

**Religion V2205: HINDUISM**  
**Spring, 2016**

**Basics:** Time: Tuesdays, Thursdays, 2:40-3:55, plus recitations  
Location: 504 Diana  
Field trips: Temples, Sat.- Sun., January 30-31  
Metropolitan Museum. Sat.-Sun., March 26-27

**Instructors:** Jack Hawley [jsh3@columbia.edu](mailto:jsh3@columbia.edu)  
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**Books:** The following are required and available for purchase at BookCulture. They will also be found on reserve in the Barnard library, temporarily located in Barnard Hall. Substantial segments of *Devi: Goddesses of India* and *At Play with Krishna* have also been scanned to the Files & Resources page of CourseWorks.

Diana L. Eck, *Darśan*  
Gavin Flood, *An Introduction to Hinduism*  
John Stratton Hawley with Shrivatsa Goswami, *At Play with Krishna*  
John Stratton Hawley and Mark Juergensmeyer, *Songs of the Saints of India*  
John Stratton Hawley and Vasudha Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*  
John Stratton Hawley and Donna Marie Wulff, eds., *Devi: Goddesses of India*  
Barbara Stoler Miller, tr., *The Bhagavad-Gita*  
R. K. Narayan, *The Ramayana*  
Patrick Olivelle, tr., *Upaniṣads*

**Recitations:**

Section meetings will be held weekly at the times and places that are announced in SSOL and for which you should already have signed up.

**Film Resources:**

A number of films accompany this class. They provide a form of access to our subject that is impossible to duplicate on the printed page. In class, we will usually only have time to see clips, but the full film is available in the collection of the Barnard Media Center.

## **Course Requirements and Grading System:**

- (1) Regular, wakeful attendance at lectures and section meetings. In addition, attendance at the following is mandatory: a temple visit (January 30-31), which will be followed by a one-page report; and a trip to the Metropolitan Museum (March 26-27). Attendance will be taken at section meetings. If you are prevented from being present at any section meeting, let your section leader know the reason in advance. In section discussions, students are expected to participate in an active, thoughtful way (10% of the course grade).
- (2) Two short essays (about five pages each), to be submitted to your section leader as an MSWord attachment to email by 5:00 Monday, February 22 and 5:00 Monday, April 18. Unexcused late submissions will not be accepted (each 20% of the course grade).
- (3) A midterm exam on March 10 (20% of the course grade).
- (4) A cumulative final exam (30% of the course grade). The exam is scheduled to be held on May 12<sup>th</sup> from 1:10-4:00.
- (5) Note: All of the above requirements must be met for a passing grade to be received.

## **Your Own Work:**

In this as in every other class you take, both in papers and on exams, it is expected that the work you submit will be your own. Please be careful to attribute to others thoughts that were originally theirs. There is no shame in being dependent on the work of others. We all are, and it is an honor, but you absolutely must cite your sources. On the other hand—perhaps by the same token—it is important to speak your own mind. We are interested both in your own thoughts and in the way you have assimilated the thoughts of others, and expect you to indicate the difference between one and the other. Plagiarized work will put you in danger of failing the course.

The following links are relevant:

<https://firstyear.barnard.edu/plagiarism/plagiarism>  
<https://barnard.edu/dos/honorcode>  
<https://www.college.columbia.edu/honorcode>  
<https://www.college.columbia.edu/academics/academicintegrity>.

Please contact one of the instructors if any question arises in your mind.

## COURSE SYLLABUS

**Key:** Assignments are listed according to the day on which the reading is due, as follows:

- ( ) Required readings from books available for purchase are listed without any special insignia.
- ( \*) Handouts distributed in class are indicated with a single asterisk, but only a few are listed here.
- ( \*\*) Required readings available at the course website in CourseWorks are listed with a double asterisk.
- ( \*\*\*) Elective readings are listed with a triple asterisk. These are either to be found in the e-reserve section of CourseWorks or represent sections of assigned texts that you are not required to read.

### I. The Basics: Concepts, Practices, Places

**(1) Tues., January 19: Introduction to the course.**

**(2) Thurs., January 21: The one and the many: Hindu conceptions of deity**

Diana L. Eck, *Darśan: Seeing the Divine Image in Hinduism* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1985), pp. 1-58.

\*\* Sitansu S. Chakravarti, *Hinduism: A Way of Life* (Delhi: Motilal Banarsi Dass, 1991), pp. 23-43; partly excerpted in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 249-254.

