

# HINDUISM

REL 3333-0W61

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## ***Course Description:***

Using both an historical and thematic lens, this course will introduce the diverse texts, practices, beliefs, and traditions contained within the category of Hinduism. It will trace the origins of Hinduism from its premodern classical expressions in the Vedas to the flourishing of the bhakti traditions in the medieval period to the reformation of Hinduism in modernity. It will examine central components of the Hindu worldview—such as dharma, karma, reincarnation, moksha, atman—and the interpretation and systematization of those concepts in its orthodox and heterodox philosophical schools—as well as explore the ritual and devotional practices that mark everyday Hindu life. It will examine how Hindus have preserved and reformulated their traditions in colonial and post-colonial contexts with a focus on Hindu communities in the U.S. and the adoption and appropriation of Hindu thought and practices by wider populations. We will explore these issues through both primary and secondary texts.

## ***Course Objectives:***

- To gain a basic literacy in the history, teachings, and practices of Hinduism.
- To become aware of and appreciate the diversity of Hindu traditions as well as identify common features across different perspectives.
- To be able to situate and critically analyze different Hindu texts and traditions in their specific historical and socio-cultural contexts.

## ***Required Texts:***

You are required to purchase copies of these three texts and there will also be links to various articles or chapters available online directly or via UCF library

Rodrigues, Hilary. *Introducing Hinduism*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. New York: Routledge, 2017.

Patton, Laurie. *The Bhagavad Gita*. New York: Penguin, 2008.

Gandhi, Mohandas. *The Story of my Experiment with Truth*. Beacon Press, 1993.

**Course Requirements:**

**There are four types of graded assignments in this course:**

1. **Weekly Review Posts:** There will be weekly review posts required. These are to check that you have worked through and understood the class material. They essentially function as an attendance and participation grade. There are 14 of them and each one will be worth between 1-2 points. Each discussion/review post will be open on Monday 9.00 am and close the following Sunday 11.59 pm. (In total, they will make up 15% of your total class grade. Details can be found under : [Weekly Review/Discussion Term Guidelines](#)

2. **Module Exams:** At the end of each module, there will be a 45 multi-choice question exam that will be taken as a timed exam of 60 minutes. Exams are timed strictly to restrict cheating by looking up things on the Internet. The questions on this exam will all be drawn from the class discussion/review terms. Exams are designed to test your retention and understanding of the unit material. Each exam is worth 15%, and in total the exams will make up 60% of your final grade ) Details can be found under: [Exam Guidelines](#)

3. **Mid-Term "Create a Class" Project:** Either alone or in groups of up to three, you will be required to produce a "class" through the medium of a PowerPoint presentation on some aspect of Hinduism, which I have not covered. This presentation should be modeled on the PowerPoints that I provide: it should include readings, PowerPoint content, images ect. You are essentially teaching me about some aspect of this topic that I am not able to cover in our short time together. This will make up 10% of your final grade. Details can be found under: [Mid-Term: Creating a Lecture on Hinduism](#)

4. **Final Project: Site Visit:** For the final assignment, you will be required to produce a PowerPoint presentation of a site visit to a Hindu temple or a Hindu-inspired center. This can be done alone or in groups of up to 4 people. The final PowerPoint presentation must include academic peer-reviewed research, a description of the actual visit, and an analysis of the visit using the historical and theoretical lens of the class. In total, your final project will make up 15% of your final grade. Details are found under: [Final Project: Site Visit](#)

**All assignment dates are set in webcourse. It is your responsibility to check and keep on top of the assignment section with its list of due dates.**

**There are detailed guidelines for each assignment under the ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINE module on webcourse**

**Grading Scale:**

A (94-100) A- (90-93) B+ (87-89) B (83-86) B- (80-82) C+ (77-79) C (70-76) D+ (67-69) D (63-66) D- (60-65) F (0-59)

WRITING HELP: The University Writing Center (UWC) is a free resource for UCF students. At the UWC, a trained writing consultant will work individually with you on anything you're writing (in or out of class), at any point in the writing process from brainstorming to editing. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information or to make an appointment, visit the UWC website at <http://www.uwc.ucf.edu>, stop by the first floor of Colbourn Hall, or call (407) 823-2197.

