

Krishna.

Fall 2018.

Edwin Bryant

01:840:357:01 (Cross-listed with 16:840:557:01)

Tues/Thurs, RAB 207, 4th period, (2:15-3:35)

Office hours Tuesday 9.30 --10.30 AM

Course Description.

The course consists of an analysis of *bhakti* yoga through the lens of a 16th century devotional tradition that was pivotal to what is sometimes called a renaissance of Kṛṣṇa devotionalism across the North of the Indian subcontinent. The course features two main texts, both by Jīva Gosvāmi, a founding member of the Gauḍīya school of Vaiṣṇavism, a pre-modern Vedānta tradition. The first is a reworking of the tenth book of the classical Sanskrit text, the *Śrīmad Bhāgavata Purāṇa*, one of the most important Hindu texts due to it's featuring the primary episodes from Kṛṣṇa's incarnation. This is called the *Gopāla Campū*, which contains the original stories from the *Bhāgavata* embellished in accordance with the theological categories of Jiva's tradition. The second is a highly scholastic philo-theological analysis of Kṛṣṇa ontological status as Godhead and absolute Truth, the *Kṛṣṇa Sandarbha*, by the same author.

Our aim in this course is to provide students with a modest window into how *bhakti* is understood through the frame of reference of one community of theologians and practitioners in the pre-modern period prior to its encounter with modernity in the colonial period. As a result of our chosen phenomenological focus, in addition to engaging narratives about the all-important Divinity Kṛṣṇa, we will gain an exposure to a traditional mode of understanding, interpreting and reworking sacred scripture (hermeneutics).

Course objectives.

To provide students with an extensive understanding of the Deity of Kṛṣṇa and of some of the contours of Hindu devotion associated with him. To expose students to how such classical texts become increasingly theologized and elaborated upon over the course of time.

Course Requirements: All assigned reading. Two quizzes (each 25% of the total grade), and term paper (10 pgs, 40%) due the last day of class. Students' attendance record and overall performance in class will factor into the remaining 10% of the grade (one point deducted for each unexcused absence; more than 10 such absences will result in a fail grade for the entire course). Students are expected to read whatever material is assigned for each particular week, and be prepared to discuss this in class. Any student called upon who has obviously not done the assigned reading will lose grade points. Computers are allowed for note taking, but any student using the computer for any other reason, such as surfing the web or checking social media, will lose grade points and no longer be allowed to bring the computer to class (and I will check up from time to time!). Any student wishing to bring the computer to class for note taking *must sit in the front row of the class*. Anyone using a cell phone in class will likewise lose points.

Please note: **there are no make-ups for missed quizzes** except in the case of an absence caused by an unexpected emergency and evidenced by a doctor's or dean's note. In the event of such a documented emergency, the instructor must be informed of the impending absence immediately (i.e. on the day of the quiz), and the make-up must be taken within 24 hours of the quiz. There are no exceptions to these conditions.

Required Readings

Bryant, Edwin F. *Bhakti Yoga: Tales and Teachings from the Bhāgavata Purāṇa* New York: North Point, 2017.

Bānu Swāmi, H.H., *trans Gopāla Campū*, by Jīva Gosvāmi, Chennai: Sri Vaikuntha Enterprises, n.d.

Dāsa, Satyanārayaṇa, *Krishna Sandarbha* by Jīva Gosvāmi, New Delhi: Jiva Institute, *in press*.

Week I

Tue Sept 4th

Introduction to the Course

Thur Sept 6th

Readings: *Bhakti Yoga*, Introduction.

Week II

Tue/Thur, Sept 11th & 13th

Readings: *Bhakti Yoga*, Introduction (cont); *Gopāla Campū*, *Pūrva Campū*, Chapter 1-2

Week III

Tue/Thur Sept 18th & 20th

Readings: *Gopāla Campū*, *Pūrva Campū*, Chapters 3-13

Week IV

Tue/Thur Sept 25th & 27th

Readings: *Gopāla Campū*, *Pūrva Campū*, Chapter 14-22

Week V

Tue/Thur Oct 2nd & 4th

Readings: *Gopala Campu*, Chapters 23 -33; *Uttara Campū*, Chapters 1-4

Week VI

Tue/Thur Oct 9th & 11th

Readings: *Gopala Campu*, *Uttara Campū*, Chapters, 5-21

Week VII

Tue Oct 16th

Readings: *Gopala Campu, Uttara Campū*, Chapters, 22-37

Thursday Oct 18th Exam I.

Week VIII

Tue/Thur Oct 23rd & 25th

Readings: *Krishna Sandarbha*, page numbers to be determined.

Week IX

Tue/Thur Oct 30th & Nov 1st

Readings: *Krishna Sandarbha*

Week X

Tue/Thur Nov 6th & 8th

Readings: *Krishna Sandarbha*

Week XI

Tue/Thur Nov 13th & 15th

Readings: *Krishna Sandarbha*

Week XII

Tue/Thur Nov 20th No class (Thursday classes scheduled). Students are still responsible for the readings.

Readings: *Krishna Sandarbha*

Week XIII

Tue/Thur Nov 27th & 29th

Readings: *Krishna Sandarbha*

Week XIV

Tue Dec 4th Exam II.

Thur Dec 6th

Readings: *Krishna Sandarbha*

Week XV

Tue Dec 11th

Conclusory Reflections. Final Papers Due, and paper presentations.

