

COURSE NUMBER: **REL 223** (CNW, GN, GPR, NW, WI)

COURSE TITLE: **Hindusim**

CREDITS: 3:3

PREREQUISITES/COREQUISITES: None

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

**Gregory Price Grieve**

(336) 334-4913

108a Foust Building

gpgrieve@uncg.edu

Office Hours: TR 11:15-12:15

M 4:45-5:45pm

(or by appointment)

<http://www.gpgrieve.org>

**DESCRIPTION:** Through readings, lectures, discussion, and writing, this course investigates Hinduism through a nonsectarian, unbiased approach that uses various methods and theories to understand the religious life of others. The course will concentrate more on practice than philosophy, with attention to some of the myths, rituals, and images that inform the lives of Hindu women and men. The student will become familiar with significant features that contribute to Hinduism as a religion, including basic terms and common concepts, major deities and their myths, and forms of devotional expression, and will consider the significance of the teachings of key Hindu classics, such as the Veda, Upanishads, Puranas, and the Bhagavad Gita. An underlying but no less important objective of this course is to become familiar with a theoretical "tool box" for the academic study of religion in general, especially as it pertains to the study of South Asia.

**TEACHING METHODS AND ASSIGNMENTS FOR ACHIEVING LEARNING**

**OUTCOMES:** This course is designed as a speaking and writing intensive workshop. Student participation is essential, and while the instructor will lead discussion and lecture, student-led discussion will drive the course. Besides gaining an understanding of Hinduism, the aim of the class is for students to demonstrate their ability to express themselves clearly and effectively in speech and in writing. Pursuant to this, students will engage in library research, the craft of writing academic research papers, as well as and the practice of oral presentation and debate.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:** While I want you to gain a general knowledge of Hinduism, it is also important that you learn how to understand and interpret religious traditions in an academic setting. Accordingly, our goal in this class is not only to learn about Hinduism but also to learn how to think critically about religion in general. In this class you will engage in discussion, listen to lectures, watch audio-visual presentations, take exams, work in groups, as well as read and write critically. In the class:

- ◆ students will demonstrate a working knowledge of some significant elements of Hinduism as they are manifested in particular traditions and cultures;
- ◆ students will become familiar with the ways in which Hinduism is shaped by contemporary social institutions;
- ◆ students will make critical comparisons among religious traditions, experiences, and practices across culture, time, ethnicity, race, and gender;
- ◆ students will demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between religion and other elements of society, such as the connection between religion and power, the role of religious movements as forces of personal and social transformation, and as social justice;
- ◆ and students will demonstrate a working knowledge of, and the ability to apply to Hinduism, various theories, methodological perspectives, and experiential approaches to religious studies.

IN CLASS RULES Each of the following offenses may lower your final grade by one half letter (e.g., from a B to a B-). Regular offenses may cause you to be expelled from the course.

- ◆Punctuality and Attendance at All Classes—Attendance will be taken every class, and grades may be lowered on account of absences. After four absences your grade will be lowered by one half letter for each additional absence. Tardiness of more than ten minutes is considered an absence. The grade of those with perfect attendance will be raised by one half letter. Absences will only be excused with a written document —this includes doctor appointments and funerals.
- ◆Reading—You must come to class with material carefully read. Not coming to class prepared counts as an absence.
- ◆ No Cellular Phones or Instant messaging! — Cellular phones must be turned off in the classroom. If your phone rings I will deduct one half letter from your final grade. If you talk on the phone or text message, I reserve the right to fail you. Turn them off before you enter the room!
- ◆ No Chatter — If I am lecturing, or if a student "has the floor," other talking is highly distracting. If you have something to add to the conversation, please raise your hand and I will call upon you in turn. If you have something to say which is not related to the class, please wait until the period is over.
- ◆ No Hats, Sunglasses and Roller Skates — Hats, sunglasses and Roller Skates are not appropriate in the classroom. Please take them off before you enter.
- ◆ No Eating in Class— It is not appropriate to eat in the classroom. Please eat outside of the class period.

