SYLLABUS
R.123. Religions of India: Hinduism and Buddhism
Fall, 2007

Dr. St. John
(610) 861-1585 (O) MWF 1:30-2:00
(610) 691-1797 (H) TR 1:00-2:00
e-mail. medps01@moravian.edu 3:30-4:00

Course Content.
This course will examine the beliefs, values, and practices of South Asian Hinduism and Buddhism. The first half of the course will examine foundational texts in the traditions, including The Upanishads, The Bhagavad-Gita and The Dhammapada. The second half of the course will examine popular or village Hinduism in India as well as the influence of religion on the life and thought of Mahatma Gandhi.

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). 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 (Upanshad selections)

COURSE OUTLINE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date Due</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 27</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course</td>
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I. HINDUISM
A. THE VEDIC RELIGION

August 29  Vedic Religion I
Read: Fowler, Ch. 12

August 31  Vedic Religion II
Read: Fowler, Ch. 13

September 03  No Class. Labor Day.

September 05  Transition to the Upanishads
Read: Fowler, Ch. 14

B. Text: THE UPAHISHADS

September 07  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 10  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 12  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 14  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 17  Kena and Isa Upanishads
http://sanatan.intnet.mu/upanishads/kena.htm (Complete)
http://sanatan.intnet.mu/upanishads/isa.htm (Complete)

September 19  Varnashramadharma
Read: Fowler, Chs. 1,3,4

II. HINDUISM: DEVELOPMENT

September 21  The Rise of Classical Hinduism
The Bhagavad-Gita Translated by E. Easwaran,
Read: “Introduction”

September 24  Arjuna and Krishna
Gita, Chs. 1&2
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 26</td>
<td>Action or Contemplation?</td>
<td>Gita, Chs. 3&amp;4</td>
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<td>September 28</td>
<td>Yoga and Selfless Action</td>
<td>Gita, Chs. 5&amp;6</td>
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<td>October 01</td>
<td>Krishna as the Lord</td>
<td>Gita, Chs. 9-11</td>
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<td>October 03</td>
<td>The Way of Devotion</td>
<td>Gita, Chs. 12-13</td>
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<td>October 05</td>
<td>Exam #1</td>
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<td>October 08</td>
<td>No Class Fall Break</td>
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<td>October 10</td>
<td>Village or Popular Hinduism</td>
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<td>October 15</td>
<td>The Rise of Devotionalism</td>
<td>Fowler, Ch. 5</td>
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<td>October 17</td>
<td>Vaishnavism, Krishna, and Radha</td>
<td>Fowler, pp. 155-163</td>
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<td>Online Assignment: Krishna</td>
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<td>October 19</td>
<td>Shaivism, Shiva and Kali</td>
<td>Fuller, Ch. 2</td>
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<td>October 22</td>
<td>Worship (puja)</td>
<td>Fuller, Ch. 3</td>
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<td>October 24</td>
<td>Sacrifice (bali)</td>
<td>Fuller, Ch. 4</td>
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<td>October 26</td>
<td>Saints, and Swamis</td>
<td>Fuller, pp. 163-181</td>
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<td>Video: &quot;Four Holy Men&quot;</td>
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<td>October 29</td>
<td>Pilgrimage</td>
<td>Fuller, Ch. 9</td>
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<td>October 31</td>
<td>Festivals</td>
<td>Fowler, Ch. 6</td>
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<td>Video: &quot;Holi&quot;</td>
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<td>November 02</td>
<td>Handling Misfortune</td>
<td>Fuller, Ch. 10</td>
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<td>November 05</td>
<td>EXAM #2</td>
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### III. BUDDHISM

A. Early Buddhism

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 07</td>
<td>The Buddha</td>
<td>Read: Easwaran, <em>The Dhammapada</em>, “Introduction”, pp.7-33</td>
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<td>November 09</td>
<td>The Basic Teachings</td>
<td>Read: Easwaran, “Introduction”, pp.34-46; 58-72</td>
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<td>November 12</td>
<td>Theravada Buddhism: Sri Lanka</td>
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Video: “In the Footprints of the Buddha”

November 12

B. Text: The Dhammapada (Path of the Truth)

November 14 Chs. 1-8
November 16 Chs. 9-14
November 19 Chs. 15-20
November 26 Chs. 21-26
November 21 & 23 Thanksgiving Break
November 28 The Bodhisattva Ideal
   “Introduction” to The Way of the Bodhisattva
   On Reserve
November 30 No Class
7:00 p.m. FILM: Gandhi (Prosser) 7:00 P.M.
Read: Handout

V. MAHATMA GANDHI: RELIGION, POLITICS
   AND THE BIRTH OF FREE INDIA
   Text: All Men are Brothers by Mahatma Gandhi

December 03 Religion, Truth and Ethics
   Read: Gandhi, pp.51-76
December 05 Ahimsa, Non-Violence
   Read: Gandhi, pp.77-97
December 07 Self-Discipline, Poverty and Plenty
   Read: Gandhi, pp.97-112; 118-125
December 10 Democracy and Women
   Read: Gandhi, pp.126-137; 146-152

T.B.A. FINAL EXAM