

REL5338/ , Hindu Traditions 1

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office hours: Tuesdays 2:00-2:45 and by appointment (zoom appointments possible)

Class Meeting Time

Credits: 3 credit hours

Thursday, Period 7-8 (1:45-3:30) Mat 16

Using the two volumes (Mittal and Thursby and *Blackwell Companion to Hinduism*, ed. Gavin Flood) as core texts, we discuss the history and major themes of the Hindu Traditions in South Asia and globally.

We will also go through the reading list for the qualifying exam and use some of the texts from these lists to augment the core readings of the Mittal -Thursby and the Flood volumes.

The course is a seminar with weekly student papers. We will have specific topics for every week. Students will have to write a critical summary of this chapter or theme (and other relevant chapters that we be discussing every week) and present it in class. Based on the discussions, you can make the changes, if you so choose, and then submit them to me over the weekend. Students in the past have also generated bibliographic lists for many topics and we will choose some topics where this exercise will be relevant.

Hindu Traditions 1 in Fall 2023 and Hindu Traditions 2 in Spring 2024 will provide you with the basic tools to read for your qualifying exams.

Attached to this syllabus are two reading lists (with a large overlap) for the Hinduism Qualifying Exams (also known as Comps) in this department. These have been used in the past but we should also look at some emerging scholarship.

Topics will include:

Construction of Hinduism

History of the Hindu Traditions in the context of its history

Major themes and debates.

Some of these topics come under the purview of “Interpreting Asian Religions.” I will have more to tell you about this exam and what the department decides in about a month or so.