

Religion 202: Understanding Indian Religions

3 credits
WWW

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EFFECTIVE DATE:	Fall 2015

WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawai'i and its unique heritage. With a special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we provide O'ahu's Ko'olau region and beyond with liberal arts, career and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment — inspiring students to excellence.

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.

Writing Intensive Hallmarks

A WI course is a discipline-specific course in which writing plays a major integrated role. Students in course sections designated as a “WI” learn to understand course content through writing and to write in ways appropriate to that discipline.

English 100 is a prerequisite before students take the two required WI courses for the Associate in Arts degree. Students transferring to some bachelor’s degree campuses in the UH system may bring two or three WI courses with them to count for the bachelor’s degree. The hallmarks of a writing intensive course are:

- Writing promotes learning of course content.
- Writing is considered to be a process in which multiple drafts are encouraged.
- Writing contributes significantly to each student’s course grade.
- Students do a substantial amount of writing, a minimum of 4,000 words. Depending on the types of writing appropriate to the discipline, students may write critical essays or reviews, journal entries, lab reports, research reports or reaction papers.

To allow for meaningful teacher-student interaction on each student’s writing, the class is restricted to 20 students.

At least one student-teacher conference on a writing assignment is required of writing intensive courses.

ONLINE SUPPORT

For any online problems you encounter, please contact the following:

Computer Support from Windward CC

- General questions- email wcc-help@hawaii.edu or call 235-7314

Computer Support from the UH System

- Email help@hawaii.edu or call 956-8883
- Information Technology Services <http://www.hawaii.edu/its/>

COURSE TASKS

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

- 📖 Readings: There are four types of reading material in this course.
 1. Professor’s Notes- these are the class notes. The notes can be found in ‘Resources’ as PDFs.
 2. Book chapters and articles- this type consists of the bulk of your readings. The chapters and articles can be found in ‘Resources.’
 3. Full books- there are two full books to be read in this course- *Nine Lives* by William Dalrymple (available for purchase at the WCC bookstore) and the *Bhagavad Gita* by Barbara Stoler-Miller (available for free online such as here <http://www.pdf-archive.com/2014/10/18/barbara-stoler-miller-the-bhagavad-gita/>). For *Nine Lives*, please note that you do not read the text in one sitting. Please follow the schedule below to know when to read each chapter. For the *Bhagavad Gita*, please note that there are many versions of this text. Please read Stoler-Miller’s version. You need to have read the *Bhagavad Gita* by week five

(September 21-25). Pace yourself according to your own reading speed. It is a short text but written in verse. Allow ample time for reflection on the teachings within the text.

4. Internet searches- while completing the readings you will most likely come across words you do not know. It is expected that you research these words, especially Indian terms, online. Wikipedia is a fine website to use for looking up definitions. However, please use far better sources when completing research for your papers.

Writing Assignments:

- 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 a topic, developing a thesis, turning in drafts, and conferencing one-on-one with the professor. The research paper should be approximately 8-10 pages double-spaced. Submit research paper drafts using the 'Assignments' link. For helpful documents on writing your research paper and the research paper rubric, please see the 'Resources' link.
- Two short papers- The shorter papers do not require drafts, peer reviews, or conferencing. For these papers, students will be provided with several possible topics and should select the format in which he/she would like to write. Papers should be two full typed pages in length. For directions on writing these papers and the short paper rubric, please see the 'Resources' link.

Please note: All paper submissions (including the research paper drafts) **must** be uploaded as .doc or .docx file types and submitted as an attachment in 'Assignments' on Lulima. Feedback will be given through the Microsoft Word track changes and comment features. Microsoft Word is installed on the WCC library computers. Papers attached as .pages or .txt will **not** be accepted.

- Discussion forum entries- **Each week** students must write at least one personal post and one response to a classmate's post in the discussion forum. Essentially, the discussion forum is the space in which you demonstrate that you are thinking about the weekly course content. In your posts and replies to student posts you are encouraged to raise questions, quote from the readings and notes, react to what you are learning, make comparisons, etc. **Posts and replies are due by Thursday at midnight.** For directions and a rubric on discussion forum posts, please see the 'Resources' link.

For your posts, I am interested in **your personal opinion**. However, please write it in a way that hopefully won't be offensive to someone who has the opposite opinion you do. For example, sentences along these lines: "I believe ____ and anyone who believes otherwise is an ignorant idiot" are completely unacceptable. Fortunately, I haven't seen that happen. Please write in a respectful manner. Also, whenever possible use religious terms. For example, write 'samsara' instead of 'reincarnation'.

