

Spring 2014  
**SPECIAL TOPICS IN HINDU TRADITIONS (REL 5338)**  
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TIME: Thursday Periods 7-9

CREDITS: 3 Semester Hours

Office Hours: Thursday 5.00-6.00 pm and by appointment

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PLACE: MAT 108

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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>

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***

From Mittal, Sushil, and Gene R. Thursby. 2004. *The Hindu World*. New York: Routledge:

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."

Donald R. Davis, "Law." Mittal, Sushil, and Gene R. Thursby. 2008. *Studying Hinduism: key concepts and methods*. London: Routledge.

**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)**

Laurie L. Patton, "Veda and Upanisad" Mittal, Sushil, and Gene R. Thursby. 2004. *The Hindu world*. New York: Routledge.  
James L. Fitzgerald, "Mahabharata". Mittal, Sushil, and Gene R. Thursby. 2004. *The Hindu world*. New York: Routledge.  
Robert P. Goldman, and Sally J. Sutherland Goldman. "Ramayana." Mittal, Sushil, and Gene R. Thursby. 2004. *The Hindu world*. New York: Routledge.  
Velcheru Narayana Rao, "Purana." Mittal, Sushil, and Gene R. Thursby. 2004. *The Hindu world*. New York: Routledge.

From Flood, Gavin D. 2003. *The Blackwell companion to Hinduism*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Pub.:

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*  
Manu, Patrick Olivelle, and Suman Olivelle. 2005. *Manu's code of law: a critical edition and translation of the Manava-Dharmasastra*. Oxford: Oxford University Press  
Olivelle, Patrick, and Richard W. Lariviere. 2005. *Dharmasūtra parallels: containing the Dharmasūtras of Āpastamba, Gautama, Baudhāyana, and Vasiṣṭha*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers

Also two discussants should lead us through:  
Hazra, R. C. 1975. *Studies in the Purāṇic records on Hindu rites and customs*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass.  
Doniger, Wendy. *Purāṇa Perennis: Reciprocity and Transformation in Hindu and Jaina Texts*. Albany, New York: State University of New York. READ E-BOOK FROM OUR LIBRARY.  
Rocher, Ludo. *The Puranas (A History of Indian Literature, Vol. 2)*. Harrassowitz, 1986.

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

How festivals are computed? major festivals/ myths and rituals  
Rites of passages  
Domestic rituals--  
Kāmya karyā—vrata

Students to generate a bibliography

"Calendar, Astrology, and Astronomy," by Michio Yano. Flood, Gavin D. 2003. *The Blackwell companion to Hinduism*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Pub.

Sanford, Whitney. "The Hindu ritual calendar" in Rinehart, R. (2004). *Contemporary Hinduism: Ritual, culture, and practice*. Santa Barbara, Calif: ABC-CLIO.

Kathryn McClymond, “Ritual.” Mittal, Sushil, and Gene R. Thursby. 2008. *Studying Hinduism: key concepts and methods*. London: Routledge.

“Samskara,” by Mary McGee. Mittal, Sushil, and Gene R. Thursby. 2004. *The Hindu world*. New York: Routledge.

Welbon, Guy Richard, and Glenn E. Yocum. 1982. *Religious festivals in South India and Sri Lanka*. New Delhi: Manohar.

Selections from Kane, *History of Dharmasāstra*

## **Tuesday, February 18**

### **Food**

R. S. Khare , “Anna.” Mittal, Sushil, and Gene R. Thursby. 2004. *The Hindu world*. New York: Routledge.

Vasudha Narayanan, “Ritual Food’ (7400 words) Brill’s Encyclopedia of Hinduism, volume 2., Sacred Texts, Ritual Traditions, Arts, Concepts. Edited by Knut Jacobsen (chief editor), Angelika Malinar, Vasudha Narayanan, and Helene Basu (associate editors). Brill, 2010

Appadurai, A. ‘How to Make a National Cuisine: Cookbooks in Contemporary India,’ *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 30, 1, 1988, 3-24.

