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Office Hours: T/R 9:30-11:00 a.m.,
and by appointment

CEDAR CREST COLLEGE
Religion 226 – 70
“Hinduism”
December 10, 17, and 27, 2016
January 4 – 15, 2017 in India
January 21, 28 at the College, and Online.

This is a study abroad course for 3 credit hours and is the curricular equivalent of Rel 226 (“Hinduism in America”) taught as part of the Religious Studies and Global Studies program. The study abroad course will be offered as an accelerated hybrid with emphasis on Hinduism in India. Classes will meet five times on Saturdays in December and January for 2 hours and will travel together in India from January 4-15 visiting New Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur. Additional work will be done online. Class meetings will include materials normally covered in Rel 226 as well as specific preparation for learning and traveling in India.

Students who enroll for the course must have a valid passport with an expiration date no sooner than 6 months after the trip has ended in order to meet government of India requirements.

Travel will be coordinated by Passports Educational Travel. Passports requires that full payment be made 90 days before travel. Students enrolling in the course will also be required to obtain tourist visas from the Indian consulate (New York) a month before travel.

Course Objectives

1. To study the Hindu tradition in depth through analyses of its history, literature and art.
2. To understand the connections between religion and culture in South Asia.
3. To explore Hinduism as an adaptive tradition with interrelationships between village life and a philosophical- literary heritage.

NOTE: Students are required to save a copy on disc of take home exams and papers for the duration of the course.

December 10 *(some content to be presented online during the following week)*
Overview of the course and the study abroad trip.
Introduction to the History of Religions and Indian studies
Participant Observation
South Asia – religion, culture and geography.

- December 10
(continued)
- The Indus Valley Civilization
Dravidian languages, art, and culture
Slides of Indus Valley art and architecture
Film: "Indus: the Unvoiced Civilization."
Readings: Knipe, Introduction, Ch. 1-4
- December 17
(some content to be presented online during the following week)
- The Vedas and Indo – Aryan Civilization
Puja and Icon worship
Film: "Puja".
The Hindu Worldview
Post Vedic scriptures – The Ramayana and Mahabharata, the Laws of
Manu, Puranas, Shastras and sectarian literature.
The Hindu Temple
Introduction to the Hindu bhakti movement
Film: "Consecration of a Temple"
Readings: Richardson, Ch. 1 and 2
Haberman - Ch. 1 and 2
Knipe - Ch.5-6
- December 27
- Trip preparations – what to expect in India
The Hindu bhakti movement, ctd.
Bhakti sampradayas and the cult of Krishna.
Readings: Haberman – Ch. 3 and 4
Richardson – Ch. 3 and 4
- January 4 – 15
- Study abroad travel in New Delhi, Jaipur, and Agra (India)
Work on student journals during the trip
- January 21
(some content to be presented online during the following week)
- Debriefing the study abroad trip
Marriage
Film: "Dadi's Family"
Yoga and meditation
Hinduism in the West
Journals Due
Take Home Final Examination Distributed
- January 28
- Course conclusion - Hinduism in a globalized world
Hinduism and nationalism
Take home final examination collected
Term papers collected

Course Requirements

Each student will complete a research paper (8 - 10 pages) on an analysis of any aspect of Hindu religion and culture. Students will also complete a travel journal, linking what they have studied in the course with their observations in India. Course requirements also include a final examination as well as participation.

Grades will be calculated on the following basis:

Term Paper	30%
Travel Journal	30%
Final Exam	30%
Attendance and Participation	10%

The Academic Study of Religion

The academic study of religion is grounded in the assumption that the human experience of the sacred can be studied as an intellectual and societal phenomenon without bias. Accordingly, with the exception of theology, the major disciplines for the study of religion depend on the same objectivity that would be assumed in the humanities and social sciences.

