Course Description

With a focus on reading primary texts in translation, supplemented with recent ethnographies, this course will explore various conceptions of sacred space and place—and of movement to, from and between them—in the Indic imagination. We will begin by exploring some early conceptions of India (Bhārata) as a coherent and explicitly sacred geographical entity in epic and imperial imagination. From there we will explore themes such as: the temple as divine abode, the significance of iconic and aniconic divine images, literary depictions of exile as pilgrimage, and identifications of specific places and natural entities as literal “embodiments” of the goddess.

Evaluation and Grading Policy

1. **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 on the dates specified on the schedule of readings below. ANY PAPER HANDED IN LATE WILL BE PENALIZED, up to 10% per 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.

2. **Group Presentation/Discussion Leading** (15%*): Working in groups of two, students will lead class discussion of the week’s readings. Group signups will be conducted on Sakai, and students must sign up for a group by the end of Week Three (January 20). On the Monday of your discussion, you will submit a proposed outline and list of (10 or so) discussion questions based on your readings, and meet with the TA to refine your presentation. Groups will be graded according to the categories of: (a) preparation, (b) creativity, and (c) coordination. Consideration will be given to individual contributions within each group.

- Undergraduate student members may elect to opt out of the group presentation and instead write a research paper (see item 6., below). For those that complete both assignments, the research paper will be counted as extra credit.
- Graduate student members of the course are required to present individually, rather than in groups, and their presentations will count towards their participation grades (see items 5. and 6., below).

3. Midterm Examination (25%): On **Wednesday, February 29**, a fifty minute midterm exam will be held in class. It will consist of identifications and short answer responses. A review sheet will be posted online the week before the exam. Alternate dates for exams (midterm) are generally not permitted, but may be in special cases at the discretion of the instructor. The student must request such an arrangement **at least 2 weeks in advance of the scheduled exam date**. Makeup exams will only be scheduled after the fact in cases of documented emergency.

4. Quizzes (20%): Brief, short-answer or multiple-choice quizzes may be given at any point in the semester, either in lecture or online via Sakai. The lecture quizzes will be usually be unannounced (i.e. “pop” quizzes), whereas the online quizzes will be announced in class or via email at least one day in advance. Expect at least 4-5 such quizzes during the course of the semester. Quizzes may not be made up except in case of documented medical emergency. **The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.**

5. Participation and Attendance (10%): A class participation grade will be determined on the basis of attendance and active contribution in both lecture and (especially) Friday discussion sections. An attendance sheet will be distributed at the beginning of each class, and **every absence will be penalized** except those with appropriate documentation of medical or other emergency. Informing the instructor or TA of an upcoming absence is a welcome courtesy, but this alone does not constitute an excused absence.

6. *Research Paper (15%)*; **This assignment is required for graduate students and optional for undergraduates.** A research paper approximately 10 pages (2500 words) will be due via Sakai on **Monday, April 30**. The paper is expected to present original research on a topic of your choosing; feel free to discuss possible topics with the instructor any point during the semester. Proposed topics (including a working bibliography) will be due via email on **Friday, April 20**.

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**Grading Scale and Assignment Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Proportion</th>
<th>Grade Scale</th>
<th>Grade Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Response Papers 30%</td>
<td>100-93=A</td>
<td>A 4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Leading *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>Quizzes 20%</td>
<td>85-82=B</td>
<td>B 3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation 10%</td>
<td>81-79=B-</td>
<td>B- 2.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper *15%</td>
<td>78-75=C+</td>
<td>C+ 2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>75-72=C</td>
<td>C 2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>71-69=C-</td>
<td>C- 1.67</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
undergraduate student members may choose either a group presentation or a final research paper, or both. For those that do both, the research paper will be counted as extra credit. graduate student members will lead discussion individually, and their presentation will be evaluated as part of the Participation grade. The research paper is required for grad student members.

Academic Honesty

Students must conform to UF’s academic honesty policy regarding plagiarism and other forms of cheating. This means that on all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The university specifically prohibits cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation, bribery, conspiracy, and fabrication. For more information about the definition of these terms and other aspects of the Honesty Guidelines, see http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php and http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~itl/honor.html. All students found to have cheated, plagiarized, or otherwise violated the Honor Code in any assignment for this course will be prosecuted to the full extent of the university honor policy, including judicial action and the sanctions listed in paragraph XI of the Student Conduct Code. For serious violations, you will fail this course.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Please do not hesitate to ask for accommodation for a documented disability. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Please ask the instructor if you would like any assistance in this process.