Jenett, Dianne. “A Million *Shaktis* Rising: Pongala, a Women's Festival in Kerala, India” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 21.1 (2005) 35-55

Kāṇḍe, Pāṇḍuraṅga Vāmana. *History of Dharmasāstra: (Ancient and Mediæval Religious and Civil Law)*, vol II, part 2. Poona, 1974.

Khare, R.S. *The Eternal Food: Gastronomic Ideas and Experiences of Hindus and Buddhists*. Albany, 1992.

Srinivasan, D. *Concept of cow in the Rigveda*. Delhi, 1979.

Toomey, P.M., *Food from the Mouth of Krishna: Feasts and Festivals in a North Indian Pilgrimage Centre*. Studies in sociology and social anthropology. Delhi, 1994.

## **Tuesday, February 25**

### **Performance—music and dance**

### **Bibliographic exercise: books and the internet.**

Soneji, Davesh. 2012. *Unfinished Gestures: Devadasis, Memory, and Modernity in South India*.

Balasaraswati. T. No date. “T. Balasarawati on Bharata Natyam.” Presidential speech at the Tamil Isai Sangam. <http://www.carnatica.net/dance/bharatanatyam1.htm>. Translation posted.

Avanthi Meduri, 2005. Rukmini Devi Arundale (1904-1986): A Visionary Architect of Indian Culture and the Performing Arts. Motilal Banarsidass.

Balasaraswati. T. No date. "T. Balasarawati on Bharata Natyam." Presidential speech at the Tamil Isai Sangam. <http://www.carnatica.net/dance/bharatanatyam1.htm>. Translation posted.

### **March 3 – 7 spring break**

#### **Thursday, March 13**

##### **Bollywood**

Philip Lutgendorf, "Cinema." Mittal, Sushil, and Gene R. Thursby. 2008. *Studying Hinduism: key concepts and methods*. London: Routledge.

Philip Lutgendorf, "Jai Santoshi Maa Revisited: On Seeing a Hindu "Mythological" Film" in

Relevant sections from:

Bose, Mihir. 2006. *Bollywood: a history*. Stroud, Gloucestershire [England]: Tempus Pub.

Kabir, Nasreen Munni. 2001. *Bollywood: the Indian cinema story*. London: Channel 4 books

Joshi, Lalit Mohan. 2001. *Bollywood: popular Indian cinema*. London: Dakini.

Ganti, Tejaswini. 2004. *Bollywood: a guidebook to popular Hindi cinema*. Routledge film guidebooks. London: Routledge.

Kavoori, Anandam P., and Aswin Punathambekar. 2008. *Global Bollywood*. New York: New York University Press.

#### **Tuesday, March 18**

##### **Women; gender; transgender**

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

Ann Grodzins Gold, "Gender." Mittal, Sushil, and Gene R. Thursby. 2008. *Studying Hinduism: key concepts and methods*. London: Routledge.

Vasudha Narayanan, "Gender in a Devotional Universe." Flood, Gavin D. 2003. *The Blackwell companion to Hinduism*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Pub.

Patton, Laurie L. 2002. *Jewels of Authority: Women and Text in the Hindu Tradition*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Pearson, Anne. 1996. *Because it gives me peace of mind : ritual fasts in the religious lives of Hindu women*. Albany : State University of New York Press.

Pintchman, Tracy. 2007. *Women's lives, women's rituals in the Hindu tradition*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

#### **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

Vasudha Dalmia and Heinrich von Steitencron , eds., *Representing Hinduism*. New Delhi: Sage Books.

Sweetman, Will. 2003. *Mapping Hinduism: 'Hinduism' and the study of Indian religions, 1600-1776*. Halle: Franckesche Stiftungen.

Sontheimer and Hermann Kulke, eds., *Hinduism Reconsidered*. New Delhi, India: Manohar.

April 15—last day of class: Student paper presentations