\* Selections from the Veda, including Rig Veda 1.1, 10.90, 10.128; and Atharva Veda 2.19-20.

\*\*\* Joyce Burkhalter Flueckiger, “Families of Deities,” Chapter 1 in *Everyday Hinduism* (Chichester: Wiley Blackwell, 2015), pp. 18-45.

**(3) Tues., January 26: Central concepts: *dharma, karma, samsāra, caste***

Gavin Flood, *An Introduction to Hinduism* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996), introduction and chapters 1-3, pp. 1-74.

**(4) Thurs., January 28: Central actions: *pūjā, mūrti, prasād, kīrtan***

J. S. Hawley and Vasudha Narayanan, “Introduction” in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 1-16.

Stephen Huyler, “The Experience: Approaching God,” in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 33-41.

Eck, *Darśan*, pp. 77-92.

\*\*\* Lawrence A. Babb, *The Divine Hierarchy* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1975), pp. 31-67.

\*\*\* Flueckiger, “Loving and Serving God,” Chapter 3 in *Everyday Hinduism*, pp. 73-96.

### **(5) Sat.-Sun., January 30-31: Temple visits**

\* Shri Maha Vallabha Ganapathi Devasthanam (The Hindu Temple Society), Flushing, Queens

\* ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness), Manhattan

\* BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha, Flushing, Queens

To get a sense of diasporic Hindu self-representation on the World Wide Web, browse sites affiliated with the three local groups on which our weekend visits will focus:

<http://www.nyganesh temple.org>

<http://www.iskconcenters.com/new-york-second-avenue/>

<http://www.swaminarayan.org/globalnetwork/america/newyork.htm>.

Also of interest may be student portraits and papers from “Hinduism Here” (2003, 2005, and 2013) online at

<https://edblogs.columbia.edu/reliw4215-001-2013-3/>

In regard to Guyanese-American Hinduism, for instance, see the sections on the America Sevashram Sangha, the Arya Spiritual Center, the Shri Suryanarayan Mandir, the Shiv Mandir, and the Phagwah Parade. An excellent general resource is the Pluralism Project at Harvard University ([www.pluralism.org](http://www.pluralism.org)), whose website is searchable by religious tradition, by geographical locale, and in other ways as well. See especially <http://www.pluralism.org/profiles/index/tradition:7>.

**NB: Please send a report on your observations of, reactions to, and questions about your temple visit to your section leader by email by 6:00 Monday, February 1. This report should be no more than a single page double-spaced.**

## **II. *The Path of Insight (Jñāna)***

## (6) Tues., February 2: The earlier Upanishads

Patrick Olivelle, *Upanisads* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996), introduction (pp. xxiii-lvi); Brhadaranyaka Upanisad 1.1-2.1 (pp. 7-26), 3-5 (pp. 34-71); and Chandogya Upanisad 6 (pp. 148-156).

**Film Resources:** "Four Holy Men: Renunciation in Hindu Society" [Call Number: VIDEO BL1241.53 .F68 1976g] and "The Fourth Stage: A Hindu's Quest for Release" [Call Number: VIDEO BL1237.44 .F68 1990g].

## (7) Thurs., February 4: Temple reports

*Orchestrated by your illustrious TAs.*

No additional reading. Review the January readings for class and the Upanishads readings for sections.

## (8) Tues., February 9: The later Upanishads

Olivelle, *Upanisads*, Katha, Isa, Svetasvatara, and Mandukya Upanisads, pp. 231-265, 288-290.

Flood, *Introduction*, chapter 10, pp. 224-246, on philosophy/theology, including Vedānta.

\*\*\* Yohanan Grinshpon, *Crisis and Knowledge: The Upanishadic Experience and Storytelling* (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2003), pp. vii-79. [Available on Courseworks.]

## (9 Thurs., February 11: Śaṅkara, Vedānta, Yoga

Flood, *Introduction*, chapter 4 (pp. 75-102), on yoga and renunciation.

Sankaracharya, tr. Swami Jagadananda, *Upadesasahasri: A Thousand Teachings* (Madras: Ramakrishna Math, 1979), the following sections:

Poetry, chapter 17:1-45, "Right Knowledge," pp. 191-205;

Poetry, chapter 18:1-30, "That Thou Art," pp. 218-226.

\*\*\* Sengaku Mayeda, ed. and tr., *A Thousand Teachings: The Upadeśasāhasrī of Śaṅkara* (Albany: SUNY Press), introduction, chapters 1-2, pp. 3-18. [Please note that the entirety of Mayeda's introduction is available through CLIO in electronic form.]

