

RELS 245- RELIGIONS OF INDIA
Spring 2008
Dr. June McDaniel

Office: 4 Glebe St, Room 101
Office Hours: MWF 10-11:00, Weds 3:30-4:30
Phone: (843) 953-5956
E-mail: mcdanielj@cofc.edu

This course is designed to introduce the religious, cultural and social aspects of India. It will focus upon the major religious tradition of India, Hinduism, but will also include information on Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, and Islam. The class will include the study of primary texts, data from fieldwork, films and guest speakers.

TEXTS:

Embree, Sources of Indian Tradition
Ram-Prasad, India: Life, Myth and Art
Klostermaier, A Short Introduction to Hinduism
McDaniel, Making Virtuous Daughters and Wives

ATTENDANCE: There will be FIVE allowed absences. I will note a warning on the attendance sheet at the fifth absence, saying that the student will be dropped if there is another absence. If any of the absences are excused (illness or other emergency) please let me know and I will cross them off the attendance sheet.

GRADING: Will be based upon five grades, each worth 1/5 of the total grade.

3 tests

2 papers (7 pages each, can be longer but not shorter)

The passing grade is D, or 65. Grades are not curved.

Class participation will raise your grade, and lack of class participation will lower your grade. I give makeup tests for emergencies, but they are harder than the original tests (there are no choices of questions).

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

A writing guide will be given out for the papers.

PAPER #1- Apply Hindu categories to two events, one personal to you, one national or international. Include four categories like karma, dharma, prema, and ahimsa. How would a Hindu philosopher analyze your situations, using these categories?

PAPER #2- This paper will be a report on a ritual, deity or philosophical idea within the area of Indian religion. Other topics are possible with the permission of the professor. The paper should describe the ritual, or deity or idea in detail, and then compare it with a similar ritual, deity or idea in the modern USA, showing similarities and differences. The paper should be complete with title page, references, and bibliography.

Abbreviations:

Sources of Indian Traditions: SIT

India: Life, Myth and Art: India

A Short Introduction to Hinduism: Intro

Making Virtuous Daughters and Wives: Wives

SYLLABUS

Date	Topic	Readings
1/9	Introduction, film 'India and the Infinite'	
1/14	Creation and Cosmos	India, pp. 6-49 Intro, chap. 1
1/16	The Vedas	Intro, chaps 2-4
1/21	Martin Luther King day- No classes	
1/23	Vedic texts	SIT, chap. 1
1/28	Upanishads	SIT, chap. 2 Intro, chap. 9
1/30	Jainism	SIT, chap 3 India, pp. 62-63
2/4	Buddhism	SIT, chaps. 5-7 India, pp. 64-69
2/6	Yoga	Intro, pp. 96-103 India pp. 52-53

2/11	Yoga practice (guest speaker)	
2/13	TEST #1	
2/18	Pilgrimage- film 'Out of India'	
2/20	Goals of life Artha, kama, dharma	SIT, chaps 8-10
2/25	Moksha and the Bhagavad Gita	SIT, chap. 11 Intro, pp. 54-57
2/27	Vishnu and his avatars	Intro, chaps 5, 6 SIT chap 12, 351-368
3/3	Spring break	
3/5	Spring break	
3/10	Shiva and Shakti	Intro, chaps 7, 8 SIT, rest of chap. 12
3/12	Islam	SIT, chap. 13 PAPER #1 DUE
3/17	Sufism	SIT, chap. 15
3/19	Sikhism	SIT, chap. 16
3/24	TEST #2	
3/26	Asceticism and renunciation Film: Sons of Shiva	Intro, pp. 31-33
3/31	Daily life and ritual (guest speaker)	Intro, pp. 27-35
4/2	Folk Hinduism, shamanism	Wives, chaps. 1, 2
4/7	Bratas and Hindu rituals	Wives, chaps. 3- 6
4/9	Arranged marriage and Family structure, film	PAPER #2 DUE!
4/14	India and its problems: Caste, violence, dowry	Intro, chap. 14 Bring in examples from media
4/16	Major figures: Gandhi, Ramakrishna, Vivekananda	Intro, chap. 13

- 4/21 Alternative medicine: India, 118-134
 Ayurveda, kundalini yoga,
 Hindu astrology
- 4/23 Class discussion of papers-
 Research on rituals and gods

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 receive a failing grade for the entire course, which will show up on the transcript as an XF grade. Students are expected to abide by the Honor Code of the College.