

Religion 202: Understanding Indian Religions

3 credits

MWF 11:30-12:20pm

INSTRUCTOR:	Sarah Hadmack
OFFICE:	Palanakila 140
OFFICE HOURS:	TuTh 12:40-1:20pm, MWF 10:30-11:20
EMAIL:	minnis@hawaii.edu
TELEPHONE:	236-9140
WEBSITE:	www.windward.hawaii.edu/religion
EFFECTIVE DATE:	Fall 2009

WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Windward Community College is committed to excellence in the liberal arts and career development; we support and challenge individuals to develop skills, fulfill their potential, enrich their lives, and become contributing, culturally aware members of our community.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Historical survey of the teachings and practices of the major religious traditions of India. WCC: DH, WI

Prerequisites: Placement in English 100

Recommended Preparation: Religion 150 or 151

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The student learning outcomes for the course are:

1. Identify the myths, histories, doctrines, and practices of Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, and Sikhism.
2. Identify each religion's understanding of the human condition, ethics, knowledge, death, the afterlife, and conceptions of the divine.
3. Identify common themes within the religions studied.
4. Interpret primary sources (such as epics, devotional poetry, mystical instruction, myths, and hymns)
5. Examine the relationship between religion and culture/society.

6. Question and think critically.

COURSE TASKS

The course will be centered on the following tasks, which serve as both learning and assessment tools.

- ✍ Take two exams. Exams will be based on material covered in class and the course readings.
 - Exams will be challenging but students are allowed open notes and open books.
 - Exam II is not cumulative.
 - To do your best on each of the exams, it helps to cultivate good listening, studying, and note-taking skills.

- 📖 Complete a variety of writing assignments.
 - Satisfactorily complete the research paper. Each student will select a topic he/she finds interesting in Indian religions and begin researching it early in the semester. Research papers include submitting drafts, peer reviews, and one conference with the instructor. The research paper should be approximately 8-10 pages double-spaced. Paper writing guidelines and a rubric will be distributed prior to the due date.
 - Satisfactorily complete four shorter papers. The shorter papers do not require drafts, peer reviews, or conferencing. For these essays, students will be provided with the paper topic and should select the format in which he/she would like to write. NOTE: some formats require a 1-2 page reflection paper.

- 📁 Complete a variety of in-class activities including journal entries, card swaps, webbing, flashcard ‘quiz,’ pair square discussions, popcorn reading, role play, silent Socratic dialogue, toss a ‘test,’ crossword puzzles, word searches, art symbolism identification, game shows, etc.
 - These assignments enhance your analysis, synthesis, and critical thinking skills. They also enable you to reflect on themes in class and comprehend the topics in a more sophisticated manner.
 - Groups will typically consist of 3-4 members, and will usually be randomly assigned. The instructor acknowledges that not all students feel comfortable performing in front of the class. You will not have to participate in all of the activities. For example, role-playing and popcorn reading calls on volunteers and is not a requirement in order to pass the class.
 - For some of these in-class activities you will receive detailed feedback. For other assignments you may only receive a check mark indicating full credit.
 - Since group assignments require being present for class, you will **not** be able to make-up these assignments, regardless of reason, if class is missed.

- 🎯 Satisfactorily present on one topic in Indian Religions with a group. The topic is up to the group to decide. I can provide ideas if necessary. The presentation should include a visual aid and a handout for other students in the class. Part of your own grade for the second presentation entails responding to other groups’ presentations in writing.

ASSESSMENT TASKS AND GRADING

Grades will be based on the following:

Research Paper (including the draft).....	30%
2 Exams (15% each)	30%
Four papers (5% each)	20%
Group presentation.....	10%
In class activities, participation, and attendance.....	10%
	100%

Grades available:

A = 90% -100%

B = 80% -89%

C = 70% -79%


D = 60% -69%


F = 59% and below

N= The 'N' grade indicates that the student has worked conscientiously, attended regularly, finished all work, fulfilled course responsibilities, and has made measurable progress. However, either the student has not achieved the minimal student learning outcomes and is not prepared to succeed at the next level, or the student has made consistent progress in class but is unable to complete the class due to extenuating circumstances, such as major health, personal, or family emergencies


LEARNING RESOURCES

Please purchase and bring the following materials to every class:

 *Indian Religions: A Historical Reader of Spiritual Expression and Experience* by Peter Heehs

 *India: An Illustrated History* by Prem Kishore and Anuradha Kishore Ganpati

Recommended reading for extra credit:

 *Arrow of the Blue Skinned God* by Jonah Blank

CLASS SCHEDULE*

*Note: Class schedule is subject to change. All changes will be announced in class.

