INTRODUCTION TO HINDUISM
ANS 301M (30428)

Tuesday/Thursday 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. / GEA 114
Office Hours: Tues/Thur 11-12 / MEZ 3.310

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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.

TEXTS

REQUIRED TEXTS:
(Flood): An Introduction to Hinduism, Gavin Flood
(Gita): The Bhagavad Gita: Krishna’s Counsel in Time of War, Barbara Stoler Miller
(Mahabharata): 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 25th.

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 6th.

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.) You will be able to select topics from a list provided by the instructor early in the semester. Essay One will be due at the beginning of class on February 27th.

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 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 April 17th.

Insert Topic Here

The FINAL EXAMINATION will assess your knowledge of all the material covered in class. The Exam will be short answer and short essays.

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>
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<tr>
<td>Map Quiz</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short Quiz</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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<tr>
<td>Essay Two</td>
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<td>Final Examination</td>
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POLICIES

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:
“Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University … Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

‘Scholastic dishonesty’ includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor, providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment), or the attempt to commit such an act.” (From UT's General Information catalog, Appendix C, Sec. 11-802)

Details on plagiarism and how to avoid it can 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:
The Faculty Council's Educational Policy Committee states, "Providing a quality educational experience for all students includes adapting the instructional environment to accommodate the educational needs of students with information about Services for Students with Disabilities through the course syllabus."

At the beginning of the semester, students should contact the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Office (471-6259 or 471-4641 TTY), which will prepare an appropriate letter to the instructor to guide you.

ABSENCE FOR RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:
The UT General Information catalog for 2005-2006 states that "A student who is absent from a class or examination for the observance of a religious holy day should 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" (p. 85). Notice must be given at least fourteen days prior to the classes scheduled on dates the student will be absent. 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. 16): Introduction
(Jan. 18): Introduction
Flood: 1-22; map

Week Two:  *(Map Quiz Jan. 25th)*
(Jan. 23): First Urbanization
Flood, 23-35; Thapar, 79-88
(Jan. 25): Vedic Literature
Flood, 35-50

Week Three:
(Jan. 30): Vedic Literature (continued)
selections from RV, Brahmana, Upanishads
(Feb. 1): Second Urbanization
Flood, 75-102

Week Four:  *(Short Quiz on Feb. 6th)*
(Feb. 6): Kalpasūtras: Public Ritual
selections from the Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa
(Feb. 8): Kalpasūtras: Public Ritual
Altar or Fire video

Week Five:
(Feb. 13): Kalpa Sūtras: Household Ritual
Flood, 198-208; selections from Gṛhya Sūtras
(Feb. 15): Kalpa Sūtras: Dharma
Flood, 51-74

Week Six:
(Feb. 20): Dharmaśāstra
Manu, Introduction and selections
(Feb. 22): Epics: Mahabharata
Flood, 103-109; van Buitenen, xiii-xliv

Week Seven:  *(Essay One due on Feb. 27th)*
(Feb. 27): Epics: Mahabharata (continued)
Mahabharata
(Mar. 1): Epics: Bhagavad Gita
Gita

Week Eight:  *(Mid-term Exam on Mar. 8th)*
(Mar. 6): Popular Hinduism: Purāṇas
Flood, 109-127, selections from Purāṇas
(Mar. 8): Mid-term Exam

Week Nine: Spring Break
(Mar. 13): No Class (Spring Break)
(Mar. 15): No Class (Spring Break)

Week Ten:
(Mar. 20): Tantra
Flood, 158-173, 189-193, Parry, “Sacrificial Death…”
(Mar. 22): Saṃkhyā and Yoga
Flood, 224-249

Week Eleven:
(Mar. 27): Popular Hinduism: The Goddess
Goddess (film); Flood, 174-197
(Mar. 29): Popular Hinduism: The Goddess (continued)
Erndl, 18-36 (general), 105-134 (possession)

Week Twelve:
(Apr. 3): Popular Hinduism: Pūjā
Flood, 208-212; Eck
(Apr. 5): Popular Hinduism: Pūjā (continued)

Week Thirteen:
(Apr. 10): Popular Hinduism: Pilgrimage
Haberman
(Apr. 12): Popular Hinduism: Pilgrimage (continued)
Erndl, 61-83

Week Fourteen:  (Essay Two Due April 17th)
(Apr. 17): Popular Hinduism: Sadhus
Four Holy Men (film); Narayan
(Apr. 19): Popular Hinduism: Sadhus (continued)

Week Fifteen:
(Apr. 24): Modern Hinduism: Samaj
Flood, 250-268; Lavan, on Brahmo Samaj, 1-25,
(Apr. 26): Modern Hinduism: Colonialism
Nandy, 1-63

Week Sixteen:
(May 1): Modern Hinduism: Gandhi
readings to be announced
(May 3): Modern Hinduism: Sai Baba
Babb on Sathya Sai Baba, 159-204