Classical Hinduism

RELG 348 – Winter 2021

Course Instructor: Dr. Arvind Sharma
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Time: Mondays, Wednesdays 4:05 pm to 5:25 pm

Virtual Office Hours: By appointment

Communication Plan: Via Email

Course Description

This course introduces the student to the main feature of Classical Hinduism, which is how the form it assumes from C. 400 BCE to 1000 CE is often referred to. It also recognizes its relationship to the preceding Vedic period and the periods of Medieval and Modern Hinduism.

Required Readings

1) *A Survey of Hinduism* by Klaus K. Klostermaier

Recommended Reading

To be shared in class.

Class Schedule

Jan. 11. Introduction
Jan. 13. Vedic Background
Jan. 18. No class
Jan. 20. Theological Outline
Jan. 25. *Rāmāyaṇa*
Jan. 27. *Mahābhārata*
Feb. 01. *Bhagavad-Gītā*
Feb. 03. *Jīva*
Feb. 08. *Saṃsāra*
Feb. 10. *Karma*
Feb. 15. *Māyā*
Feb. 17. *Mokṣa*
Feb. 22. *Jñāna-Yoga*
Feb. 24. *Bhakti-Yoga*
Mar. 08. *Karma-Yoga*
Mar. 10. *Varṇa*
Mar. 15. *Āśrama*
Mar. 17. *Puruṣārtha*
Mar. 22. Philosophical Systems
Mar. 24. Cults
Mar. 29. Rituals
Mar. 31. *Tantra*
Apr. 05. *Veda*
Apr. 07. Classical Hinduism in relation to Modern Hinduism
Apr. 12. Conclusions
Apr. 14. Hinduism outside India
Course Grading

This will depend on performance in a mid-term and a class exam.

Grade Distribution

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-class Exam</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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