19): Popular Hinduism: Sadhus (continued)
       Narayan 63–87, 132–160

Week Fourteen:  (Essay Two Due Nov. 24)
  (Nov. 24): Modern Hinduism: Samaj
       Flood, 250–268; Lavan, on Brahmo Samaj, 1–25
  (Nov. 26): No Class, Thanksgiving Break

Week Fifteen:
(Dec. 1): Modern Hindusim: Colonialism
Nandy, 1–63
(Dec. 3): Modern Hindusim: Colonialism (continued)

Final Exam: **Saturday December 13th 2:00–5:00 p.m.**