



Hindu Traditions: Spring 2014
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Office Hours: MW 10-11 (or appt.)
Wilson 2-168



Description: This course will investigate Hinduism from a range of academic perspectives. The material will be organized historically—from early Vedic culture to contemporary Hindu religiosity and its impact on Indian society. Since the category of Hinduism encompasses such a wide range of material, this course will focus on specific themes such as sacrifice, asceticism, philosophy, devotion, and gender.

Goals: Through successful completion of this course, student will be able to:

- Explain main themes and concepts related to the development of Hinduism
- Identify and interpret Hindu iconography
- Critically analyze primary source material
- Demonstrate knowledge of main terms and concepts in Hinduism
- Engage crucial themes in modern Hindu traditions

Required texts:

- *Introducing Hinduism*; Rodrigues, Hillary. Routledge, 2006
- *The Sword and the Flute: Kālī & Kṛṣṇa: Dark Visions of the Terrible and the Sublime in Hindu Mythology*; Kinsley, David, University of CA Press, 2000.
- *Hindu Goddesses: Vision of the Divine Feminine in the Hindu Religious Tradition*; Kinsley, David, University of California Press; Reprint edition, 1988.
- *Death by Fire: Sati, Dowry Death, and Female Infanticide in Modern India* (Mala Sen). Rutgers, 2002.
- *Nectar in a Sieve* (Kamala Markandaya). Signet Classics, 2002. [OPTIONAL!]
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Course Requirements:

- Three Multiple-Choice Quizzes (on D2L): 30% [**note: based primarily on readings*]
- Gods & Goddesses Quiz (Bluebook): 20%
- Homework & in-class assignments (announced in class): 20%
- Final (cumulative): 30%