**Deadlines:** I follow a strict policy for late assignments. Unless we have discussed and agreed on an alternative arrangement in advance, grades will be dropped by half a letter grade for each day the assignment is late and will not be accepted after 3 days.

**Withdrawal Deadline: Friday October 26<sup>th</sup> 2018**

### **UCF Academic Integrity Code**

All written assignments require strict adherence to the honor code and must include the following “I (print name) hereby certify that I have adhered to the UCF academic integrity code (signature).” I have a zero-tolerance policy for plagiarism, which I consider an essentially cowardly and uncreative activity that undermines education, character and community:

UCF is committed to promoting a culture of academic integrity where faculty and students work together to meet our personal, professional, and social responsibilities. A degree from UCF is only valuable to the extent it reflects valid assessments of student learning. Misrepresenting your learning on texts, projects, reports, or papers invalidates your grades and tarnishes the credibility of UCF. While collaboration is encouraged in the learning and studying process, you should assume all tests, quizzes, ect. require your individual effort unless explicitly directed otherwise. Unauthorized collaboration, whether voluntary or not, is cheating. Unauthorized use of materials during a test, quiz or other assessment is cheating. Regarding papers and projects, one of the core fluencies that students need to demonstrate is the ability to discern information that is common to the public from the intellectual property of individuals. Use of protected ideas, processes or language without attribution or proper citation is plagiarism.

**Student Accessibility:** I am happy to work with any student requiring accommodations in this course but you must contact Student Accessibility Services at the start of class and field your requests through them. <http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu>

### **CLASS SCHEDULE**

**The readings for each week is given on the “Content Page” (slide two) of that week’s PowerPoint.**

**Week One: August 26<sup>th</sup>-September 1st**

*Introduction: Challenges in the Study of “Hinduism”*

**Week Two: September 2<sup>nd</sup>-8th**

*The Indus Valley Civilization and early Vedic Society*

**Week Three: September 9<sup>th</sup> – 15th**

*The Upanishads and the Sramanas*

**Week Four: September 16<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup>**

*Dharma and the Dharma Sastras*

**MODULE EXAM ONE (Exam period September Friday 20<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>)**

**Week Five: September 23<sup>rd</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>**

*The rise of Bhakti*

**Week Six: September 30<sup>th</sup> -October 6<sup>th</sup>**

*The Bhagavad-Gita*

**Week Seven: October 7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>**

*The Indian Philosophical Schools*

**MODULE EXAM TWO (Exam Period Friday October 11<sup>th</sup> to Sunday October 13<sup>th</sup>)**

**Week Eight: October 14<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>**

**MID-TERM PROJECT WEEK: Mid-term Assignment due October 20<sup>th</sup>**

**\*Start reading Gandhi's My Experiment with Truth**

**Week Nine: October 21<sup>st</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>**

*Hinduism and Colonialism*

**Week Ten: October 28<sup>th</sup>-November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

*Swami Vivekananda and the Ramakrishna Movement*

**WITHDRAWAL DATE: FRIDAY NOVEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Week Eleven: November 4<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>**

*Mohandas Gandhi and the Independence Movement*

**MODULE THREE EXAM (November 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>)**

**Week Twelve: November 11<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup>**

*Global Gurus*

**Week Thirteen: November 18<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup>**

*Yoga*

**Week Fourteen: November 25<sup>th</sup> -December 1<sup>st</sup>**

*Hindutva: in India and the U.S.*

**Week Fifteen: December 2<sup>th</sup> – Last Class December 4<sup>th</sup>**

*Final Project Week*

**MODULE EXAM FOUR (December 4<sup>th</sup>-)**

**FINAL ASSIGNMENT—SITE VISIT- IS DUE DECEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Grades to be submitted 16<sup>th</sup>; Grades available for students 18<sup>th</sup>**