\*\*\* Sankarāchārya, tr. Swami Jagadananda, *Upadeśasāhasrī: A Thousand Teachings* (Madras: Ramakrishna Math, 1979), Prose section, chapter 1, "Enlightening the Disciple," pp. 1-32.

\*\*\* David Gordon White, "Yoga, Brief History of an Idea," in D. G. White, ed., *Yoga in Practice* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012), pp. 1-22. [Available on Courseworks.]

\*\*\* Mark Singleton, *Yoga Body: The Origins of Modern Posture Practice* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010), chapter 1, "A Brief Overview of Yoga in the Indian Tradition," pp. 25-33. [Available on Courseworks.]

**(8) Tues., February 16: The *Bhagavad Gītā* in the *Mahābhārata***

Barbara Stoler Miller, tr., *The Bhagavad-Gita: Krishna's Counsel in Time of War* (New York: Bantam, 1986), introduction, pp. 1-13.

\*\*\* Richard H. Davis, *The Bhagavad Gita: A Biography* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2015), introduction and chapter 1, pp. 1-42.

\*\*\* Daniel H. H. Ingalls, "The Friendly Dice Game," revised by Gary A. Tubb, introduction, pp. 1-20.

\*\*\* Flood, *Introduction*, chapter 5, pp. 103-127.

**(9) Thurs., February 18: The *Bhagavad Gītā* and its three yogas**

Miller, tr., *Bhagavad-Gita*, the entire translation, pp. 21-154.

**(12) The first essay** is due as an email attachment at 5:00, Monday, February 22.

**III. The Path of Action (*Karma*)**

**(13) Tues., February 23: *Samskāra* / Life-cycle rites--birth and childhood**

\*\* Vasudha Narayanan, "May We See a Hundred Autumns: Life-Cycle Rituals in the Hindu Tradition," Chapter 15 in *The Hindu Tradition/s: An Introduction* (forthcoming)

\*\* Doranne Jacobson, "Golden Handprints and Red-Painted Feet: Hindu Childbirth Rituals in Central India," in Doranne Jacobson and Susan Wadley, *Women in India: Two Perspectives* (Columbia, MO: South Asia Books, 1977), pp. 137-155. An excerpt is available in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 63-75.

\*\*\* Flood, *Introduction*, chapter 9 (beginning), pp. 198-205.

\*\*\* Babb, *The Divine Hierarchy*, pp. 69-101.

**Film Resource:** “Hindu Sacraments of Childhood.” [Call number: VIDEO BL 1226.2.H56 1968g]

**(14) Thurs., February 25: *Sam-skāra* / Life-cycle rites--marriage**

\*\* Joyce Burkhalter Flueckiger, “*Samskaras: Transformative Rites of Passage*,” Chapter 7 in *Everyday Hinduism*, pp. 169-192.

\*\* Raj Bali Pandey, *Hindu Sam-skāras* (Delhi: Motilal Banarsi Dass, 1969), portions of chapter 8, “The Vivāha,” pp. 207-233.

\*\*\* Flood, *Introduction*, chapter 9 (continued), pp. 205-208.

**(15) Tues., March 1: *Sam-skāra* / Life-cycle rites--death**

\*\* Jonathan Parry, *Death in Banaras* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994), pp. 151-190.

Agehananda Bharati, “Death Beyond Death: The Ochre Robe,” in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 76-87.

\*\*\* David M. Knipe, “*Sapindikarana: The Hindu Rite of Entry into Heaven*,” in Frank Reynolds and Earle Waugh, ed., *Religious Encounters with Death* (College Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1977), pp. 111-124.

**Film Resource:** “Indian Pilgrimage: Kashi” [Call Number: DVD BL1239.36.K27 I53 2000g]

**(16) Thurs., March 3: Calendar and festivals-- Holi**

\* “*Holi: A Hindu Celebration*” [Call Number: DVD BL1239.82.H65 H654 2007g].

\*\* Vasudha Narayanan, “Feasting and Fasting: Domestic Celebrations and Votive Rituals,” Chapter 16 in *The Hindu Tradition/s: An Introduction* (unpublished manuscript).

McKim Marriott, “*Holi: The Feast of Love*,” in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 99-112.

\*\* Flood, *Introduction*, chapter 9 (continued), pp. 211-223.

**(17) Tues., March 8: Calendar and festivals--Divali**

Om Lata Bahadur, “*Divali: The Festival of Lights*,” in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 91-98.

