

**GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF CONTINUING STUDIES
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN LIBERAL STUDIES PROGRAM**

THE RELIGIONS OF INDIA: HINDUISM AND BUDDHISM

BLHV 263-40

Three Credits

Summer Semester, 2017

Classes meet Thursdays, May 25 – August 17

5:15 – 8:15 pm

640 Mass Ave Campus

Room C ###

Prof. Joseph E. Jensen

joseph.jensen@georgetown.edu

Office hours: by appointment Thursdays before class at the Mass Ave / Chinatown Campus.
Other times by appointment. Use e-mail to make appointment or to contact us. I will respond to all e-mails within one business day.

The course offers an introduction to and an overview of two of the world's oldest living major religious traditions, Hinduism and Buddhism. Both faiths had their origins on the Indian sub-continent. Hinduism's roots are to be found among the beliefs and practices of the indigenous peoples of the Indus River valley which are believed to have blended and merged with the beliefs and practices of Aryan tribes migrating into the regions from central Asia during the second Millennium B.C.E. Buddhism arose out of the experiences and teachings of one Siddhartha Gautama, a prince from a Nepalese kingdom, who lived c. 563-483 B.C.E. The course focuses on the ancient histories of the two religions and on the development of their doctrines and practices, especially as these are reflected in their sacred scriptures. The the course will also touch upon modern expressions and practices of the two religions, and their spread and influence outside India, including in the Western World.

There are no prerequisites for this course, and no prior knowledge of Hinduism or Buddhism is assumed.

Course Objectives. At the completion of this course students will:

1. Have explored the characteristics and features that typically constitute a religion, and illustrate in a written paper how these characteristics apply or do not apply to diverse religious traditions, including the ancient and modern forms of Hinduism and Buddhism.
2. Have acquired a basic understanding of the natures of Hinduism and Buddhism as religions, and in class discussions and written assignments reflect a comprehension of the religions' significant doctrines, ethical values, rituals, and practices.
3. Through attentive reading of selected texts from Hindu and Buddhist sacred scriptures, along with the assigned textbook readings students will begin to grasp the connections between religious scriptures and religious beliefs and practices in the two religions, and reflect these associations in class discussions and written papers.
4. Have become familiar with the diversity in contemporary Hinduisms and Buddhisms, and in class discussions and written papers reflect an understandings of what remains common to the traditions of each religion, and the backgrounds and significances of the alternate approaches as they have evolved over time and in different locations.

5. Students will have arranged for and visited a Hindu or Buddhist temple for a tour, orientation, service, or other activity and reflected up on their experience as related to the course materials in a short essay.
6. In keeping with the major goals of the Liberal Studies program, students will be able to address the relevance of the values found in the Hindu and in the Buddhist traditions in in-class discussions about relationships between the human and the divine, the individual and society, and identity and difference, especially as these relate to gender roles, to authority [how it is construed, exercised, and challenged] and to ethics and justice.

Textbooks [Required]:

Hinduism Today, by Stephen Jacobs. Religion Today. Continuum. 2010. ISBN 978-0-8264-3025-6

The Foundations of Buddhism, by Rupert Gethin. Opus. Oxford University Press. 1998. ISBN 978-0-19-289223-2.

AND EITHER

Hinduism, by Wendy Doniger. The Norton Anthology of World Religions; W.W. Norton & Co. 2015. ISBN 978-0-393-91257-9.

AND

Buddhism, by Donald S. Lopez, Jr. The Norton Anthology of World Religions; W.W. Norton & Co. 2015. ISBN 978-0-393-91259-3.

OR

The Norton Anthology of World Religions, ed. by Jack Miles. 2 vols. W.W. Norton & Co. 2015. ISBN 978-0-393-06253-3.

[In the *Norton Anthology* we will be reading from the “Introduction” by Jack Miles (pp. 1-51), *Hinduism*, by Wendy Doniger (pp. 53-722), and *Buddhism*, by Donald S. Lopez, Jr (pp. 725-1463), all in the first of the two volumes. The texts by Doniger and Lopez are available independently in paperback format. Students may find that purchasing the two volume hardcover anthology, which includes additional sections related to *Daoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam* to be less expensive than the two independent paper editions of the required texts.]

In addition to readings from the textbooks, *other material is posted on Blackboard* as reading assignments for individual classes, indicated below.

