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
- 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!]

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%