OTHER POLICIES, RULES, AND RESOURCES

1. Late or Make-Up Assignments: You may receive an extension on an assignment only in extraordinary circumstances and with prior approval from the instructor. If an extension is not granted, the assignment will be marked down 1/3 grade (e.g., from B+ to B) for each day late.
2. **Completion of All Assignments**: You must complete all written and oral assignments and fulfill the requirement for class participation in order to pass the course.

3. **Common Courtesy**: Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off during class. Students who receive or make calls or text messages during class will be asked to leave and marked absent for the day. The instructors may ask students engaging in disruptive behavior, including but not limited to whispering or snoring, to leave the class. If that occurs, the student will be marked absent for the day.

4. **Computer Use in Class**: You may take notes on a laptop, tablet, phone, or similar device **ONLY WITH PRIOR PERMISSION OF THE INSTRUCTOR**. Such permission is usually granted only in cases of documented disabilities.

5. **Counseling Resources**: Resources available on-campus for students include the following:
   
   a. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling;
   
   b. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling;
   
   c. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling;
   
   d. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.

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**Required Texts**

The following required texts are available from the University of Florida Bookstore in Reitz Union on Museum Road, and from other local booksellers.


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**Online Readings and Sakai (=E-Learning)**

Outside of these three required texts, all of the required readings for this course will be available on the Sakai site for this course ([http://lss.at.ufl.edu/](http://lss.at.ufl.edu/)). Please get accustomed to using Sakai as your primary interface for this course, as it will also feature the most current syllabus including any (minor) changes in assigned readings or other course requirements that may take place during the course of the semester.
Note that there is no separate course packet available for purchase, and no handouts of these readings will be provided in class – it is the responsibility of the student to download the appropriate files for the week and remain current with the reading.

If you have any trouble accessing or using the Sakai interface, please call the support desk at (352) 392-4357, or email learning-support@ufl.edu. Please do not contact your instructor for tech-related issues!

Schedule of Readings

Please see Sakai for full bibliographic references and schedule updates, and to download files

Week 1: Introduction to the course

M 1/9  No reading
A. Bharati, “Pilgrimage in the Indian Tradition.”
D. Eck, “Imagined Landscapes”

Week 2: Foundational Concepts and Texts

M 1/16  NO CLASS (MLK Holiday)
W 1/18  J. Fitzgerald, “Mahabharata”
J. Hegarty, “Platial Imagination in the Sanskrit Mahabharata”
Y. Vassilkov, “Indian Practices of Pilgrimage and the Growth of the Mahabharata”

Week 3: Epic Journeys


Week 4: Epic Places

M 1/30  J. Smith, trans. Mahabharata, selections (“Burning of the Khandava Forest,” “Virata”)

Response paper #1 due by 5pm on Sunday 1/29

Week 5: The Temple in Hinduism
M 2/6  S. Kramrisch, “Tirtha and Temple”  
G. Michell, “The Temple as a Link between Gods and Man”  
W 2/8  D. Hudson, *The Body of God*, selections

**Week 6: Temple and Linga**
M 2/13  D. Eck, “The Aniconic Image”  
P. Younger, *Home of the Dancing Sivan*, selections  
W 2/15  B. Fleming, “The Case of the Twelve Jyotirlingas”  

**Week 7: Pilgrimage**
M 2/20  Anne Feldhaus, *Connected Places*, selections  

Response Paper #2 due by 5pm on Sunday 2/26

**Week 8: Goddesses and Place**
M 2/27  D. Kinsley, “The Mahavidyas as a Group”  
M. Dyczkowski, *A Journey in the World of the Tantras*, selections  

W 2/29  IN-CLASS MIDTERM

**Week 9: SPRING BREAK**
M 3/5-9  No class: Enjoy the break!

**Week 10: Tantra and the Goddess**
M 3/12  T. Smith, “Tantra”  
W 3/14  J. Hawley and D. Wulff, eds., *Devi: Goddesses of India*, selections

**Week 11: Tantra and the Body**
M 3/19  G. Flood, *Tantric Body*, selections  

**Week 12: Varanasi**
M 3/26  D. Eck, *Banaras: City of Light*  
W 3/28  B. Bhattacharya, *The World of Tantra*, selections

**Week 13: Varanasi 2**
M 4/2  T. Smith, *Glorifying Varanasi*, selections  
W 4/4  T. Smith, *Glorifying Varanasi*, selections
Response Paper #3 due by 5pm on Sunday 4/8

**Week 14: Vrindavan**
M 4/9 D. Haberman, *Journey through the Twelve Forests*, entire
W 4/11

**Week 15: Victory to the Mother**
M 4/16 Erndl, *Victory to the Mother*, entire
W 4/18

**Week 16: TBA**
M 4/23 Readings TBA
W 4/25 Readings TBA