\*\* J. S. Hawley, “*Krishna's Cosmic Victories*,” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 47:2 (1979), pp. 201-221.

\*\*\* Flueckiger, “*Festivals*,” chapter 5 in *Everyday Hinduism*, pp. 125-144.

**(18) Thurs., March 10: Midterm exam**

**March 12-20, Spring break**

Rest! Relax! Travel! Stay at home and do nothing! But here's a suggestion: We'll be reading the entirety of R. K. Narayan's (relatively short) version of the *Ramayana* for class on April 5. The *Ramayana* is a great read—one of the world's most famous. You might want to designate it your special vacation companion even though we won't be talking about it for a couple of weeks.

***IV. The Path of Love (Bhakti)***

**(19) Tues., March 22: Bhakti and the Bhakti Movement**

\*\* J. S. Hawley, "Bhakti," in Ainslie T. Embree, gen. ed., *The Encyclopedia of Asian History*, vol. 1, pp. 154-157.

Flood, *Introduction*, chapter 6, pp. 128-147 (on Vishnu). If you can, read chapter 7 too (pp. 148-173, on Shiva and tantric religion), but it is not required.

J. S. Hawley and Mark Juergensmeyer, *Songs of the Saints of India* (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2004 [orig. 1988]), pp. 3-7 (Introduction) and 119-140 (Mirabai).

**(20) Thurs., March 24: The Shri Vaishnavas**

*Lecturer: Shiv Subramaniam*

*NB:* Flood on pp. 128-138 pertains directly to today's discussion.

\*\* Archana Venkatesan, *The Secret Garland: Antal's Tiruppavai and Nacciyar Tirumoli* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010), pp. 3-10.

\*\* Aurobindo Ghose (a.k.a. Sri Aurobindo), "Andal: The Vaishnava Poetess" and "Nammalwar: The Supreme Vaishnava Saint and Poet" from *Arya: A Philosophical Review*, 1915 (unnumbered: 7 pages).

\*\* Martin Heidegger, *What Is Called Thinking?* trans. J. Glenn Gray (New York: Harper Perennial, 1968), pp. 138-147.

**(21) Sat.-Sun., March 26-27: Vishnu and Shiva at the Met**

Field trip to the South Asian galleries of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in prearranged groups at four times TBA. Please sign up on Courseworks for the time that

suits you best. We meet in the main gallery, up the stairs from Fifth Avenue, near the group tours desk to the left.

If for an unavoidable reason you are unable to make one of these three times, please let us know. The sky will not fall in; it will only droop uncomfortably. You can get the tour manifest, talk with your TA and/or a fellow class-member, and give yourself a tour in the week following. But it's far better if you can join one of our scheduled group tours.

### **(22) Tues., March 29: Brindavan's Krishna**

J. S. Hawley in association with Shrivatsa Goswami, *At Play with Krishna* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1981; Delhi: Motilal Banarsi Dass, 1992), pp. 3-51, 155-167, and browse some section of “The Great Circle Dance” (167-226).

Shrivatsa Goswami and Margaret Case, “The Miraculous: The Birth of a Shrine,” in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 53-59.

\*\*\* Eck, *Darśan*, pp. 59-75 (on pilgrimage).

### **(23) Thurs., March 31: Radha and Krishna**

Hawley and Goswami, *At Play with Krishna*, pp. 106-154.

Donna Wulff, “Radha,” in J. S. Hawley and D. M. Wulff, eds., *Devi: Goddesses of India* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996), pp. 109-134.

### **(24) Tues., April 5: Sita and Rama**

R. K. Narayan, *The Ramayana*, entire: pp. 1-157.

\*\* Linda Hess, “Rejecting Sita: Indian Responses to the Ideal Man’s Cruel Treatment of His Ideal Wife,” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 67:1 (1999), pp. 1-32.

\*\*\* Emily Hudson, “Rāma, the Ambiguous Exemplar: Perfection and Meaning-Without-Saying in the Vālmīki Rāmayana,” paper delivered to the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, November 1, 2010.

### **(25) Thurs., April 7: The Ramayana performed**

*Lecturer: Uponita Mukherjee*

Hawley and Juergensmeyer, Chapter 6, “Tulsidas,” in *Songs of the Saints of India*, pp. 145-161, and do glance at the poems if you are able (162-171).

Linda Hess, “An Open-Air Ramayana: Ram-Lila, The Audience Experience,” in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 115-139.

Philip Lutgendorf, “A Ramayana on Air: ‘All in the (Raghu) Family,’ A Video Epic in Cultural Context,” in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 140-157.

