

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
FALL 2005 Course Outline

05/09/09

Religious Studies 303 L02 - Introduction to Hinduism
MWF 1000-1050

Professor: Christopher Framarin
email: chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca
Office: 1212 SS, phone: 220-5532
Office Hours: M 1300-1500 and by appointment

Course Overview:

In the first part of this course we will survey some basic Hindu concepts like *moksa* (liberation), *dharm*a (duty/ order, roughly translated), *karma* (action and consequences), *atman* (self), rebirth, and *varna* (caste) and *jati* (subcaste). In the second part we will study the Advaita Vedanta and Samkhya *darsanas* (philosophical systems), as a means of facilitating our study of the *Bhagavadgita*. Special emphasis will be given to the systems' claims about ultimate reality, the *atman*, and *moksa*. In the third part we will read selected *Gita* chapters. In the fourth we will read the writings of a modern Indian saint, Vivekananda.

Required Readings:

Course packet, available at Bound and Copied.

Deutsch, Eliot, *Advaita Vedanta: A Philosophical Reconstruction* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1969).

Larson, Gerald, *Classical Samkhya: An Interpretation of Its History and Meaning* (Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 2001).

Sargeant, Winthrop, *Pocket Bhagavadgita* (SUNY, 1994) OR Sargeant, Winthrop, *Bhagavadgita* (SUNY, 1989). (The first is about \$15US, the second \$35, but the second has the Sanskrit and a word by word translation. If you plan to pursue religious studies as a major I strongly recommend the second instead of the first.)

Evaluation:

Students will take two in-class essay exams and write a final 6-10 page paper that defends an original thesis. Participation will also count toward the final grade.

Grades will be calculated as follows:

Participation:

10%

Exam 1 (Friday, September 30):

20%

Exam 2: (Wednesday, November 16):

30%

Final Paper (Due Friday, December 16):

40%

A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme:

A+	100 - 96	A	95 - 90	A-	89 - 85
B+	84 - 80	B	79 - 75	B-	74 - 70
C+	69 - 65	C	64 - 60	C-	59 - 55
D+	54 - 53	D	52-50	F	Under 50

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.

Policies:

I expect students to attend every class and arrive on time. If there is some reason for an absence, you should let me know by email or phone. Exams must be taken on the exam date. Only under very extreme circumstances will I allow a make-up exam.

Core Competencies:

Students will develop interpersonal communication skills (written and oral), critical thinking and reasoning skills, and information retrieval.

Recording of Lectures:

Recording any part of any lecture in any form must first be approved by me in writing. Any recordings are for individual private study only. See current calendar, Tape Recording of Lectures.

Academic Honesty:

Students should be familiar with University regulations regarding academic integrity. See relevant pages in the current University Calendar. I will investigate and prosecute any suspected case of plagiarizing in this course to the fullest extent.

Academic Accommodation:

If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, contact their office at 220-8237. Once registered, discuss arrangements for exams as soon as possible, well before the examination dates.

Gnosis:

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: gnosis@ucalgary.ca or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.

Course Schedule:

WEEK 1

M Sept. 12

Course Introduction

Karma and Rebirth

Nyayasutra, Kundun

Homework: Stevenson, Ian, Excerpt from *Twenty Cases Suggestive of Reincarnation* (handed out in class)

W Sept. 14

Karma and Rebirth: Stevenson

Homework: Kinsley, *Hinduism: A Cultural Perspective*, ch. 5

F Sept. 16

Dharma and Moksa

Homework: Kinsley, *Hinduism*, ch. 7, and *Purusasukta, Rg Veda* 10.90 (in Sourcebook in Indian Philosophy [packet])

WEEK 2

M Sept. 19

The Caste System

Homework: Dumont, Louis, *Homo Hierarchicus*, ch. 1

W Sept. 21

The Caste System

Homework: Klostermeier, Klaus K., *A Survey of Hinduism*, ch. 21

F Sept. 23

The Caste System

Homework: Radhakrishnan, S., *Eastern Religions and Western Thought*, pp. 351-385

WEEK 3

M Sept. 26

Caturvarna Theory

Homework: Review for Exam

W Sept. 28

In-Class Review for Exam

Homework: Review for Exam

F Sept. 30

Exam

No Homework

WEEK 4

M Oct. 3

Introduction to Advaita Vedanta

Homework: Deutsch, Eliot, *Advaita Vedanta*, pp. 3-26

W Oct. 5
Brahman and Levels of Being in Advaita
Homework: Deutsch, pp. 27-45

F Oct. 7
Brahman and the World
Homework: Deutsch, pp. 47-65

WEEK 5

M Oct. 10
Thanksgiving – No Class

W Oct. 12
Atman
Homework: Deutsch, pp. 67-79

F Oct 14
Karma
Homework: Deutsch, pp. 81-102

WEEK 6

M Oct. 17
Epistemology and Ethics
Homework: Larson, Gerald, *Classical Samkhya*, pp. 75-95

W Oct. 19
Samkhya
Homework: Larson, pp. 95-133 (note: this is the assigned reading for the next two classes. We will take two days to cover the content.)

F Oct. 21
Proto-Samkhya
Homework: Larson, pp. 95-133

WEEK 7

M Oct. 24
Proto (pre-Classical)-Samkhya
Homework: Larson, pp. 134-153

W Oct. 26
Classical Samkhya
Homework: Larson, pp. 154-176

F Oct. 28
Classical Samkhya
Homework: Larson, pp. 176-208

WEEK 8

M Oct. 31
Classical Samkhya
Homework: Gita, chs. 1 & 2

W Nov. 2
Gita, chs. 1 & 2
Homework: Gita ch. 3

F Nov. 4
Gita ch. 3
Homework: Gita ch. 4

WEEK 9

M Nov. 7
Gita ch. 4
Homework: Gita chs. 5 & 6

W Nov. 9
Gita, chs. 5 & 6
Homework: Prepare for Review

F Nov 11
No Class – Remembrance Day

WEEK 10

M Nov. 14
Exam Review
Homework: Study for Exam #2

W Nov. 16
Exam #2
Homework: Gita chs. 7-8

F Nov. 18
Gita chs. 7 & 8
Homework: Gita chs. 9-11

Week 11

M Nov. 21
Gita chs. 9-11
Homework: GITA 1 & 2 (from *Complete Works of Swami Vivekananda*)

W Nov. 23
Vivekananda GITA 1 & 2
Homework: GITA 3

F Nov. 25
GITA 3
Homework: Karma-Yoga (in *Vivekananda: The Yogas and Other Works*), pp. 457 - 476

WEEK 12

M Nov. 28
Karma, Character, and Work
Homework: Karma-Yoga, pp. 477 - 494

W Nov. 30
Duty and Non-Attachment
Homework: Karma-Yoga, pp. 495 – 508

F Dec. 2
Freedom and the Ideal
Homework: Bhakti Yoga (in *Complete Works*), pp. 31-47

Week 13

M Dec. 5
Intro to Bhakti Yoga
Homework: Bhakti Yoga pp. 47-69

W Dec. 7
Moksa and Gurus
Homework: Work on Final Papers

F Dec. 9
Course Conclusion
Homework: Final Papers

Final Papers Due December 16, 9:00 a.m., in my office (1212 SS)