Course Content.
In this course we will examine the beliefs, values, and practices of South Asian Hinduism and Buddhism. We will examine selected foundational texts in the traditions, including The Upanishads, The Bhagavad-Gita and The Dhammapada. Attention will also be paid to village Hinduism which shapes and is shaped by the religious lives of most Hindus. Lastly, we will study the influence of religion on the life and thought of Mahatma Gandhi who led India in its struggle against colonial rule of Great Britain.

Teaching and Learning Objectives.
This course is designed so that students will:
(1) develop an understanding of the methods and perspectives proper to the academic study of religion; (2) develop an informed appreciation for the beliefs, values and practices of South Asian Hinduism and Buddhism; (3) improve their ability to analyze and interpret culturally unfamiliar texts; (4) become more aware of their own cultural and personal assumptions, beliefs, and biases; (5) develop skills to think critically about their own and others’ worldviews; (6) develop an appreciation for writing as a way both to clarify for themselves the content of the course and to communicate their understanding to others.

Format: Lecture/Discussion
Students should come to class prepared to discuss the texts and any problems they might have had understanding them. Writing-to-learn assignments, whether outside or inside class, are intended to help students grasp the material and re-present it in their own words. Participation in discussions is expected.

Evaluation
(1) Writing-to-learn assignments. Frequent but short writing-to-learn assignments will encourage students to be actively engaged with the material and prepared for in-class discussions. These assignments will be written either at home or in class at the beginning of the period. They will
(normally) be graded "S" or "U". A missed assignment is automatically given a "U" and cannot be made up (except in unusual circumstances where it will receive a check mark noting that it was turned in). If 80% or more of the graded assignments receive an "S", a student's final grade will be raised one level (e.g. C to C+). If 50% or fewer of graded assignments are graded Satisfactory, the final grade will be reduced by one-level (C to C-). Otherwise, it will not change (51%-79%).

(2) Essay Exams. Three non-cumulative essay exams (including the final) will enable the student to demonstrate his or her grasp of the material under consideration. Analytic as well as synthetic skills will be evaluated.

(3) Participation. There is no separate grade for participation. However, the instructor reserves the right to reward participation of a consistent and high quality where deemed appropriate, e.g. when a final grade average is borderline.

(4) Plagiarism. Zero tolerance on either a writing assignment or an essay exam. An automatic "F" for the course. Consult the "Academic Honesty Policy" in the Student Handbook or clarify with the instructor.

REQUIRED TEXTS
http://sanatan.intnet.mu/upanishads (Upanishad selections)
***Note: This syllabus is subject to change if necessary.

COURSE OUTLINE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date Due</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 28</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 30</td>
<td>Vedic Religion I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 01</td>
<td>Vedic Religion II</td>
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I. HINDUISM

A. THE VEDIC RELIGION
Read: Fowler, Ch. 13

September 04 No Class. Labor Day.
September 06 Transition to the Upanishads
Read: Fowler, Ch. 14

B. Text: THE UPANISHADS

September 08 Katha Upanishad
http://sanatan.intnet.mu/upanishads/katha.htm
Part Chapter:Verse(s)
One 1:1-9&20-29; 2:1-5&18-25; 3:3-17
Two 1:1-15; 2:6-15

September 11 Brihadaranyaka Upanishad
http://sanatan.intnet.mu/upanishads/brihadaranyaka.htm
Part Ch:Vv
Three 1:1-2; 8; 9:1
Four 3:31-38; 4:1-25; 5:1-7

September 13 Chandogya Upanishad
http://sanatan.intnet.mu/upanishads/chhandogya.htm
Part Ch:Vv
Three 14
Six 1:1-7; 2:9-13
Eight 7-12

September 15 Mundaka Upanishad
http://sanatan.intnet.mu/upanishads/mundaka.htm
First Mundaka 1; 2:7-13
Second Mundaka 1
Third Mundaka 1:1-8; 2

September 18 Kena and Isa Upanishads
http://sanatan.intnet.mu/upanishads/kena.htm (Complete)
http://sanatan.intnet.mu/upanishads/isa.htm (Complete)

September 20 Varnashramadharma
Read: Fowler, Chs. 1,3,4

II. HINDUISM: DEVELOPMENT

A. The Rise of Classical Hinduism
The Bhagavad-Gita Translated by E. Easwaran,
Read: “Introduction”

B. TEXT: The Bhagavad-Gita

September 25 Arjuna and Krishna
Gita, Chs. 1&2
September 27 Action or Contemplation?
Gita, Chs. 3&4
September 29 Yoga and Selfless Action
Gita, Chs. 5&6
October 02  Krishna as the Lord  
Gita, Chs. 9-11
October 04  The Way of Devotion  
Gita, Chs. 12-13
October 06  Exam #1
October 09  No Class Fall Break

October 11  C. Village or Popular Hinduism  
The Rise of Devotionalism  
Fowler, Ch. 5
October 13  Vaishnavism, Krishna, and Radha  
Fuller, pp. 155-163  
Online Assignment: Krishna
October 16  Shaivism, Shiva and Kali  
Fuller, Ch. 2
October 18  Worship (puja)  
Fuller, Ch. 3
October 20  Sacrifice (bali)  
Fuller, Ch. 4
October 23  Saints, and Swamis  
Fuller, pp. 163-181  
Video: "Four Holy Men"
October 25  Pilgrimage  
Fuller, Ch. 9
October 27  Festivals  
Fowler, Ch. 6  
Video: "Holi"
October 30  Goddesses and Women  
Fuller, Ch. 8

November 01  Handling Misfortune  
Fuller, Ch. 10
November 03  EXAM #2

III. BUDDHISM

November 06  A. Early Buddhism  
The Buddha  
Read: Easwaran, The Dhammapada, “Introduction”, pp.7-33
November 08  The Basic Teachings  
Read: Easwaran, “Introduction”, pp.34-46; 58-72

November 10  B. Text: The Dhammapada (Path of Truth)  
Chs. 1-8
November 13  Chs. 9-14
November 15  Chs. 15-20
November 17  Chs. 21-26
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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| November 20 | The Bodhisattva Ideal  
              “Introduction” to *The Way of the Bodhisattva*  
              On Reserve |
| November 22&24 | Thanksgiving Break     |
| November 27 | Theravada Buddhism: Sri Lanka  
              Video: “In the Footprints of the Buddha” |
| November 29 | Buddhism in South Asia  
              Research Online |
| December 01 | No Class (See December 03 Sunday)                                      |

**V. MAHATMA GANDHI: RELIGION, POLITICS  
AND THE BIRTH OF FREE INDIA**

Text: *All Men are Brothers* by Mahatma Gandhi

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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| December 03 | 7:00 p.m. FILM: *Gandhi* (Prosser) 7:00P.M.  
              Read: Handout |
| December 04 | Religion, Truth and Ethics  
              Read: Gandhi, pp.51-76 |
| December 06 | Ahimsa, Non-Violence  
              Read: Gandhi, pp.77-97 |
| December 08 | Self-Discipline, Poverty and Plenty  
              Read: Gandhi, pp.97-112; 118-125 |
| December 11 | Democracy and Women  
              Read: Gandhi, pp.126-137; 146-152 |
| T.B.A.     | FINAL EXAM                                                          |