**Religion** 01:840:368:01

**Introduction to Hindu Philosophy**

**Location:** Cook/Douglass Lecture Hall, Room 109

**Tuesday &Thursday:** 2:15-3:35 PM

Instructor: Edwin Bryant

E-mail: <edbryant@religion.rutgers.edu>.

Office Hours: Tue 1-2.00 PM, 64 College Ave, Office 202, College Ave Campus.

**Course Description and Objectives:**

This course will attempt an overview (and no more) of some of the main schools of orthodox Hindu thought up to the medieval period. Attention will be paid to some of the prominent interconnections and points of contestation amongst some of these schools. The course will utilize primary texts wherever possible.

**Course Prerequisites:** None.

**Course Requirement:**

Class attendance and participation (10% of the final grade); two non-cumulative quizzes (25% of the final grade each); a final cumulative exam (40% of the final grade). **Please note: there are no make-ups for missed quizzes or exams 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 on the day after the quiz. There are no exceptions to these conditions. Also, this is a large class and it is distracting to other students as well as the instructor if students chat to each other during the lectures. Students who do so, or send/check e-mail or text messages etc., during class, will have points deducted from their grade.**

**Please note: the lecture is being video recorded and will be posted online.**

**Required Readings (please note, respective readings are to be completed before the day indicated on the syllabus):**

Hamilton, Sue. *Indian Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University

Press, 2001.

Bryant, Edwin. *The Yoga Sūtras of Patañjali*: A New Edition, Translation, and Commentary.

New York: Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2009

**Required Readings (available on Sakai)**

Olivelle, Patrick. *The Upaniṣads*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996.

Dasti, M. and Phillips, S. *The Nyāya Sūtra: Selections with Early Commentaries*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 2017.

Edwin Bryant, *Bhagavad Gitā*, Chapter Two.

Shukavak Das, *Bhagavad Gītā*. Riverside, CA: Shri, 2004.

Garfield, Jay. *Mulamadhyamikakarika*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.

**Tue Sept 3rd**

*Focus:* General introduction to the course. The Vedic Period.

*Readings:*

**Thur Sept 5th**

*Focus:* Richness and Diversity in Indian Thought; Sacrifice, Cosmic Speculation, Oneness; The Upaniṣads;

*Readings:* Hamilton, chapter 1, Reason and Belief; Chapter 2, the Brahmanical Beginnings.

Olivelle, *Bṛhadāraṇyaka* **1**: 1-2, 4; **2**: 1, 3-5; **3**: 4-9; **4**: 1-5; **6**: 2.

**Tue Sept 10th**

*Focus:* The Upaniṣads,

*Readings:* Olivelle,

*Chāndogya* **3**: 14; **4**: 4; **5**: 3-10; **6**: 1-2; 9-15; **8**: 7-15.

Kena 1-2.

*Kaṭh*a (entire).

**Thur Sept 12th**

*Focus:* The Upaniṣads

*Readings:* Olivelle,

*Muṇḍaka* (entire).

*Śvetāśvatara* (entire).

**Tue Sept 17th**

*Focus:* The Buddha’s Middle Way

*Readings:* Hamilton, Chapter 3, Renouncing the Household.

**Thur Sept 19th**

*Focus:* Issues and Justifications

*Readings* Hamilton, Chapter 4, Language, Grammar and Polemics.

**Tue Sept 24th**

*Focus:* Categories and Method

*Readings:* Hamilton, Chapter 5. Vaiśeṣika and Nyāya

**Thur Sept 26th**

*Focus:* Things and no Things

*Readings:* Hamilton, Chapter 6, Developments in Buddhist Thought;

Garfield, Chapter 9, Examination of the Prior entity.

**Tue Oct 1st**

*Focus:* The Witness and the Watched

*Readings:* Hamilton, Chapter 7, Yoga and *Sāṃkhya*

**Thur Oct 3rd**

*Focus:* The Word and the Book

*Readings:* Hamilton, chapter 8, Bhartṛhari, Mīmāṃsā and Vedānta

**Tue Oct 8th**

*Focus: Yoga Sūtras*

*Readings:* Chapter I, *Samādhi Pāda*

**Thur Oct 10th**

*Focus: Yoga Sūtras*

*Readings:* Chapter I cont, *Samādhi Pāda*

**Tue Oct 15th**

*Focus:* **Quiz I**

**Thur Oct 17th**

*Focus: Yoga Sūtras*

*Readings:* Chapter II, *Sādhana Pāda* (practice)

**Spring Break:** Saturday, March 16th - Sunday, March 24th

**Tue Oct 22nd**

*Focus Yoga Sūtras*

*Readings:* Chapter II, cont, *Sādhana Pāda*

**Thur Oct 24th**

*Focus: Yoga Sūtras*

*Readings:* Chapter III, *Vibhūti Pāda* (mystic powers)

**Tue Oct 29th**

*Readings Nyāya Sūtras*

*Focus*: Chapter I, Knowledge Sources

**Thur Oct 31st**

*Focus*: *Nyāya Sūtras*

*Readings*: Chapter 2, Doubt and the Philosophical Method, 40-60

**Tue Nov 5th**

*Focus*: *Nyāya Sūtras*

*Readings*: Chapter 4, Self, 74-95

**Thur Nov 7th**

*Focus*: *Nyāya Sūtras*

*Reading*: Chapter 6, God, 116-138

**Tue Nov 12th**

*Focus*: *Nyāya Sūtras*

*Reading*: Chapter 8, The Right and the Good, 156-175

**Thur Nov 14th**

*Focus*: *Advaita Vedānta*

*Reading*: Sadānanda’s Vedānta-Sāra; No. 15-34, The Four Cultivations, the Subject, the Relationship, the Purpose, the Student’s Duty, The Teacher’s Duty, Superimposition; No. 46-52, Non-Difference, the Fourth; Two Powers of Ignorance, Enshrouding and Projecting; 67-69, Superimposition; 109, the Disabusing; 128-128, The Means to Enlightenment; 153-157, The Loving Liberated.

**Tue Nov 19th**

*Focus*: *Acintyabhedābheda Vedānta*

*Reading*: 2.1-2.4

**Thur Nov 21st**

*Focus*: *Acintyabhedābheda*

*Reading*: 2.5-2.10

**Tue Nov 26th**

*Focus:* Quiz II

**Thur Nov 28th**

**Thanksgiving Break.**

**Tue Dec 3th**

*Focus: The Bhagavad Gītā*

*Readings:* Chapter II -III.

**Thur Dec 5th**

*Focus: The Bhagavad Gītā*

*Readings:* Chapter IV, VII, IX & XVIII verses 45-78

**Tue Dec 10th Final Quiz.**