



History of Hinduism

**RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-NEWARK
SYNCHRONOUS REMOTE COURSE**

FALL 2021 | 21:510:285 | 2:30-5:20 P.M. EST

*fulfills History core curriculum requirement

Professor Audrey Truschke

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Zoom office hours Tues 11:30-12:30 EST and by appt

(Remote) Learning

No commute? Yes, please
Join from anywhere? Why not
No Parking Wars? Now you're talking!

Key Things to Succeed

You need to attend synchronous classes on Tuesdays.

Class meetings on are Zoom; the link is on Canvas.

The professor wants you to succeed; if you have issues or concerns, please be in touch.



What will I learn in this class?!

The history and diversity of one of the world's oldest religious traditions.

Hindu beliefs and practices (and how they've changed over time).

How academics study religion and why it matters in the modern world.

About some amazing stories, rituals, and experiences.

Canvas is your
guide.

Follow the
weekly
overviews and
modules.

How do I get the grade I want?

Read. Listen. Participate. Write.
Above all -- Think Critically.

Class Attendance / Participation	25%
Weekly short assignments	25%
2 written assignments	30%
In Class Exercises	20%

Class Attendance

Prepare, attend, and participate.

Short Assignments

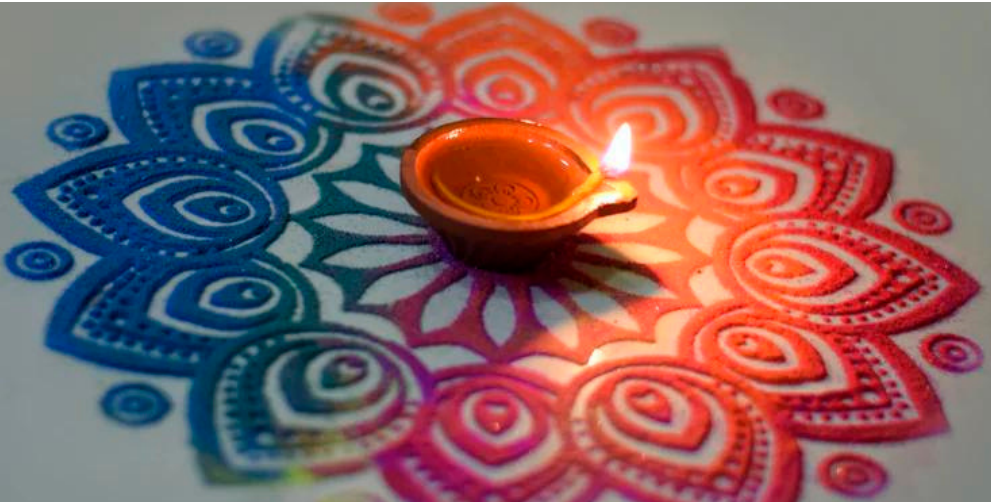
They really will be short. Sometimes before class and sometimes in class; all instructions on Canvas.

Written Assignments

There are three available; you choose which two to complete. There are options for all of them. I want you to explore topics that interest you. Along the way, you will deepen your understanding of the many facets and perspectives both within and about Hindu traditions.

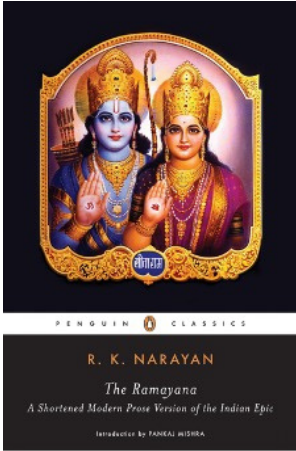
In Class Exercises

There is one for each section of the class (texts, practices, and modern Hinduism). These will be fun and help you synthesize what we learn.