\*\* Velcheru Narayana Rao, “A Ramayana of Their Own: Women's Oral Tradition in Telugu,” in Paula Richman, ed., *Many Ramayanas: The Diversity of a Narrative Tradition in South Asia* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991), pp. 114-136.

\*\*\* Two musical renditions of portions of Tulsidas's *Rāmāyaṇa*:

The purely musical Mukesh:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LL0oRZUP2Uo&list=PLB1C4909FC87E8406>

The musical and expository Pandit Channulal Mishra:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=blLAMXwLyrI>

\*\*\* Nabaneeta Dev Sen, “Lady Sings the Blues: When Women Retell the Ramayana,” paper delivered at the Columbia Sita Symposium, May, 1998.

\*\*\* Nina Paley, *Sita Sings the Blues*: <http://sitasingstheblues.com>.

#### **(26) Tues., April 12: Goddesses**

J. S. Hawley and Donna Wulff, eds., *Devi: Goddesses of India*, introduction (by J. S. Hawley) and chapter on Devi (by Thomas Coburn), pp. 1-48.

Kathleen Erndl, “Possession by Durga,” in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 158-170.

\*\*\* Diana L. Eck, “Gangā: The Goddess Ganges in Hindu Sacred Geography,” in Hawley and Wulff, eds., *Devi: Goddesses of India*, pp. 137-153.

\*\*\* Flood, *Introduction*, chapter 8, pp. 174-179

#### **(27) Thurs., April 14: Kali**

*Guest Lecturer: Rachel McDermott*

J. S. Hawley and Donna Wulff, eds., *Devi: Goddesses of India*, chapters on Kali by David Kinsley, Sarah Caldwell, and Rachel McDermott, pp. 77-86, 195-226, and 281-313.

**(28) Your second essay** is due as an email attachment submitted to your TA by 5:00 on Monday, April 18.

#### **(29) Tues., April 19: Kabir and Ravidas**

Hawley and Juergensmeyer, Chapters 1- 2, on Ravidas and Kabir, in *Songs of the Saints of India*, pp. 9-61.

\*\* *Had-Anhad (Bounded-Boundless): Journeys with Ram and Kabir*, a film by Shabnam Virmani (2008). [DVD PK2095.K3 Z693 2008g](#). The full film, which is required to be seen before class, can be viewed at: <http://www.cultureunplugged.com/play/2831/Had-Anhad--Journeys-With-Ram---Kabir--Bounded-Boundless->.

### (30) Thurs., April 21: Guru Nanak and Sikhism

*Lecturer: Manpreet Kaur*

Hawley and Juergensmeyer, Chapter 3, “Nanak,” in *Songs of the Saints of India*, pp. 63-88.

\*\*Gurinder Singh Mann, *Sikhism* (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentiss Hall, 2004), pp. 13-28.

## V. Politics, Identity, and the Present

### (31) Tues., April 26: Rama in politics—Ayodhya, 1992

\*\* Peter van der Veer, *Religious Nationalism: Hindus and Muslims in India* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994), pp. 1-24.

\*\* Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, *Hindutva: Who is a Hindu?* (New Delhi: Bharati Sahitya Sadan, 1989 [originally 1923]), title page - p. 12.

J. S. Hawley, “Militant Hinduism: Ayodhya and the Momentum of Hindu Nationalism,” in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 257-265.

Vasudha Narayanan, “Tolerant Hinduism: Shared Ritual Spaces—Hindus and Muslims at the Shrine of Shabul Hamid,” in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 266-270.

*Film Resource:* “In the Name of God,” is now available on YouTube: <http://youtu.be/00-VaJBHiik>. Here is the reason it has been released in that form: <http://bit.ly/1BEfzhH>.

### (32) Thurs., April 28: Hinduism militant and tolerant

Vasudha Narayanan, “Hinduism in Pittsburgh: Creating the South Indian ‘Hindu’ Experience in the United States,” in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 231-248.

Shrinivas Tilak, “Hinduism for Hindus: Taking Back Hindu Studies,” in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 271-287.

Laurie Patton and Chakravarthi Ram-Prasad, with Kala Acharya, “Hinduism with Others: Interlogue,” in Hawley and Narayanan, eds., *The Life of Hinduism*, pp. 288-299.

**(33) Review for the final [time TBA]**

*Coordinators: Your fine TAs*

**(34) Final examination**

The final exam will be held on Thursday, May 12, 1:10-4:00.