H= Heehs textbook and K= Kishore textbook

DATE	CLASSROOM TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES	READINGS DUE ON THIS DAY	ASSIGNMENTS DUE ON THIS DAY AND EXAMS TO BE TAKEN ON THIS DAY
8/24 M	Namaste! Welcome to the class! 1. India Survey 2. Introduction to the course		Please purchase your texts today.
8/26 W	Sanskrit pronunciations; Cultural symbols	H1-36; K179-186	
8/28 F	India photo slide show; Historical	H209-218; K3-12;	

	overview; Meet the Gods	K151-166	
8/31 M	Meet the Gods continued		
9/2 W	Wisdom of the Vedas- Brahmins' Tale	H39-55; K12-16	
9/4 F	Video	H57-88; 233-240	
9/7 M	NO CLASSES – LABOR DAY		
9/9 W	Vedanta Philosophy; Shankara; Advaita		
9/11 F	Karma Chameleon in the Washing Machine		

9/14 M	Jain Victors- Parshva and Mahavira	H89-102; K22-25	Writing Assignment 1
9/16 W	Jain Karma Theory; Umasvati	H230-233; K174-176	
9/18 F	Jainism; select groups for presentations		
9/21 M	Enlightened One- Buddha	H103-130; K25-33	
9/23 W	Nagarjuna; Mahayana Buddhism	H221-226; 166-185; K35-42	
9/25 F	Samkhya and Yoga	H131-143	
9/28 M	Yogic Paths to Moksha	H281-301	
9/30 W	Epic Tales- Ramayana- the Peoples' Bible	H351-352; K16-22	Writing Assignment 2
10/2 F	Review for Exam I		

10/5 M			EXAM I
10/7 W	Epic Tales- Mahabharata with emphasis on the Bhagavad Gita	H147-165	
10/9 F	Divine Feminine- Kali		
10/12 M	Carvaka		
10/14 W	Vajrayana Buddhism	H185-192	
10/16 F	Tantra	H193-207; K43-49	
10/19 M	Ramanuja	H240-243; K51-62	

10/21 W	Saintly Ladies- Anandamayi Ma, Mahadeviyakka, and Mira Bai	H321-351; 533-548 K63-67	
10/23 F	The Sants	H357-374	Writing Assignment 3
10/26 M	Sikh Gurus	H375-394; K69-103; 168-171	
10/28 W	Ramakrishna Paramahansa	H413-448; K105-111	
10/30 F	Peer Reviews		Print out of your Research Paper Draft for a peer to review
11/2 M	Sri Aurobindo	H455-474	Research Paper Draft for me
11/4 W	Sacred Rites: Marriage and Death		
11/6 F	Honolulu Academy of Arts Field Trip		

11/9 M	Holy Varanasi- Ganges River to Heaven video		Honolulu Academy of Arts Worksheet
11/11 W	NO CLASSES – VETERANS' DAY		

11/13 F	Paramahansa Yogananda	H510-516	
11/16 M	Yoga Class – participate or observe	H516-532	Writing Assignment 4; if you'd like to participate in the yoga class, wear comfy clothes you can easily move in
11/18 W	Krishnamurti video	K137-147	
11/20 F	Review for Exam II		
11/23 M			EXAM II

11/25 W	Group Presentation	H475-490	
11/27 F	NO CLASSES – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY		
11/30 M	Group Presentation	H497-509	
12/2 W	Group Presentation	H449-454	
12/4 F	Group Presentation	H581-587	
12/7 M	Mahatma Gandhi and video	K112-136	
12/9 W	Final Thoughts		Research Paper

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend all classes, arrive on time, and remain for the entire class period. Students who miss class are responsible for material covered in their absence. Consult with peers or the instructor to make up missed work. For every three classes missed, the final grade is lowered by one letter grade.

Make-up Policy:

Make-up assignments are only allowed if you use a NQA coupon. Students are provided with **two 'No Questions Asked' coupons** that enable them to turn in an assignment **up to two weeks past the due date**. Without the NQA coupon, late work will not be accepted. Coupons may not be shared or replicated.

Academic Honesty:

Students are expected to act with personal integrity, to respect other students' opinions and property, and to help create an academic environment in which discussion is encouraged. Students are expected not to engage or tolerate acts of plagiarism, cheating, copying, fabrication of citations, or other acts of academic dishonesty. Students charged with academic dishonesty face serious consequences that range from an F grade for the assignment to a Fail grade for the course.

Extra Credit:

Extra credit can be earned by writing a two-page double spaced reaction paper to a class lecture, class discussion, or by attending a religious event, watching a movie that centers on sacred places, or reading an article or book on sacred places. Religious events occurring on the island are posted on the website under 'special announcements.' Students may write up to **five extra credit papers**. Each paper is worth 2% of the final grade. All papers must be **two full, typed pages**. No more than two extra credit papers per student will be accepted during the last two weeks of classes. All extra credit must be received by December 10, 2009.

Cell Phones:

Kindly do not answer phone calls, text message, or play games on your cell phone during class. The instructor urges you to turn off your cell phone during class. The consequence for cell

phone use is _____
(students will vote on a policy during the first week of classes).

Disabilities Accommodation:

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, lemke@hawaii.edu, or you may stop by Hale Akoakoa 213 for more information.

RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WILL HELP YOU IN THIS CLASS

1. Keep up with the readings! The readings help reinforce the material. By doing the readings before class, you will feel better prepared, will easily follow along with the notes, and overall will have a more enriching educational experience. In addition, by keeping up with the readings, you will be well-prepared for the exams and other assignments.
2. Mark up your textbooks. Highlight key points and ideas. Whenever you are confused or have a question, write a 'Q' next to the sentence in the textbook. Define words you do not understand. (Or if you would like to return your textbook at the end of the semester, keep a separate journal of notes from your readings.)
3. Always take notes in class. Copy down everything that the instructor has on the PowerPoint slides, KeyNote slides, and the board. Very few of us have a photographic memory ;)
4. Ask questions if you don't understand. Tell me to slow down if I am going too fast. Let me know if you're having any problems. I am here to help you ☺ Let me know how I can make this the best educational experience for you!