Although I will be reading all of the discussion posts and replies I will not

respond to every one of your posts. I will, however, respond to the discussion as a whole by emailing the class after the weekly discussion is complete.

- 📖 Quizzes: There are five quizzes during the course. Quiz questions are based on readings, notes, and films. You may use your materials during the timed quizzes. Use the 'Assignments, Tests, and Surveys' link to take the quizzes. Follow the class schedule on this syllabus to know when to take each quiz.
- 📖 Exams: There are two exams in the course. Exams will be challenging but students are allowed open notes and open books. Use the 'Assignments, Tests, and Surveys' link to take the exams. Follow the class schedule on this syllabus to know when to take each exam.

ASSESSMENT TASKS AND GRADING

Please note that besides the research paper topic and the final research paper, all course tasks are equally weighted. Each task is important to your success in this course!

Grades will be based on the following:

Research paper topic and first bibliography.....	5 %
Research paper draft one (including the conference)...	10 %
Research paper draft two.....	10 %
Final research paper.....	15 %
Short paper one.....	10 %
Short paper two.....	10 %
Discussion forum entries and replies.....	10 %
Quizzes.....	10 %
Exam 1.....	10 %
Exam 2.....	10 %
TOTAL	100%

Grading Scale:

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

Texts:

- 📖 Professor's Notes (available under the 'Resources' link)
- 📖 PDFs of book chapters (available under the 'Resources' link)
- 📖 *Nine Lives* by William Dalrymple (available at the WCC bookstore)

 *Bhagavad Gita*, Barbara Stoler-Miller (available for free online such as here <http://www.pdf-archive.com/2014/10/18/barbara-stoler-miller-the-bhagavad-gita/>)

Programs:

-  A version of Microsoft Word (you will receive feedback through Word comment bubbles for your writing assignments) You don't have to buy MS Word; you can use it at the library.
-  PDF viewer (for reading the professor's notes) <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>
-  VLC Media Player (for viewing films) <http://www.videolan.org/vlc/>

CLASS SCHEDULE*

**Class schedule is subject to change at professor's discretion. Students will be notified of any changes via email.*

NOTE: Please complete the readings, watch the films, and take the quizzes **in the order in which they are listed below**. However, feel free to submit paper assignments and post on the discussion forum any time during the week in which they are due.

1. **IMPORTANT:** Please read through the whole schedule carefully. The writing assignments and exams are listed under the heading 'DUE.' You need to look ahead to know when everything is due, especially the papers. **You need to work on these papers according to your own study habits** (including the time it takes you to find sources, conduct research, and write). You will not receive many reminders about when assignments are due since you have full knowledge of it from this schedule. If you're having difficulty coming up with a research paper topic, finding sources, or have a question about the assignments, please contact me via email or come to my office hours. Additionally, I am working in the Writing Lab inside the WCC Library this semester. Please feel free to visit me there! In addition to my office hours, you can find me at the Writing Center inside the library on Mondays from 9-12, Tuesdays 11:45am-2:30pm, and Thursdays 11:45am-2:30pm. Also, please note that some weeks have more required reading than others. Please plan ahead.

WEEK ONE (Aug.24-28): Namaste and welcome to the course!

Topics: Introducing religions that originated in India- Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, and Sikhism; India's geography; languages; Sanskrit pronunciations; cultural symbols

READ:

1. Prof. Notes- Welcome- Sanskrit Pronunciations and Cultural Symbols (found in Resources, Professor's Notes)
2. Introduction, Rodrigues (found in Resources, Articles)

WATCH: film- *Story of India* episode 1 (a BBC documentary) available on youtube (such as here <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLyVseyiBWfwIrAFkAH045zjfMq4g9Jy5>)

WRITE: two paragraphs about yourself and your interest in Indian religions/ this course in the discussion forum

WEEK TWO (Aug. 31-Sept. 4): Introducing Hinduism

Topics: There isn't one Hinduism- Hinduism as polytheism and monotheism; major Hindu teachings; *Vedas* and *Upanishads*

READ:

1. Prof. Notes- Vedas And Upanishads (found in Resources, Professor's Notes)
2. The Upanishads, Heehs (found in Resources, Articles)
3. Karma and Cosmology, Rodrigues (found in Resources, Articles)

TAKE: Quiz 1 (go to 'Assignments, Tests, and Surveys' link)

WRITE: at least one personal post and one response to a classmate's post in the discussion forum on this week's materials