#### REQUIRED TEXTS

Flood, Gavin *An Introduction to Hinduism*

Booth, Wayne, et al. *The Craft of Research*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995.

Madhu, Khanna. *Yantra: The Tantric Symbol of Cosmic Unity*. (The text is out of print, so you will need to order it through WWW.Amazon.com or WWW.ABE.com)

e-reserve: Miner (Reading #1)

e-reserve: Muesse (Reading #2)

e-reserve: (Reading #3)

#### SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS

“What is Close Reading?”

(<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~wricntr/documents/CloseReading.html>)

“Eight Speaking Competencies and Criteria for Assessment” (e-reserve)

“What is an Annotated Bibliography” (<http://library.umcrookston.edu/Annotate.htm>)

Writing portfolio (e-reserve)

---

#### EVALUATION AND GRADING MATRIX: (100 points possible)\*

*EXAM* (March 23) 30%

*Written Work* (TOTAL OF 50%)

**Student Draft Review** (April 27) 5%

**Final Paper** (May 3) 35%

*Writing Portfolio* (10%):

**Informal Topic Due 250 words** (March 2)

**Topic Due** (March 28)

**XYZ problem** (March 30)

**Annotated Bibliography** (April 4)

**Claim** (April 6)

**Evidence / Sub-claims** (April 11)

**Warrants and Qualifications** (April 13)

**Paper Structure** (April 18)

**Rough Draft** (April 20)

**Re-written Introduction and Conclusion** (April 25)

**Polished Draft Due** (April 25)

*Oral Work* (TOTAL OF 10%)

**Seven-minute student presentations** (April 25 & April 27) 5%

**Speaking Portfolio** (5%):

**Three- Minute presentation of a Reading** (Jan 17-March 26)

**You are the expert!** (March 28)

**Three-Minute Description of Sources** (April 4)

**Test Drive: Informal presentation of Claim and Evidence** (April 11 & April 13)

**Three-Minute Description of paper (April 18 & April 20)**

*Class Participation and Visit to Writing and Speaking Centers (10%):*

**Reading Summaries and Bergman talk (5%)**

**Visit to Writing Center** (<http://www.uncg.edu/eng/writingcenter/>) (1%)

**Visit to Speaking Center** (<http://www.uncg.edu/cst/speakingcenter/main.html>) (1%)

---

**Note:** Group work and oral assignments cannot be made-up. All late papers in relation to the portfolio will be penalized one half-letter grade for each day late. No late assignments will be taken for topic, sources, question, claim, outline, draft introductory paragraph, student draft, and student draft comments.

\*The standards for grading are those described in the Undergraduate Bulletin, pp. 37-40, and at <http://www.uncg.edu/reg/Catalog/0001/uncgGradingSys.html>.

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE: Each student is required to sign the Academic Integrity Policy on all major work submitted for the course. Refer to the UNCG *Undergraduate Bulletin*. If the student has any questions, he or she should speak with me or consult the ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY at <http://saf.dept.uncg.edu/studiscp/Honor.html>.

---

SCHEDULE

Week #1

Tuesday, January 10 —Introduction to Rel 223  
Why the academic study of religion?

Thursday, January 12 — Interpretation, Orientalism or the case of *Two Mrs. Nahasapeemapetilons*

*Key words:* Interpretation, Orientalism

READ: Miner (Reading #1)

Muesse (Reading #2)

DUE: \* Belief—O-Matic

([http://www.beliefnet.com/story/76/story\\_7665\\_1.html](http://www.beliefnet.com/story/76/story_7665_1.html))

Face-Sheet

Week #2

Tuesday, January 17—Points of Departure (Flood 1-22)

*Key words:* Hinduism

DUE: reading summary

Thursday, January 19 — Ancient Origins (Flood 23-50)

*Key words:* Indus Valley, The Aryans, The Veda

Handout: *Veda*

DUE: reading summary

Film: *Altar of Fire*

Week #3

Tuesday, January 24 — Dharma (Flood 51-74)

*Key words:* Dharma, Caste and Personhood

Handout: *Laws of Manu* <http://www.sacred-texts.com/hin/manu.htm>  
(chapter XII).