In keeping with this perspective the study of religion at Cedar Crest College depends on the ability of students to think critically and objectively about both the nature of religion and religious practices. Value judgments about any religion or perspectives from a faith position are outside of this approach and properly belong in bible colleges and seminaries where a religious perspective is assumed. Any student having difficulty with this approach should contact the instructor at the earliest possible point in the course.

Texts:

Three texts are required for the course and should be read in their entirety:

Knipe, D. (1991). *Hinduism: Experiments in the sacred*. San Francisco: Harper.

David L. Haberman (1994), *Journey Through the Twelve Forests: An Encounter with Krishna* (New York: Oxford).

E. Allen Richardson (2014), *Seeing Krishna in America: The Hindu Bhakti tradition of Vallabhacharya in India and its Movement to the West* (Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland)

Additional readings will be assigned on library reserve throughout the semester.

THE HONOR CODE

Students are expected to abide by the principles of the college's honor policy throughout the course. The Honor Code policy can be found in the Customs Book. Any violation will be dealt with according to college procedure.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is "the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work," (The Random House College Dictionary, Revised Edition, New York: Random House, 1975, p. 1014). The Cedar Crest College Faculty Handbook (Book Four, Article B, Section 3, p. 14) further defines it:

Any language taken from another source, whether individual words or entire paragraphs, must be placed within quotation marks and attributed to the source, following the citation format specified by the instructor. Paraphrased material from an outside source must also be attributed. In addition, if the student is indebted to another source for a specific perspective or a line of argument—regardless of whether the student has directly quoted the source or not—that debt must be acknowledged.

In consideration of these ideas, all Religious Studies courses will treat plagiarism in the following ways. Inadvertent plagiarism, the occasional failure to include a citation or the occasional use of a phrase from another source or the omission of a reference, represents sloppy scholarship and is subject to the loss of points on the paper or examination on which it occurs. However, the importation of either complete sentences or paragraphs from an external source and integrating them within the body of a paper constitutes plagiarism and will result in a failing grade being given for the entire course.

Academic papers or projects submitted for another college course cannot be re-submitted for any Religious Studies course without the permission of both instructors. Dual submission of papers is a violation of academic policy and will result in a failure for the course.

Internet Sources and Bibliographies

Term papers may incorporate no more than 4 internet sources. Internet sources should be educational in nature (.edu) and not commercial sites. Full text online materials are not counted as internet sources. Bibliographies should include a significant number of academic texts which will vary in number according to the subject of the paper. Wikipedia or print encyclopedias are not acceptable in bibliographies.

GRADE REQUIREMENTS FOR PAPERS

An "A" paper must have:

- Excellence in the creative and critical presentation of an argument relevant to the assignment.
- A clearly identified thesis or central idea.
- A structure that connects the ideas in the paper with the thesis.
- A complete bibliography or "works cited" page(s) in appropriate format.
- Clearly articulated relevance and significance of the subject matter.
- The paper must be grammatically correct and relatively free from errors in grammar, syntax or spelling. It must also contain appropriate references in the text and follow an accepted style system.

A "B" paper must have:

- A clearly identified thesis or central idea.
- A structure that relates to the thesis but may lack some connections.
- A bibliography or "works cited" page(s) that is relatively free from error.
- Appropriate connections with the assignment.
- The paper must be relatively free from errors in grammar, syntax or spelling. It must also contain appropriate references in the text and follow an accepted style system.

A "C" paper is identified by:

- A poorly constructed central idea and the absence of a thesis.
- Poor structure.
- Incomplete bibliography, "works cited" and references in the text.
- Appropriate connections with the assignment.
- Errors in grammar, syntax or spelling.

A "D" paper is identified by:

- No central idea.
- Little or no structure.
- Incomplete or missing bibliography, "works cited" and references in the text.
- Abundant errors in grammar, syntax or spelling.
- Unclear or confused relationship to the assignment.

A failing paper is identified by:

- No central idea or structure.
- Failure to include bibliography "works cited" or references in the text.
- Abundant errors in grammar, syntax or spelling.
- Lack of relationship to the assignment.