WEEK THREE (Sept. 7-11): Hindu gods and goddesses

Topics: Hindu deities; trimurti; city and family gods and goddesses; Shiva; Kali

READ:

1. Prof. Notes- Gods and Goddesses with an Emphasis on Shiva
2. *Nine Lives* Ch. 2 The Dancer of Kannur, Dalrymple (your book)
3. Prof. Notes- Kali
4. Worship Kali Temple, Harding
5. *Nine Lives* Ch. 7 The Maker of Idols, Dalrymple
6. Navaratri

DUE: Research Paper Topic and first bibliography

WRITE: at least one personal post and one response to a classmate's post in the discussion forum on this week's materials

WEEK FOUR (Sept. 14-18): Vishnu and his incarnations

Topics: Hindu deities; Vishnu's forms; *Ramayana*; Ayodhya

READ:

1. Prof. Notes- Vishnu and Ramayana
2. Hindu Deities and Puranic Mythology, Rodrigues
3. *Nine Lives* Ch. 4 The Singer of Epics, Dalrymple

WATCH: film- *Sita Sings the Blues* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oC2ZIQVIP4>)

TAKE: Quiz 2 (go to 'Assignments, Tests, and Surveys' link)

DUE: first short paper

WRITE: at least one personal post and one response to a classmate's post in the discussion forum on this week's materials

WEEK FIVE (Sept. 21-25): *Bhagavad Gita*

Topics: Krishna's counsel in the *Gita*

READ:

1. *Bhagavad Gita*, Stoler-Miller (available for free online such as here <http://www.pdf-archive.com/2014/10/18/barbara-stoler-miller-the-bhagavad-gita/>)
2. Krishna Jayanti
3. Prof. Notes- Ethics of the *Bhagavad Gita*

DUE: EXAM 1

WRITE: at least one personal post and one response to a classmate's post in the discussion forum on this week's materials

WEEK SIX (Sept. 28-Oct. 2): Yoga and Tantra

Topics: four yogic paths

READ:

1. Prof. Notes- Samkhya and Yoga
2. Samkhya and Yoga, Heehs

WATCH: Four Yogic Paths film clip (films on demand)

DUE: Research paper draft one and improved bibliography

WRITE: at least one personal post and one response to a classmate's post in the discussion forum on this week's materials

WEEK SEVEN (Oct. 5-9): Tantra

Topics: tantric teachings; Mira Bai; Mahadeviyakka

READ:

1. Prof. Notes- Tantra
2. This is the Other World, Feuerstein and Shaiva and Shakta Tantras, Heehs (two articles in one PDF)
3. *Nine Lives* Ch. 8 The Lady Twilight, Dalrymple

TAKE: Quiz 3 (go to 'Assignments, Tests, and Surveys' link)

WRITE: at least one personal post and one response to a classmate's post in the discussion forum on this week's materials

WEEK EIGHT (Oct. 12-16): Hindu beliefs regarding death and the afterlife

Topics: cremation near the Ganga; funeral practices

READ:

1. Prof. Notes- Death and the Afterlife in Hindu Varanasi

WATCH: film- *Ganges- River to Heaven*

WATCH: film- *Outsourced* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKsX-rDBd3o>)

DUE: sign up for a face to face conference on the discussion forum

WRITE: at least one personal post and one response to a classmate's post in the discussion forum on this week's materials

WEEK NINE (Oct. 19-23): Jainism

Topics: introducing Jainism; tirthankaras; ahimsa; aparigraha

READ:

1. Prof. Notes- Parshva and Mahavira
2. Jainism, Berry
3. Mahavira, Anekantavada and the World Today, Charitrapragya;

DUE: Conferences

WRITE: at least one personal post and one response to a classmate's post in the discussion forum on this week's materials

WEEK TEN (Oct. 26-30): Jainism

Topics: sallekhana

READ:

1. Prof. Notes- Sallekhana
2. *Nine Lives* Ch. 1 The Nun's Tale, Dalrymple

DUE: second short paper

WRITE: at least one personal post and one response to a classmate's post in the discussion forum on this week's materials

WEEK ELEVEN (Nov. 2-6): Buddhism

Topics: introducing Buddhism; the Buddha; Four Noble Truths; dhyana

READ:

1. Prof. Notes- Buddhism

2. Early Buddhism, Brannigan

TAKE: Quiz 4 (go to 'Assignments, Tests, and Surveys' link)

WRITE: at least one personal post and one response to a classmate's post in the discussion forum on this week's materials

WEEK TWELVE (Nov. 9-13): Buddhism

Topics: Vajrayana Buddhism

READ:

