

**RELS 245- THE HINDU TRADITION**  
**Fall 2015**  
**Dr. June McDaniel**



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**Goals:** This course will focus upon the major religious tradition of India, Hinduism, but will also include information on Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, and Islam. The class will give skills and knowledge that are important for Religious Studies, and include reading and analysis of primary texts, data from fieldwork, films and guest speakers.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Embree, **Sources of Indian Tradition**  
 McDaniel, **Making Virtuous Daughters and Wives**  
 Miller, **The Bhagavad Gita**  
 Muesse, **The Hindu Tradition**  
 Yogananda, **Autobiography of a Yogi**

**OPTIONAL READINGS:**

Mookerjee, **Kundalini**  
 Goldberg, **American Veda** (on reserve)  
 Ram Dass, **Be Here Now** (on reserve)

**ATTENDANCE:** There will be three allowed absences. I will note a warning on the attendance sheet at the third absence, saying that the student will be dropped if there is another absence. Four absences means two weeks of work missed. Class lectures include information that is not in your textbooks. If the absences are excused (due to illness or other emergency) please let me know and I will cross them off the attendance sheet.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND THE HONOR CODE:** There is a zero-tolerance policy toward plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty in this course. This means that anyone caught taking credit for work that is not his or her own, or cheating in any other way, will get a failing grade for the course, which will show up on the transcript as an XF grade. Students are expected to follow the Honor Code of the College.

**GRADING:** Will be based upon five grades, each worth 1/5 of the total grade. There will be 3 tests (the last a take-home final), and 2 papers. The passing grade is D-, or 60. Grades are not curved.

Grading scale:

A	94- 100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	64-66
D-	60-63
F	below 60

Class participation will raise your grade, and never saying anything in class will lower your grade. Your participation can raise or lower your grade by two points (this makes a difference when your grade is an 89.5, or even 79.5).

I give makeup tests only for emergencies, and they are harder than the original tests (there is no choice of questions).

This course satisfies the General Education requirements for a Humanities course and students will achieve these two learning outcomes:

- 1) Students analyze how ideas are represented, interpreted or valued in various expressions of human culture;
- 2) Students examine relevant primary source materials as understood by the discipline and interpret the material in writing assignments. These two learning outcomes will be demonstrated on the paper #1.

**PAPERS:** This class requires two writing assignments. A writing guide will be given out for the papers. Each paper should be 7-10 full pages long, and in addition have a title page and bibliography. They must be handed in on time, and in hard copy (no electronic papers will be accepted). There will be 10 points deducted for each class that the paper is late.

**PAPER #1-** Signature Assignment. This will be due on October 22.

Apply Hindu categories of understanding to two events, one personal to you, one national or international. Include four categories, such as the Hindu ideas of *karma*, *dharmā*, *prema*, and *ahimsa*. How would a Hindu philosopher analyze these events, using these categories? Each term should be based on a primary source, which is identified and described.

Your grade will depend on how well you apply the concept to the modern events, and how well you describe its use in the primary text. You should include what kind of text it is (is it a book? a poem? a song?), the author, the date, and a little about the culture in which it was written.

**PAPER #2-** This term paper will be a report on a ritual (like prayer, meditation, marriage or death practices), or a deity or a philosophical idea within the area of one of the Indian religions that we have studied. You should discuss your topic in both historical context and in the modern world. Other topics are possible with the permission of the professor. I shall hand out a writing guide for the paper.

Paper #2 is due on November 19.

**DISABILITY:** If you have a disability that qualifies you for academic accommodation, please present a letter from the Center for Disability Services at the beginning of the semester. For more information, please contact [www.cofc.edu/~cds/index.htm](http://www.cofc.edu/~cds/index.htm)

**CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF DURING CLASS!**

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Abbreviations for textbooks:

Sources of Indian Traditions: SIT

Hindu Tradition: HT

Making Virtuous Daughters and Wives: Wives

Bhagavad Gita: Gita

Autobiography of a Yogi: Yogi

There will also be some readings on OAKS.

## SYLLABUS

Date	Topic	Readings
8/25	Introduction, What is Hinduism?	
8/27	Tribal Religions in India Pre-Aryan religion	HT, part 1, chap. 1 OAKS, Folk Shaktism
9/1	The Vedas	HT, part 1, chap. 2, 3 SIT, chap. 1
9/3	The Upanishads	SIT, chap. 2 HT, part 2, chap. 4 OAKS, Katha Upanishad
9/8	Yoga, renunciation and asceticism, Film, 'Naked in Ashes'	OAKS, Patanjali and Yoga
9/10	Library research day	
9/15	Jainism	SIT, chaps 3-4
9/17	Theravada, Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhism	SIT, chaps 5-7
9/22	Buddhism in India, Guest speaker	
9/24	Intro to dharma and caste	Bring in discussion questions HT, Part 2, chap. 5
9/29	<b>TEST #1</b>	
10/1	The stages of life, arranged marriage, dowry Check marriage websites for partner, Bring 2 possibilities to class <a href="http://www.shaadi.com">www.shaadi.com</a> , <a href="http://www.jeevansathi.com">www.jeevansathi.com</a> , <a href="http://www.bharatmatrimony.com">www.bharatmatrimony.com</a> , <a href="http://www.muslima.com">www.muslima.com</a> Debate- is love marriage better than arranged marriage?	OAKS- Savitri HT, chap. 6
10/6	Goals of Life, rituals and festivals Hindu culture	Gita, first half SIT, chaps 8-10 HT, chap. 7
10/8	Moksha and the Bhagavad Gita Meditation and enlightenment	Gita, second half HT, chaps 8, 9

10/13	The rise of Bhakti, Vaishnavism, Vishnu, Rama and Krishna <a href="http://www.mythome.org/RamaSummary.html">http://www.mythome.org/RamaSummary.html</a>	HT, chap. 10
10/15	Popular religion, vows and rituals Watch online <a href="http://www.sitasingstheblues.com">www.sitasingstheblues.com</a>	Wives, first half 1 page response to film
10/20	<b>Fall break, no class</b>	
10/22	Goddess worship in India Durga puja, art and culture	Wives, second half HT, chap. 11 <b>Paper #1 due!</b>
10/27	Other gods and goddesses <a href="http://www.sanskrit.org/www/Hindu%20Primer/samskaras.html">http://www.sanskrit.org/www/Hindu%20Primer/samskaras.html</a> Bhajan and Kirtan	OAKS- Who is who...
10/29	Kundalini yoga, slides	OAKS, Kundalini
11/3	Puja lecture and discussion Guest speaker	
11/5	Special study: Hindi poetry Guest speaker Questions before test	TBA
11/10	<b>TEST #2</b>	
11/12	Yoga and yogis	Yogi, first half
11/17	The development of modern yoga Guest speaker	Yogi, second half Take home exam given out
11/19	Islam in India, Sufism	SIT, chaps 13, 14, 15 <b>Paper #2 due!</b>
11/24	<b>Study day, no class</b>	
11/26	<b>Thanksgiving break, no class</b>	
12/1	Some Hindu variations- Sikhism, Balinese Hinduism	<b>Take home exam due</b> SIT- chap 16
12/3	Modern Hinduism in India- from Ramakrishna to the BJP, and its influence on the USA	HT, part 4, chap. 12 Optional: Be Here Now, American Veda