

INDIAN RELIGIONS AND PHILOSOPHIES: THE HISTORY OF HINDUISM
REL 252-01

Tuesday/Thursday 2:00 – 3:20 p.m. / Lynch 181
Office Hours: M-F 9–11 a.m. / Humanities 307–D
<http://personal-pages.lvc.edu/sayers/classes.html>

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DESCRIPTION

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

(Mahābhārata): *The Mahābhārata*, R. K. Narayan

(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 January 29th.

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 February 12th.

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 February 24th.

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 March 10th.

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 April 21st. You will be able to select topics in cooperation with 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 May 9th from 2:00–5:00 p.m.

Various aspects of performance will be weighted as listed below:

Attendance and Class Participation	10%	Mid-Term Examination	20%
Map Quiz	5%	Essay Two	25%
Short Quiz	10%	Final Examination	20%
Essay One	10%		

POLICIES

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:

- (Jan. 20): Introduction
Miner, Horace. "Body Ritual among the Nacirema." *American Anthropologist* 58 (1956), 503–507. [to be read in class]
- (Jan. 22): Introduction
Flood: 1–22; map

Week Two: **(Map Quiz on Jan. 29)**

- (Jan. 27): First Urbanization
Flood, 23–35; Thapar, 79–88
- (Jan. 29): Vedic Literature
Flood, 35–50

Week Three:

- (Feb. 3): Vedic Literature (continued)
selections from RV, Brahmaṇas, and Upaniṣads
- (Feb. 5): No Class: Austin Conference

Week Four: **(Short Quiz on Feb. 12)**

- (Feb. 10): Second Urbanization
Flood, 75–102
- (Feb. 12): Kalpasūtras: Public Ritual
Altar or Fire video

Week Five:

- (Feb. 17): Kalpasūtras: Household Ritual
Flood, 198–208; selections from Gṛhyasūtras
- (Feb. 19): Kalpasūtras: Dharma
Flood, 51–74

Week Six: **(Essay One due on Feb. 24)**

- (Feb. 24): Dharmaśāstra
Manu, Introduction and selections
- (Feb. 26): Epics: Mahābhārata
Flood, 103–109; van Buitenen, xiii–xliv

Week Seven:

- (Mar. 3): No Class Spring Break
- (Mar. 5): No Class Spring Break

Week Eight:

- (Mar. 10): Epics: Mahābhārata (continued)
Mahābhārata

(Mar. 12): Epics: Bhagavad Gita
Gita

Week Nine: **(Mid-term Exam on Mar. 10)**

(Mar. 17): Mid-term Exam

(Mar. 19): Popular Hinduism: Purāṇas
Flood, 109–127, selections from Purāṇas

Week Ten:

(Mar. 24): Tantra

Flood, 158–173, 189–193, Parry, “Sacrificial Death...”

(Mar. 26): Saṃkhyā and Yoga

Flood, 224–249

Week Eleven:

(Mar. 31): Popular Hinduism: The Goddess

Goddess (film); Flood, 174–197

(Apr. 2): Popular Hinduism: The Goddess (continued)

Erndl, 18–36 (general), 105–134 (possession)

Week Twelve:

(Apr. 7): Popular Hinduism: Pūjā

Eck 3–58

(Apr. 9): Essay Work Day

Week Thirteen:

(Apr. 14): 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 (I very much...)

187 (The Gaudiya...) – 201 (That evening)

209 (We were up...) – 223

(Apr. 16): Popular Hinduism: Sadhus

Four Holy Men (film); Narayan 37–62

Week Fourteen: **(Essay Two Due Apr. 21)**

(Apr. 21): Popular Hinduism: Sadhus (continued)

Narayan 63–87, 132–160

(Apr. 23): Modern Hinduism: Samaj
Flood, 250–268; Lavan, on Brahma Samaj, 1–25

Week Fifteen:

(Apr. 28): Flex day

(Apr. 30): Modern Hinduism: Colonialism
Nandy, 1–63

Week Sixteen:

(May 5): Modern Hinduism: Colonialism (continued) and Review for Final

Final Exam: **Saturday May 9th from 2:00-5:00p.m.**