

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

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Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00 – 3:00pm, Thursday 1:00 – 2:00 pm, Anderson 008
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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:

R. K. Narayan, *The Ramayana: A Shortened Modern Prose Version of the Indian Epic* (Penguin Classics, 2006). 0143039679

W.J. Johnson, trans. *The Bhagavad Gita* (Oxford World Classics, 2009).
0199538123

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.

Grade Proportion	Grade Scale	Grade Value
Participation 10%	100-93=A	A=4.0
Quizzes 15%	92-90=A-	A-=3.67
Midterm Exam 25 %	89-86=B+	B+=3.33
Response Papers 30%	85-82=B	B=3.00
Final Exam 25%	81-79=B-	B-=2.67
	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

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

Tu 8/27 William W. Malandra, *An Introduction to Ancient Iranian Religion* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1983), pp. 3-16.

Laurie L. Patton. "Veda and Upanishad," in S. Mittal and G. Thursby, eds., *The Hindu World* (London: Routledge, 2004), pp. 37-51.

Th 8/29 A. Enslee, ed. *Sources of Indian Tradition, vol. 1* (New York: Columbia, 1998), pp. 3-26 (selections from Vedic texts).

Week 3: Dharma, Veda and Vedānta

Tu 9/3 W. Halbfass, *India and Europe: An Essay in Understanding* (Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 1988), pp. 310-333 ("Dharma in the Self-Understanding of Traditional Hinduism").

Th 9/5 P. Olivelle, trans., "Muṇḍaka Upaniṣad," "Katha Upaniṣad."

Week 4: Dharma Enacted – The Rāmāyaṇa

Tu 9/10 Narayan, *Ramayana*, 3-95.

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

Brill's Encyclopedia of Hinduism, vol. 2 (Leiden: Brill, 2010), pp. 111-126.

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;

“The Dice Match” in Wilmot, trans., *Mahābhārata Book Two: the Great Hall* (NYU Press, 2006), 377-510.

Th 10/10 SIT 274-296. (Bhagavad Gītā selections)

Week 9: Encountering the Gods and Goddess – Viṣṇu, Śiva, Devī

Tu 10/15 SIT 319-331; *D. Eck, *Darśan: Seeing the Divine in India* (Anima, 1985), 3-31.

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