1. Prof. Notes- Nagarjuna
2. *Nine Lives* Ch. 6 The Monk's Tale, Dalrymple

DUE: research paper draft two and bibliography

WRITE: at least one personal post and one response to a classmate's post in the discussion forum on this week's materials

WEEK THIRTEEN (Nov. 16-20): Sants

Topics: Major Sants

READ:

1. Prof. Notes- Sants
2. The Sants, Heehs
3. *Nine Lives* Ch. 9 The Song of the Blind Minstrel, Dalrymple

TAKE: Quiz 5 (go to 'Assignments, Tests, and Surveys' link)

WRITE: at least one personal post and one response to a classmate's post in the discussion forum on this week's materials

WEEK FOURTEEN (Nov. 23-27): Sikhism

Topics: The Sikh Gurus; major Sikh teachings

READ:

1. Prof. Notes- the Sikhs
2. The Sikh Gurus, Heehs

DUE: final research paper and bibliography

WRITE: at least one personal post and one response to a classmate's post in the discussion forum on this week's materials

WEEK FIFTEEN (Nov. 30-Dec. 4): Gandhi

Topics: Gandhi's life; Satyagraha

WATCH: **TBA**

WRITE: at least one personal post and one response to a classmate's post in the discussion forum on this week's materials

WEEK SIXTEEN (Dec. 7-10): Wrapping up the course

DUE: Exam 2

WRITE: one post about what will really stick with you from this course/ what you found most interesting/ what you learned and reply to a classmate's post

Have a great break! I hope to have you all in class again!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Make-up Policy:

Students are provided with **three virtual ‘No Questions Asked’ (NQA) coupons** that enable them to make up a quiz, writing assignment, exam, discussion post/reply **up to one week past the due date**. If you need to submit something late, please **email me** to let me know to which assignment you would like a coupon applied. Without the NQA coupon, late work will not be accepted. Coupons may not be shared or replicated. Unused coupons will be counted toward extra credit.

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. Plagiarism is treated seriously in this course. If you are quoting someone verbatim, then you must use quotation marks and cite the source immediately after the quotation in parenthetical form, (author’s last name, page number). If you are unsure whether or not you are citing sources correctly, please ask me before the deadline. Students charged with academic dishonesty face serious consequences that range from an F grade for the assignment to a F grade for the course.

Extra Credit:

Extra credit can be earned by writing a two-page, double spaced reaction paper to a class topic class discussion, Indian religious event, film that centers on an Indian religious topic, or reading an article or book on an Indian religion. Students may write up to **five extra credit papers**. Each paper is worth 2% of the final grade. Only the first paragraph of the reaction paper should consist of a summary of what you read or watched. The rest of the paper needs to be an **analysis or reaction**. 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 Friday December 11, 2015.

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.

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT ONLINE COURSES

- Students must have regular, reliable access to a computer with a strong internet connection. If you foresee that you will not have this, you will not be able to take this course.
- Ask yourself if online is the right method of instruction for you. If you are very independent, organized, focused, and somewhat tech-savvy, you should do fine in an online course. On the other hand, if these traits do not describe you, please seriously consider taking a traditional face-to-face (F2F) course.
- Taking an online class requires a lot of self-discipline; stay organized and submit assignments early so that you can enjoy the class and avoid unnecessary stress. I strongly recommend using a planner. Put important deadlines for assignments from all of your courses' syllabi into the planner. Create a weekly schedule with your school and work

hours. Don't forget to schedule in blocks of time when you plan to read and complete homework assignments.

- I will communicate with you via your UH Mail. Thus, you'll need to check that account on a regular basis. If there is another email account you most often use (such as Gmail or Hotmail), you can forward your UH Mail to that account. Go here for directions: https://windward.hawaii.edu/Technology/Forwarding_UHMail.pdf
- Computer/internet problems are not acceptable reasons for missing or late assignments; submit your work early, just in case.
- I am not a computer help desk. If you are having technical problems please consult the people in the section titled 'Online Support.'

RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WILL HELP YOU IN THIS CLASS

2. Familiarize yourself with Lulima during the first week. Click on all of the links on the left hand side and see what they contain and/or do.
3. Even though there isn't a formal attendance policy, login to Lulima *at least* three times/week. This is your class and you need to show up to the classroom, our website.
4. Stay on top of the schedule, especially at the very beginning. Studies show that it only takes a week of not keeping up with the course tasks early in the semester for online learners to become lost and then give up.
5. Contact me if you have any questions. I want you to succeed in this course!