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

CEDAR CREST COLLEGE
 Religion 226 – 90
 “Hinduism in America”

SYLLABUS

January 31- 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.
 February 14, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
 February 21 9:00 – 12:00
 March 7-17 in India
 March 28, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
 April 25, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Course Objectives

1. To study the Hindu tradition both in diaspora in the United States and in its original form in India.
2. To understand the connections between religion and culture in South Asia.
3. To explore Hinduism as an adaptive tradition both to the demands of a globalized economy in India and to the changing fabric of American life.

Schedule

January 31 Distribution of Syllabus, course expectations
 Discussion about the trip:
 Travel in India
 Medical precautions and preparations
 Hindu temples in India
 Travel abroad agreement
 Disciplines for the study of religion
 Hinduism and the Indus Valley Civilization
 The Vedas and Indo-Aryan Civilization
 Hindu Worldviews
Puja and image worship
 Readings: Knipe 1- 5
 Fuller 1-3
 Hopkins 4-5

- February 14 Hindu Culture
Great and Little Traditions
Marriage
Film excerpt – “Dadi’s Family”
The role of the extended family in Hindu culture
Caste
The Hindu Temple
Readings: Knipe 3
Fuller 4, 8
Hopkins 6-7
- Feb 21 Hindu temples in America - visit to the Anoopam Mission (Coplay, PA)
Bhakti
Renunciation as a cultural model
Film excerpt – “Sadhu”
Final preparations for the trip
Distribution of Mid-Term examination (due in the Social Sciences departmental office, Curtis 239, by 4 p.m., February 23).
Readings: Fuller 5,6,9
- March 7 Departure via college van from Cedar Crest College to the Philadelphia airport
- 17 Pick up at Philadelphia airport via Cedar Crest College van
- March 28 Trip debriefing
Hinduism in the United States and in India- comparisons and contrasts
Yoga in the West
Discussion of Term Paper topics
Readings: Knipe 6
- April 25 Term papers due
Oral presentations
Journals due
Distribution of Take Home final examination
- May 4 Take Home Final Examination due in Curtis 239 by 4:00 p.m.

Course Requirements

Each student will complete a research paper (8-12 pages) on any aspect of Hindu religion and culture. Papers may focus, for example, on the nature of ritual, the role of women, the dynamics of caste, seminal Hindu figures such as Ramakrishna, Vivekananda, or Gandhi or the adaptation of the faith to the West.

Evaluation

Grades will be calculated on the following basis:

Participation both in the classroom and while on tour in north India	10%
Term Paper	30%
Final examination	30%
Mid-Term examination	20%
Oral Presentation	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 theological 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. Suggested chapter readings are also indicated for each class.

Hopkins, T. (1971) *The Hindu Religious Tradition*. Encino, CA: Dickenson Publishing Co.

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

Fuller, C.J. (2004) *The Camphor Flame: Popular Hinduism and Society in India* (revised ed.), Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Honor Code:

Students are expected to abide by the Cedar Crest Honor Code at all times and to observe a courteous classroom demeanor.

Attendance:

Unless excused for health or personal emergency, students are expected to be in class. Students missing more than one class without a valid excuse will lose 2 points from their final course grade for each day absent.

PLAGIARISM AND THE HONOR CODE

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. The submission of an entire paper that is not the student’s own work, whether borrowed or purchased, will result in an “F” for the course. The submission of part of a paper or examination that is not the student’s work will result in an “F” for that assignment. This holds true even in those cases where an outside source is acknowledged but the inclusion of the material is presented as the student’s own work without quotation marks. All cases of plagiarism will be reported to the office of the Provost.

While plagiarism is a serious violation of academic life, it is understandable that unintentional violations (including misquotes and occasional omission of references) do occur. While such omissions must be corrected before a grade can be recorded, they do not result in any further action.

INTERNET SOURCES

Internet sources on all academic papers must be used with discretion since they represent a surface level of research and are often not subjected to peer review prior to publication. Research papers must include at least ten sources and no more than four internet citations with the exception of on line journals and academic papers available on educational (.edu) sites. Encyclopedias (including Wikipedia) cannot be cited as resources in research papers.

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.
- 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.