Class Requirements:

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| 1. Weekly submissions and class participation: | 20% of final grade |
| 2. First essay “What Constitutes a Religion?” | 15% |
| 3. Temple Visit essay | 15% |
| 4. Essay on a Hindu epic | 25% |
| 5. Essay on a topic from Buddhism | 25% |

Attendance is essential. This is a 3 credit course that meets once a week. Missing a single class is the equivalent of missing more three classes in a more traditional class. In accord with BALS policy students with two or more absences, excused or unexcused, may receive a failing grade

for the course. On the occasion of a second absence the student's name will be forwarded to the Associate Dean.

Classes will begin and end on time. Students are expected to be present for the entire class. Arriving late is disruptive to the instructor and the class. Repeated late arrival will be counted as an absence. **If you know or anticipate that you are likely to be late for class or to need to leave early on a regular basis for any reason do not take this class at this time.**

Instructional Continuity. In the event that the University or the Massachusetts Avenue Campus is closed at a scheduled class time, the professors will conduct the class using Webinar technology. The Webinar class will be recorded for those students who are not able to log onto the session at the time it is offered.

Weekly submissions: Beginning with week 3 (June 8), for each class students are to prepare in writing two questions or insights drawn from the assigned readings. For each question or insight the student is to indicate in two to three sentences the source and the reasons that motivated the question or insight. Students will be called upon in class to share their questions and insights and to lead short discussions related to what they present. The assignments are to be turned in at the end of each class.

First essay: "What Constitutes a Religion?" A four page essay [1400 – 1600 words] based upon a selection of provided articles and readings, due at on Turnitin prior to the beginning of the second class (June 1). **The readings and the assignment will be emailed to registered students one week before the first class. Essays will be graded and returned to students within three days to fulfill the SCS requirement for a graded assignment within the first two weeks of class.**

Temple visit essay: A three page [1000 – 1200 words] essay in which the student describes and reflects upon a visit to a Washington area Hindu or Buddhist temple. There are multiple Hindu and Buddhist temples in the Washington, DC area. Many are open to visitors, offer tours, and / or information sessions and activities. Students are expected to search out, schedule, and take part in one such activity which is to be the basis for their essay. Can be submitted at any time, but due by the beginning of class, week 13 (August 17).

Hindu epic essay: A ten page [3600 – 4000 words] essay based upon the assigned readings from one of the great epics [the *Mahabharata* of Vyasa, the *Bhagavad Gita*, or the *Ramayana* of Valmiki, in *Hinduism* or *The Norton Anthology*, with additional suggested portions] in which the student illustrates how the narrative works to embody and inculcate Hinduism's fundamental teachings and principals. Due by the beginning of class, week 7 (July 6).

Buddhism essay: A ten page [3600 – 4000 words] essay on a specific topic related to Buddhism, to be selected by the student, but approved by the instructor. Proposed topic, outline, and bibliography due at the beginning of class for week 10 [July 27]. Essay due at noon, Tuesday, August 22..

Papers will be accepted late (but by no more than a week) only for exceptional reasons and with prior permission of the faculty member. Late papers may bring a lower grade at the discretion of the faculty.

Papers and essays submitted for this course must consistently use the Modern Language Association [MLA] system of bibliographic references to indicate the sources for all quotations, and to indicate the sources for all concepts and ideas that were acquired in researching and preparing the essay or paper. If you have questions about MLA style and formatting, make an appointment with the Librarian in the Mass Ave Resource Center on C2. For additional help consult the OWL at Perdue University site:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

All papers will be graded on Turnitin within two weeks of receipt. [See scoring for essays above].

Effort: This is a content intensive course. Students should expect to spend on average 360 minutes [6 hours] each week in reading, preparing assignments, and writing essays and papers for this course. Keeping up with the readings and written assignments is essential. There are no tests and no final exam for this course. Evaluation of student performance is based on attendance, preparation reflected in active class participation, and timely submission of four assigned papers.

All papers will be graded on Turnitin within two weeks of receipt.

Grading:

The final grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

93-100 % = A	77 - 79 % = C+
90 - 92 % = A-	73 - 76 % = C
87 - 89 % = B+	70 - 72 % = C-
83 - 86 % = B	67 - 69 % = D+
80 - 82 % = B-	60 - 66 % = D
Below 60 % = F	

Incomplete grades must be requested of the Associate Dean BEFORE the last regular class (Aug. 17, 2017). Should you have an exceptional situation that you believe requires that you request an incomplete, you must discuss the matter with the Associate Dean and with me, prepare the request form for my signature, and deliver the form to Associate Dean prior to the deadline. An incomplete may bring a lower grade at the discretion of the faculty member.