Talk to me about Readings

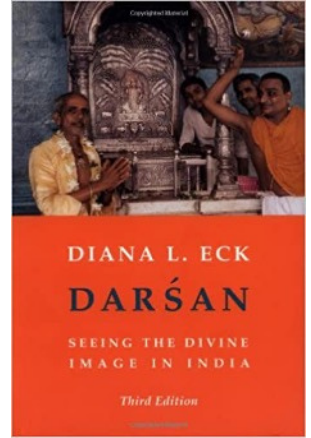
You need to procure the three required textbooks:



[link to buy](#)



[link to buy](#)



[link to buy](#)

All other readings (and listenings and viewings) are on Canvas



Class Policies



Absences: Everyone gets one unexcused absence. Beyond that, your grad may suffer. If you find yourself missing class or having difficulties, whether for pandemic-related or other reasons, please reach out to the professor to discuss the best way to succeed in this course.

Rutgers University policies on absences:

- **Excused Absences:** Recognized grounds for absence include illness requiring medical attention, curricular or extracurricular activities approved by the faculty, and recognized religious holidays. You must contact the professor or grader, in advance where possible, or absences will be counted as unexcused.
- **Extended Absences:** Any student who misses eight or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw to avoid getting an F.

Academic Integrity: You must have this. If you plagiarize, cheat, help another student cheat, or are otherwise academically dishonest, you will face disciplinary action. Don't want trouble? Don't Cheat. Full [Rutgers Academic Integrity policy](#).

Intellectual Property: Lectures, powerpoints, assignments, and other materials utilized in this course are protected by United States copyright laws as well as Rutgers University policy. You are not permitted to share any of these without written consent from the instructor. Similarly, all original work that you produce for this course is covered by copyright protections, and the instructor will share your work without written consent from you.

Late Work: All late work incurs a penalty of one letter grade (10% reduction) for every 24 hours late.

Counseling Center: The Rutgers–Newark Counseling Center provides a number of counseling and consultative services to enrolled and eligible undergraduate and graduate students. For students, if you are seeking individual or group therapy, you can expect to find a safe, supportive space to collaboratively identify and begin to change the thoughts, behaviors, and beliefs that prevent you from being your best self. [More here](#)

Disabilities: Rutgers welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must [contact the appropriate disability services office](#) at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the [Registration form](#).

Food: PantryRUN, the campus food pantry, helps students who have difficulty affording enough healthy food to remain focused on their studies and stay healthy. [Hours and information](#).

Pandemic: Your go-to for how COVID-19 is being handled at Rutgers University–Newark is [MyRun Student Resources](#).

Writing: The Rutgers University–Newark Writing Center provides tutoring for students who want to strengthen their reading, writing, and research skills. They offer individual sessions and writing workshops to all undergraduate students currently enrolled. [Find information here](#).



Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings
9/7	Entry Points and Questions	Flood, <i>Introduction to Hinduism</i> , 5–12 Flueckiger, “Note on Caste” Kaling, <i>Kind of Hindu</i> excerpts
SECTION 1: What People Wrote		
9/14	Vedas and Vedic Society	Patton, “Veda and Upaniṣad” <i>Rg Veda</i> , trans. Doniger, TOC + selections <i>Upanisads</i> , trans. Olivelle, selections *2:45 Guest visit on oral culture, Vedas, and Om, by Finnian Gerety-Moore, Visiting Assistant Professor in Religious Studies at Brown University
9/21	Mahabharata and Gita	Longman introduction to <i>Mahabharata</i> Dhand, <i>Mahabharata Podcast</i> , select episodes <i>Bhagavadgita</i> , trans. Stoler Miller, select chapters *4 p.m. Guest visit on podcasting the Mahabharata by Arti Dhand, Associate Professor at the University of Toronto, Department for the Study of Religion
9/28	Ordering Life and Society	Doniger, <i>Redeeming the Kamasutra</i> , chap. 2 Olivelle, <i>Dharma Reader</i> , 69–80 <i>Kamasutra</i> , trans. Doniger, book 1 Holdrege, “Dharma,” from <i>The Hindu World</i> , 213-248 *In class debate
SECTION 2: What People Do		
10/5	Ramayana	Narayan, <i>Ramayana</i>
10/12	Retelling Stories	Ramanujan, “Three Hundred Ramayanas” *In class film screening
10/19	Temples and Ritual Practice	Eck, <i>Darshan</i> *3 p.m. Guest visit on digital Hindu practices by Dheepa Sundaram, