This course is an advanced course focusing on the Hindu Traditions. It is expected that students taking this course will be familiar with the academic study of Religion and Asian Religions. The course content involves rotating topics; in Fall 2010, we will be focusing on selected themes, including (but not limited to) the following: Puranas, Ramayana, darsana and sampradaya, rituals, food, environment, visual and performing arts (dance/ Bollywood, etc).

This seminar-style class will involve a lot of reading (books or several articles each week), writing (weekly papers), and discussions.

**Requirements:** Regular attendance and preparation for the topic to be discussed for the week. Students are expected to do the required reading before each class and have a written summary/impressions of the material ready for classroom discussion. This can be a handwritten draft if necessary. The purpose of the assignment is to push you to do some specific reading and be prepared for participation in the discussion.

**The fine print:** Incompletes will only be given under very special circumstances: when students who have finished most of the assignments satisfactorily cannot complete the final requirements due to unforeseen events. If this is the case, students must arrange for the incomplete before the end of the semester.

**Students with Disabilities.** Students requesting classroom accommodation or special consideration must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation or special consideration.

**University Rules on Attendance policies**/ absences from classes are posted on [http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationattendance.html](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationattendance.html)

The readings given in this syllabus are just “starter” readings. In other words, one of the objectives of this course is to encourage research skills by making you work on bibliographies and find suitable materials for each topic. During our first meeting, we will decide on discussion leaders for the first few weeks of classes. Discussion leaders will research out and share reading materials with the other students about a week ahead of each class and eventually share some of the notes with others.

A separate sheet with what is expected of a discussion leader will be handed out.
Students are expected to do the readings before class and if two people are leading the discussions, do meet before class and review literature/materials together. I would like 2-3 students to lead the discussion each week.

Reaction papers 3-4 pages double spaced will be required almost every week. These are due one week after the topic has been discussed.

In addition to leading the discussions and the reaction papers, students will be expected to generate a syllabus on the Hindu Traditions and do a detailed final paper (about 20-25 pages double spaced). We will discuss the details of these projects in class.

Grading:
- Class participation and presentation: 33%
- Periodic written reports and Syllabus: 33%
- Final paper (about 20-25 pages): 33%

Regular reading and weekly reaction papers to the reading: Please do the reading before the class and come prepared with written comments and a summary of the reading. Feel free to change and revise your draft in light of the discussions and turn the papers in at the appointed time.

Completion of suggested field work (if undertaken), analyses of websites, and viewing of video-s and / or performances when and where relevant. I will pass on information on any events in the area which may pertain to the course.

You will be asked to read and write a reaction paper regularly but the pace will step up considerably towards the end of the semester.

A full term paper with notes and bibliography is to be submitted by a date that we will discuss in class. Plan for this to happen in April. The papers are expected to be about 20 pages plus notes and biblio. on a topic of your choice. I will discuss your projects with you regularly.

**Tuesday, January 14** introduction: Lecture by Vasudha Narayanan

**Thursday, January 16**

**Dharma, artha, and kāma**


Barbara A. Holdrege, “Dharma.” (This is a key concept. *Students will be asked to find more readings for dharma— a short biblio will be required*)

Hartmut Scharfe, “Artha”

Dermot Killingley, “Kama.”


**Tuesday, January 21 and Thursday, January 30**

**Focus on Texts including but not limited to** Sruti, Smriti, Itihasas—Purāṇas, Dharma śāstras, Vernacular literature, Bhakti literature and Stotras. We will not spend much time on the Rāmāyaṇa since we focused on it for a whole month last semester)


- Vedas and Upanisads, by Michael Witzel
- Dharmasastras, by Ludo Rocher
- Sanskrit Epics, by John Brockington
- Puranas, by Freda Matchett
- Tamil Hindu Literature
- Literature of Hinduism in Malayalam, by Rich Freeman
- North Indian Hindi Devotional Literature, by Nancy M. Martin

*Familiarity with the many works of Patrick Olivelle including*


Also two discussants should lead us through:


**Thursday, February 6 and Thursday, February 13 Rituals, Almanacs / astrology**

- How festivals are computed? major festivals/ myths and rituals
- Rites of passages
- Domestic rituals--
- Kamya karya—vratas

Students to generate a bibliography


Selections from Kane, *History of Dharmasāstra*

**Tuesday, February 18**

**Food**


**Tuesday, February 25**

**Performance—music and dance**

*Bibliographic exercise: books and the internet.*


March 3 – 7 spring break

Thursday, March 13
Bollywood


Philip Lutgendorf, “Jai Santoshi Maa Revisited: On Seeing a Hindu "Mythological" Film” in Relevant sections from:


Tuesday, March 18
Women; gender; transgender

This is a *huge* topic. A separate bibliography will be generated.


Thursday, March 27
Relationship to Islam and Christianity

1. Check bibliographies from RISA-L
2. Selected themes and articles from *Hindu-Christian Studies Bulletin.*
Tuesday, April 1 (make up class because I will be at the University of Illinois the following week) Special presentation by Professor Gil Ben-Herut, USF on the Virasaiva movement

Thursday, April 3 Construction/ categories


April 15—last day of class: Student paper presentations