Withdrawing from the course: A student may withdraw from the course at any time up until Thursday, August 17, 2017 (the date published in the University Calendar); however, the student is responsible for filling out the appropriate forms, obtaining the necessary signatures, and properly submitting the paperwork in time to meet the deadline. If the paperwork is not completed, the student automatically receives a grade of “F”.

Veterans and active duty military personnel are welcome. Those with special circumstances requiring accommodation (e.g., upcoming deployments, drill requirements, disabilities) should

discuss these in advance if possible with the professor. Every effort will be made to work with such students consistent with the integrity of the academic process.

Disabilities: If you are a student with a documented disability who requires accommodations or if you think you may have a disability and want to inquire about accommodations, please contact the Academic Resource Center at 202-687-8354 or arc@georgetown.edu.

Policy Accommodating Students' Religious Observances. The following is university policy: Georgetown University promotes respect for all religions. Any student who is unable to attend classes or to participate in any examination, presentation, or assignment on a given day because of the observance of a major religious holiday or related travel shall be excused and provided with the opportunity to make up, without unreasonable burden, any work that has been missed for this reason and shall not in any other way be penalized for the absence or rescheduled work. Students will remain responsible for all assigned work. Students should notify professors in writing at the beginning of the semester of religious observances that conflict with their classes.

Georgetown Honor System: All students are expected to follow Georgetown's honor code unconditionally. We assume you have read the honor code material located at <http://scs.georgetown.edu/academic-affairs/honor-code>, and in particular have read the following documents: Honor Council Pamphlet, What is Plagiarism, Sanctioning Guidelines, and Expedited Sanctioning Process. Papers in this course will all be submitted to turnitin.com for checking.

Submitting material in fulfillment of the requirements of this course means that you have abided by the Georgetown honor pledge:

In the pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life, I commit myself to respect and uphold the Georgetown Honor System: To be honest in any academic endeavor, and to conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community, as we live and work together.

Plagiarism: In accord with university policy, all incidents of suspected plagiarism or other Honor Code violations will be reported to the Honor Council without fail.

If the Honor Council finds that a student has plagiarized or has violated the Honor Code in any other way, the student may receive a grade of F for the course.

The sources for all information and ideas in your assignments must be documented, following the style rules of the Modern Language Association. In addition, all quotations must be identified as quotations, using quotation marks and indicating the source of the quotation, as mandated by MLA style. Anything less than these standards is plagiarism.

MLA style is not taught in this course; a summary of MLA style is available at

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Turnitin: Students acknowledge that by taking this course all required papers must be submitted for a Textual Similarity Review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site.

Your professor is required to report any suspicion of a violation of the honor system to the Georgetown University's Honor Council for investigation. In the event of a confirmed case of academic misconduct on the part of a student, the student may receive an "F" for the assignment, in addition to any action taken by the Honor Council.

Extreme weather, Emergencies, and Instructional Continuity: During inclement weather or other emergencies on a day when we are scheduled to meet face-to-face, check the university's Web site or call (202) 687-7669 for information on whether the university is open. If the university is open, this class will meet. If the university is closed, this class will meet through distance means such as online videoconferencing; check your e-mail for a message from me on how we will proceed in that situation. Due dates for written assignments submitted through Blackboard will not be changed due to campus closings. The university recently has acquired the capability to send **text messages and recorded messages about emergencies to cell phones and other mobile devices. Sign up on MyAccess.**

Important Dates

Thursday, May 25 – First Class

Thursday, June 1 – First Essay, “**What Constitutes a Religion?**” due at on Turnitin prior to the beginning of the class.

Thursday, June 8 – **Weekly Submission** as described above due during this class and each of the following classes.

Thursday, July 6 – **Hindu Epic** essay due on Turnitin at the beginning of class.

Thursday, August 17 – **Temple Visit** essay due on Turnitin by beginning of class.

Wednesday, August 17 – **Final Class**

Thursday, August 17 – **Last day to withdraw from the course.**

Tuesday, August 22 – Your essay on a topic in **Buddhism** is due on Turnitin at noon.

Class Schedule and Assignments: (*Note: This Schedule may be subject to modification*)

WEEK ONE: Thursday, May 25. Introduction to the academic study of religion.

Student preparation:

Wendy Read: Huston Smith, “Points of Departure,” pp. 1-11 in *The World's Religions* by Huston Smith. 50th Anniversary Edition. HarperOne. 1991.

[Blackboard]

Jack Mills, “Preface,” pp. xix – xxix in Donniger, *Hinduism* [or, pp. xli – li in *The Norton Anthology*].

Jack Mill, “General Introduction: How the West Learned to Compare Religions,” pp. 1-42 in Wendy Donniger, *Hinduism* [or, “General Introduction: Art, Play, and the Comparative Study of Religion”, pp 1-51 in *The Norton Anthology*].

Write: - Prepare and submit a two page, typed, double spaced self-introduction, telling something about your background, your ambitions and goals, your expectations from this course, and something about how familiar you are with scholarly study of religion. You are free to share your religious persuasion(s) or lack thereof should you choose.

Class: Introduction to course, and review of the syllabus

Introduction to the academic study of religion

WEEK TWO: Thursday June 1. Hinduism: An Overview

Note: Your First Essay, “**What Constitutes a Religion?**” due at on Turnitin prior to the beginning of the class. Bring a copy of your paper to class.

Student preparation:

Read: Huston Smith, "Hinduism," pp.12-81 in *The World's Religions* by Huston Smith. 50th Anniversary Edition. HarperOne. 1991. [Blackboard]
Hans Küng, "Hinduism:," pp. 37-77 in *Trading the Way: Spiritual Dimensions of the World Religions*. Continuum. 2002. [Blackboard]
Wendy Doniger, "The Zen Diagram of Hinduism" pp 45-65 in *Hinduism* or pp 55-75 in *The Norton Anthology*.

Class: Discussion of your papers "What Constitutes a Religion?"
Introduction to Hinduism: The Religion

WEEK THREE: Thursday, June 8. Theories regarding Hindu origins and early history
Note: Your first **Weekly Submission** as called for in the Syllabus above is at the beginning of this class.

Student preparation:

Read: Karen Armstrong, "Knowledge," pp. 147-163 in *The Great Transformation: The Beginning of Our Religious Traditions*. Anchor. 2006. [Blackboard]
Stephen Jacobs, "Introduction" and "Hinduism: The Basics," pp. 1-29 in *Hinduism Today*.
Wendy Doniger, "Hinduism in Sanskrit: 1500 B.C.E. – 1200 C.E.,"
"Ancient Texts 1500-200 B.C.E.," pp. 67-125 in *Hinduism* or pp. 77-135 in *The Norton Anthology*.

Prepare and write weekly submission

Class: Introduction to the Hindu Scriptures, especially the *Rig Veda* and the *Upanishads*

WEEK FOUR: Thursday, June 15. Divine Heroes: The Great Hindu Epics as Conduits of Hindu Faith and Practice

Student preparation:

Read: Wendy Doniger, "The Age of Ferment: 300 b.c.e. – 400 c.e.," pp. 126-219 in *Hinduism* or pp. 136-229 in *The Norton Anthology*.

Prepare and write weekly submission

Class: The Mahabharata, The Bhagavad Gita, The Ramayana, and the Shastras.

WEEK FIVE: Thursday, June 22. The Divine Presence:

Student preparation:

Read: Stephen Jacobs, "Hinduism in India," pp. 30-56 in *Hinduism Today*.
Wendy Doniger, "The Synthesis of Hinduism: 400 - 1200 .C.E.," pp. 220 - 294 in *Hinduism* or pp. 230-304 in *The Norton Anthology*.

Prepare and write weekly submission

Class: Brahman / Atman: The Divine Within

Nigguna Brahman / Saguna Brahmam [[The Divine-Without-Attributes / The Divine-with-Attributes]

WEEK SIX: Thursday, June 29. The Flowering of the Bhakti and the Krishna Traditions

Student preparation:

Read: Wendy Doniger, "Vernacular Hinduism . . . [selections]" pp. 295-552 in *Hinduism* or pp. 305-723 in *The Norton Anthology*.

Prepare and write weekly submission

Class: Devotional Movements

Religious Complaint and Dissent

WEEK SEVEN: Thursday, July 6: Hinduism in a Globalized World

Note: Your **Hindu Epic** essay due on Turnitin at the beginning of class.

Student preparation:

Read: Stephen Jacobs, "Hinduism in a Global Mass-mediated Context," "Hinduism in Diaspora," and "The Future," pp. 81-145 in *Hinduism Today*.

Wendy Doniger, "The Hindu Authors of Modernity, 1900 and After [selections]," pp. 553-712. in *Hinduism* or pp. 563-722 in *The Norton Anthology*.

Prepare and write weekly submission

Class: Communicating Hinduism

Hinduism outside India

Convergence and Divergence

Relations with other religions

The Allure of Hinduism

WEEK EIGHT: Thursday, July 13: Buddhism: An Overview

Student preparation:

Read: Huston Smith, "Buddhism," pp.82-153 in *The World's Religions* by Huston Smith. 50th Anniversary Edition. HarperOne. 1991. [Blackboard]

Hans Küng, "Buddhism" pp. 131-162 in *Trading the Way: Spiritual Dimensions of the World Religions*. Continuum. 2002. [Blackboard]

Daniel S. Lopez, Jr., "Introduction: In the World of the Buddha," pp 45-85 in *Buddhism* or pp 727-767 in *The Norton Anthology*.

Prepare and write weekly submission

Class: Buddhism: The Religion

WEEK NINE: Thursday, July 20: Siddhartha Gautama in his Hindu and Indian Context

Student preparation:

Read: Rupert Gettin, "Introduction," "The Buddha: The Story of the Awakened One," "The Word of the Buddha: Buddhists Scriptures and Schools," and "Four Truths: The Disease, The Cause, The Cure, The Medicine," pp. 1-84 in *The Foundations of Buddhism*.

Daniel Lopez, "Buddhism in India", and "The Shared Tradition", pp. 86-177 in *Buddhism* or pp. 768-859 in *The Norton Anthology*.

Prepare and write weekly submission
Class: The “historical” Buddha
Reincarnation and Karma
Reaction and rebellion against what Hinduism had become
The Four Noble Truths

WEEK TEN: Thursday, July 27: Enlightenment in Idea and Practice

Student preparation:

Read: Rupert Gethin, “The Buddhist Community: Monks, Nuns, and Lay Followers,” “The Buddhist Cosmos: The Thrice-Thousandfold World,” “No Self: Personal Continuity and Dependent Arising,” pp. 85- 162 in *The Foundations of Buddhism*.
Daniel Lopez, “The Shared Tradition” (cont.) pp. 177-247 in *Buddhism* or pp. 840-929 in *The Norton Anthology*.

Prepare and write weekly submission

Class: The Eightfold path
Building a following
Cosmology & Psychology

WEEK ELEVEN: Thursday, August 3: Loving-Kindness & The Path of Purification

Student preparation:

Read: Rupert Gethin, “The Buddhist Path: The Way of Calm and Insight,” “The Abhidharma: The Higher Teaching,” pp. 163-223 in *The Foundations of Buddhism*.
Daniel Lopez, “The Shared Tradition” (cont.) pp. 248-366 in *Buddhism* or pp. 930-1047 in *The Norton Anthology*.

Prepare and write weekly submission

Class: Meditation
Consciousness, Karma, and Rebirth

WEEK TWELVE: August 10: One Destination: Different Vehicles

Student preparation:

Read: Rupert Gethin, “The Mahāyāna: The Great Vehicle, pp. 224-252 in *The Foundations of Buddhism*.
Daniel Lopez, “Mahayana Treatises,” and “Buddhist Tantra,” pp. 366-489 in *Buddhism* or pp. 1048-1169 in *The Norton Anthology*.

Prepare and write weekly submission

Class: The Great Raft
The Authentic Way (The Little Raft)
The Diamond Thunderbolt

WEEK THIRTEEN: August 17: Evolving Traditions and Buddhism Today

Note: By the University Calendar today is the last day to withdraw from the course.

Note: Your **Temple Visit** essay due on Turnitin by beginning of class.

Student preparation:

Read: Rupert Gettin, "Evolving Traditions of Buddhism: South, East, North, and West," pp. 253-276 in *The Foundations of Buddhism*. Opus. Oxford University Press. 1998.

Daniel Lopez, "Buddhism in China(selections)," "Buddhism in Korea," Buddhism in Japan (selections)," and "Buddhism in Tibet" (selections) and "Modern Buddhism," pp. 366-787 in *Buddhism* or pp 1173-1469 in *The Norton Anthology*.

Prepare and write weekly submission

Class: The confluence of Buddhism and Hinduism in India

Buddhisms

Buddhism in the modern world

Buddhism in the West

Wrap up of the course

Tuesday, August 22 – Your final paper on a topic in Buddhism is due on Turnitin at noon.