Religions of India (REL 3330)  
Department of Religion, University of Florida  
Fall 2013

Tuesdays 11:45 am - 1:40 pm, Thursdays 11:45 am - 12:35 pm  
Turlington 2353

INSTRUCTOR

Travis L. Smith, Department of Religion (tlsmith@ufl.edu)  
Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00 – 3:00pm, Thursday 1:00 – 2:00 pm, Anderson 008  
Phone: (352) 273-2941

Course Description

In this course we will explore the historical development of some of the major concepts, concerns and practices of the religious traditions of India, focusing on Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Islam and Sikhism. Emphasis will be on the interactivity and mutual overlap between these traditions, and on the wonderful difficulties of separating the rich and variegated diversity of India's manifold cultural practices into discrete religious categories. The readings in the course will prioritize primary texts in translation, allowing for close reading and focused discussion. The goal of this course is to give us the conceptual tools to understand these religious traditions on their own terms.

Required Texts

The following books will be available for purchase from local booksellers:


Course Requirements and Grading Policy

ALL REQUIREMENTS MUST BE FULFILLED FOR A PASSING GRADE in the class. You cannot simply skip one of the assignments and expect to pass.

ANY PAPER HANDED IN LATE WILL BE PENALIZED, up to a half-grade per full day of lateness. Extensions without penalty will only be granted in advance of the due date, and if sufficient, reasonable justification for the extension is provided.
1. Attendance and Participation (10%)

It is imperative that you come to class prepared to discuss the readings. This is a discussion-centered course, so attendance and participation are very important parts of your grade; absences will be monitored closely and excessive tardiness will be counted towards absences. Students in attendance are expected to sign in at every class session; attendance will be taken from the sign in sheet in order to eliminate attendance oversights. In case of disputed absences, the sign in sheet will be considered the verification of records. Those who miss more than three classes due to medical illness might consider dropping the course in accordance with the UF illness guidelines. Students should consult the University of Florida attendance policy for any questions or clarifications at the following URL: http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationattendance.html. Students are expected to take notes on the assigned readings and review notes before coming to class. Be in class on time and to stay until class is finished.

2. In-class Quizzes (15%)

Periodically, brief quizzes will be administered at the beginning of class to assess students’ assimilating of the required readings. These will not be announced beforehand. Expect from 5-10 such quizzes during the course of the semester. In-class quizzes can only be made up if the absence was due to a documented medical emergency or the absence was otherwise arranged with the instructor. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

2. Midterm Exam (20%)

An in-class midterm exam will be held on Tuesday, October 22. It will consist of identifications, short answer responses and essays. A review sheet will be circulated and discussed two weeks before the exam.

3. Response Papers (30%)

Three brief response papers of 2-3 pages (500-750 words) each will be required. The paper topics will be announced in class, and the assignment and writing guidelines will be given as a handout. These are not intended to be research papers, but rather, responses to specific course readings. The response papers will be due via Sakai by Sunday, September 15, Sunday, October 13, and Sunday, November 17.

4. Final Exam (25%)

A two-hour final exam will be held on Thursday, December 12, from 5:30 – 7:30pm. It will follow the same format as the midterm.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Proportion</th>
<th>Grade Scale</th>
<th>Grade Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation 10%</td>
<td>100-93=A</td>
<td>A=4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes 15%</td>
<td>92-90=A-</td>
<td>A-=3.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam 25 %</td>
<td>89-86=B+</td>
<td>B+=3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response Papers 30%</td>
<td>85-82=B</td>
<td>B=3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam 25%</td>
<td>81-79=B-</td>
<td>B-=2.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
<pre><code>                      | 78-75=C+    | C+=2.33     |
                      | 75-72=C     | C=2.00      |
                      | 71-69=C-    | C-=1.67     |
                      | 68-66=D+    | D+=1.33     |
                      | 65-62=D     | D=1.00      |
                      | 61-60=D-    | D-=0.67     |
                      | 59-0=E      | E=0.00      |
</code></pre>

**Schedule of Readings and Assignments**

*Links to the articles, along with complete bibliographic references, are available on the Sakai website, under the “Lessons” tab*

**Week 1: Introduction to the Course**

Th 8/22 No reading

**Week 2: Origins of the Veda**


**Week 3: Dharma, Veda and Vedānta**


Th 9/5 P. Olivelle, trans., “Muṇḍaka Upaniṣad,” “Katha Upanisad.”

**Week 4: Dharma Enacted – The Rāmāyaṇa**


R. Goldman and S. Sutherland Goldman, “Ramayana” in K. Jacobsen, et al., eds.,

Th 9/12 Narayan, Ramayana, 97-171.

Response Paper #1 due Sunday 9/15

Week 5: World Renunciation - Jainism
Tu 9/17 SIT 43-47; SIT Chapter 3 (49-75).
Th 9/19 SIT Chapter 4 (76-89);
*Kalpasūtra, selections.

Week 6: Buddha's Dharma - Theravāda
Tu 9/24 SIT 93-125.
Th 9/26 SIT 125-149.

Week 7: The Great Vehicle - Mahāyāna
Tu 10/1 SIT Chapter 6 (153-185).
Th 10/3 Śāntideva, Bodhicaryāvatāra, selections.

Response Paper #2 due Sunday 10/13

Week 8: Dharma Reconstituted – The Mahābhārata
Tu 10/8 Fitzgerald, “Mahābhārata” in The Hindu World, 52-74;
Th 10/10 SIT 274-296. (Bhagavad Gītā selections)

Week 9: Encountering the Gods and Goddess – Viṣṇu, Śiva, Devī
Doniger, Hindu Myths (Penguin, 1975), 204-231
Th 10/17 Hindu Myths, 118-125, 137-154 (Śiva).

Week 10: Midterm; Introduction to Islam in India
Tu 10/22 In-class Midterm
Th 10/24 SIT Chapter 13 (383-407) (Foundations of Islam in India).

Week 11: Islam in India, Sufism
Tu 10/29 SIT Chapter 15 (447-489) (Sufism).
Th 10/31 TBA

Week 12: Resistance, Synthesis, Devotion – Bhakti and Sant Traditions
Tu 11/5 SIT 342-345; SSI Introduction (3-7), Chapter 4 (Surdas).
Th 11/7    SSI Chapters 1, 2 (Ravidas, Kabir).

**Week 13: Sikhism and Religious Identity**
Tu 11/12   SSI Chapter 3 (Guru Nanak).
Th 11/14   SIT Chapter 16 (491-509)

*Response Paper #3 due Sunday 11/17*

**Week 14: Colonialism and its Responses**
Tu 11/19   *S. Hay, ed., SIT vol. 2, 36-52 (Brahmo Samaj);
Th 11/21   *SIT vol. 2, 52-82 (Arya Samaj, Ramakrishna Movement).

**Week 15: Globalization and its Responses**
Tu 11/26   TBA
Th 11/28   THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

**Week 16: Review**
Tu 12/3    Final Exam review

**Final Exam: Thursday, December 12 5:30-7:30pm** in Turlington 2353