

88100
Hinduism Within Indian Life and thought

Spring 2008

Dr. James D. Chancellor
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Course Objectives:

To provide for students an overall understanding of the history and religious culture of India, with special emphasis on the Hindu tradition. Special emphasis will be given to the Hindu mission to the West and the Christian mission to South Asia.

To guide students in balancing an “insider” and “outsider” perspective in the exploration of other religious traditions.

To provide written and personal resource materials that will assist graduate students in their pursuit of a further understanding of Hindu religious culture.

To prepare students for effective teaching of Hinduism in an educational or congregational setting and to prepare students for effective interfaith dialogue and witness.

Course Requirements:

Each student will be responsible for contributing to the discussion of Danielou and Zaehner 20%

Each student will prepare one or two presentations for the seminar from among the listed topics. Presentations will be 10 to 15 pages, double-spaced and fully documented. A copy of the paper will be emailed to each member of the seminar the week prior to the oral presentation. These presentations will not be a simple overview of the books assigned. The books are to be the primary resource for the presentations, but the student is expected to access a wider range of sources. 60%

Each student will view and write a one-page response to the Long Search Videos on The Way of the Ancestors, Hinduism: 300 Million Gods.

Each student will visit a Hindu temple and conduct an interview with a practicing Hindu.

Each student will participate in a communal oral examination at the close of the seminar. A part of the examination will be a report on the visitation and interview. This exam will be added to the overall level of participation in the seminar. 20%

Texts:

Alain Danielou. *A Brief History of India.*
R. C. Zaehner. *Hinduism.*

Course Schedule:

Week one: Introduction and assignments

Week two: Introduction the history of India and Hinduism:
Each student will read Danielou and Zaehner and come prepared with at least one question for discussion.

Week Three Hindu Religious Practice:
Diana L. Eck. *Darsan.*
Stephen Huyler. *Meeting God: Elements of Hindu Devotion.*

Week Four The Goddess in Hinduism:
David R. Kinsley. *Hindu Goddesses: Visions of the Divine Feminine in the Hindu Religious Tradition.*

Week Five Women in Hinduism:
Sara S. Mitter. *Dharma's Daughters: Contemporary Indian Women and Hindu Culture.*
Julia Leslie. *Roles and Rituals for Hindu Women.*
Arvind Sharma, editor. *Women in Indian Religions.*

Week Six Sikhism:
Patwant Singh. *The Sikhs.*

Week Seven Jainism:
Paul Dundas. *The Jains.*

Week Eight Yoga:
Sri Satchindananda. *The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali: Commentary on the Raja Yoga Sutras.*
B. K. S. Ivengay. *Light on Yoga: The Bible of Modern Yoga.*

Week Nine Hare Krishna:
E. Burke Rochford. *Hare Krishna in America.*
Nori J. Muster. *Betrayal of the Spirit: My Life behind the Headlines of the Hare Krishna Movement.*

Week Ten Christianity in India:
George Gispert-Sauch and Leonard Fernando. *Christianity in India: Two Thousand
Years of Faith.*
R Frykenberg. *Christians and Missionaries in India.*

Week Eleven The Case of Nagaland:
K. S. Singh. *Nagaland.*
Paul Hattaway. *From Head-Hunters to Church Planters.*

Week Twelve Hinduism in America:
John Y. Fenton. *Transplanting Religious Traditions: Asian Indians in America.*
Wendell Thomas. *Hinduism Invades America.*

Week Thirteen Final discussion and exam