

**Religion 01:840:368:01**  
**Introduction to Hindu Philosophy**  
**Location:** Online - By Arrangement  
Instructor: Edwin Bryant  
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Office Hours: TBD

**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. There will be a simple course reader (Hamilton) to give an overview of some of the highpoints of Hindu thought, and then the course will utilize primary texts for each of the six schools so that students will have the opportunity of engaging these schools in their own voice and through their own categories.

**Course Prerequisites:** None.

**Course Requirement:**

The course will require students to watch the entirety of all the course videos and do all the assigned readings. There will be three non-cumulative quizzes (20% of the final grade each); and a final cumulative exam (40% of the final grade). These three quizzes are over and above the two lectures each week, and will take place every month or so on Friday evenings at 5.00 - 6.30 PM. If you have any conflicts **you must inform the me now before the course starts** and provide documentation for the conflict. Material for these quizzes will be drawn both from the videos and the course material. We will not be able to cover all the readings in the videos, and, contrarily, we will discuss things in the videos not in the readings, so if you wish to get a good grade, you must both watch the video and undertake the readings since any material from both can be drawn upon for the exams.

**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.**

The video recordings of the lectures will be posted online and available throughout the semester. The videos will be of differing lengths depending on the material to be covered; our goal is for you to leave this course with a solid overview of some of the most important schools of thought and so some lectures will be longer than others if the material calls for more attention.

**Required Reading:**

Hamilton, Sue *Indian Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.

**Required Readings (available on sakai)**

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

Adams, George *The Structure and Meaning of Bādarāyaṇa's Brahma Sūtras* Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1993.

Basu, B.D. *The Pūrva Mīmāṃsā Sūtras of Jamini* The Sacred Books of the Hindus series, Allahabad: Pāṇini Office, 1916.

S. Sankaranarayanan. *Vaiśeṣika Catuḥsūtrī* Chennai: The Adyar Library, 2003

Dasti, M and Phillips, *The Nyāya Sūtra*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 2017

Edwin Bryant, *The Yoga Sūtras* New York: Northpoint press, 2003.

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

**Week 1 (Sept. 1 - Sept. 5):****Lecture 1:**

*Focus:* Hamilton

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

**Lecture 2:**

*Focus:* Hamilton

*Readings:* Chapter 3, Renouncing the Household; Chapter 4, Issues and Justifications; Chapter 5, Categories and Method.

**Week 2 (Sept. 6 - Sept. 12)****Lecture 1:**

*Focus:* Hamilton

*Readings:* Chapter 6, Things and No-things; Chapter 7, The Witness and the Watched; Chapter 8, The Word and the Book.

**Lecture 2:**

*Focus:* *The Upaniṣads*

*Readings:* Olivelle

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

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

**Week 3 (Sept. 13 - Sept. 19):****Lecture 1:**

*Focus:* *The Upaniṣads*

*Readings:* Olivelle

*Kena* 1-2.

*Kaṭha* (entire)

**Lecture 2:**

*Focus: The Upaniṣads*

*Readings: Olivelle*

*Muṇḍaka* (entire)

*Śvetāśvatara* (entire)

**Week 4 (Sept. 20 - Sept. 26):**

**Lecture 1:**

*Focus: The Vedānta Sūtra*

*Readings: Adams, Introduction & 1.1.1 (pps. 1-66)*

**Lecture 2:**

*Focus: The Vedānta Sūtra*

*Readings: Adams 1.1.2-4 & Conclusion (pps. 67-134)*

**OCT 2ND, FRIDAY, 5.00 PM-6.30 PM QUIZ I**

**Week 5 (Sept. 27 - Oct. 3):**

**Lecture 1:**

*Focus: Advaita Vedānta - Śaṅkara*

*Readings: Extracts from Upadeśasāhasri*

**Lecture 2:**

*Focus: Viśiṣṭādvaita Vedānta - Rāmānuja*

*Readings: Extracts from Vedānta Sāra*

**Week 6 (Oct. 4 - Oct 10):**

**Lecture 1:**

*Focus: Sāṃkhya*

*Readings: Sāṃkhya Kārikās*

**Lecture 2:**

*Focus: Sāṃkhya*

*Readings: Sāṃkhya Kārikās (cont)*

**Week 7 (Oct. 11 - Oct 17):**

**Lecture 1:**

*Focus: Yoga Sūtras*

*Readings: Chapter I, Samādhi pāda*

**Lecture 2:**

*Focus: Yoga Sūtras*

*Readings: Chapter I cont., Samādhi pāda*

**Week 8 (Oct. 18 - Oct 24):**

**Lecture 1:**

*Focus: Yoga Sūtras*

*Readings: Sādhana pāda*

**Lecture 2:**

*Focus: Yoga Sūtras*

*Readings: Sādhana pāda*

**Week 9 (Oct. 25 - Oct 31):**

**Lecture 1:** Chapter II cont., Sādhana pāda Chapter III.1-3

*Focus: Vaiśeṣika*

*Readings: Vaiśeṣika Sūtra 1.1-4 (Sankaranarayanan, entire)*

**Lecture 2:**

*Focus: Mīmāṃsā*

*Readings: Mīmāṃsā Sūtra 1.11-1.8.32 (Basu, pps1-22)*

**OCT 30th, FRIDAY, 5.00 PM-6.30 PM QUIZ II**

**Week 10 (Nov. 1 - Nov. 7):**

**Lecture 1:**

*Focus: Nyāya Sūtras*

*Readings: Chapter 1, Knowledge sources (Dasti, pps 11-39)*

**Lecture 2:**

*Focus: Nyāya Sūtras*

*Readings: Chapter 2, Doubt and the philosophical Method, (pps 40-60)*

**Week 11 (Nov. 8 - Nov. 14):**

**Lecture 1:**

*Focus: Nyāya Sūtras*

*Readings: Chapter 4, Self, (pps 74-95)*

**Lecture 2:**

*Focus: Nyāya Sūtras*

*Readings: Chapter 6, God, (pps 116-138)*

**Week 12 (Nov. 15 - Nov. 21):**

**Lecture 1:**

*Focus: Nyāya Sūtras*

*Readings: Chapter 8, The Right and the Good, (pps 156-175)*

**Lecture 2:**

*Focus: Nyāya Sūtras*

*Readings: Chapter 9, Debate (pps 175-200)*

**Week 13 (Nov. 22 - Nov. 28):**

**Lecture 1:**

*Focus: The Bhagavad Gītā*

*Readings: Chapters I-IV*

**Lecture 2: Thanksgiving Break**

**Week 14 (Nov. 29 - Dec. 5):**

**Lecture 1:**

*Focus: The Bhagavad Gītā*

*Readings: Chapters V-IX.*

**DEC 4TH FRIDAY, 5.00 PM-6.30 PM QUIZ III**

**Lecture 2:**

*Focus: The Bhagavad Gītā*

*Readings: Chapters X-XIV*

**Week 15 (Dec. 6 - Dec. 10):**

**Lecture 1:**

*Focus: The Bhagavad Gītā*

*Readings: Chapters XV-XVIII*

**FRIDAY DEC 18th FINAL EXAM**



Sue Hamilton

# INDIAN PHILOSOPHY

A Very Short Introduction

OXFORD