DUE: reading summary

Thursday, January 26 — Yoga and Renunciation (Flood 75-102)

*Key words:* Karma, Renunciation

Handout: *Upanishad*

DUE: reading summary

Week #4

Tuesday, January 31— What is a God? (Babb Reading #3)

*Key words:* Pantheon

Handout: *Upanishad, Divine Scheme*

DUE: reading summary

Thursday, February 2—**Marc Bregman 7:30 PM Elliot Auditorium**

"Envisioning the Sacrifice of Isaac"

500 word description due Tuesday April 7

Week #5

Tuesday, February 7—Narrative Tradition and Early Viasnavism (Flood, 103-127)

*Key words:* Visnu

Handout: *Ramayana*

DUE: reading summary, 500 word description of Bergman talk.

Thursday, February 9 — The Love of Visnu (Flood, 128-147)

*Key words:* Bakti

Handout: The Gita

DUE: reading summary

Week #6

Tuesday, February 14— Shaiva and Tantric Religion (Flood 148-173)

*Key words:* Tantra

Handout: Shiva Text TBA

DUE: reading summary

Thursday, February 16— The Goddess and Shakta Traditions (Flood 174-197)

Handout: Shakta Text TBA

DUE: reading summary

Week #7

Tuesday, February 21— Hindu Ritual (Flood 198-223)

*Key words:* Puja

DUE: reading summary

Thursday, February 23— Hindu Theology and Philosophy (Flood 224-249)

DUE: reading summary

Week #8

Monday Feb 27 (NOT NORMAL CLASS TIME)

CLASS TRIP TO LIBRARY AT 6PM

Thursday, March 2 — Hinduism and the Modern World (Flood 250-273)

DUE: reading summary

NOTE: Between March 1 and March 23rd you need to be researching your topic. You will need this knowledge both for the exam and also for the questions raised during. "You are the expert!"

Week # 9 — *Selling Spirituality*

Tuesday, March 14

READ: *Selling Spirituality* (e-reserve)

Thursday, March 16

READ: *Selling Spirituality* (e-reserve)

Week # 10 — Richard King and Exam

Monday, March 20 (NOT NORMAL CLASS TIME)  
Richard King TBA

Thursday, March 23 — EXAM!

Week # 11— *The Craft of Research* (and Mandalas)

Tuesday, March 28— Introduction to Academic writing  
READ: Booth, 1-28, Khanna 6-28  
DUE: finalized Topic  
(Due: You are the expert!)

Thursday, March 30—*What is your problem?*  
READ: Booth, 29-72, Khanna 29-53  
DUE: XYZ problem

Week # 12—*From Problems to Claims*

Tuesday, April 4 — Sources  
READ: Booth, 73-82, Khanna 53-97  
DUE: Annotated Bibliography  
3 Minute presentation of sources

Thursday, April 6—Staking your claims  
READ: Booth, 85-92, Khanna 97-107  
DUE: Claim

Week # 13 — Working with Evidence (DUE: *Test Drive*: Informal presentation of Claim and Evidence)

Tuesday, April 11— *Evidence*  
READ: Booth, 94-110, Khanna 107-132  
DUE: Evidence/Subclaim

Thursday, April 13—*Warrants and Qualifications*  
READ: Booth, 111-148, Khanna 132-143  
DUE: Warrants and Qualifications

Week # 14 —Revising (DUE: 3-minute presentation of paper)

Tuesday, April 18 — *Doing it again* Revising  
READ: Booth, 201-233, Khanna 143-153  
DUE: Paper Structure

Thursday, April 20— *Introduction and Conclusion*  
READ: Booth, 234-254, Khanna 153-169  
DUE: Rough Draft

Week # 15 —Presentations (DUE: 7-minute student presentations)

Tuesday, April 25— *Student presentations*  
DUE: Polished Draft (four copies) and Rewritten Introduction and Conclusion

Thursday, April 27— *Student presentations*  
DUE: Student Draft Review

WEDNESDAY MAY 3 EXCELLENCE DAY  
DUE: *Student papers and Portfolios*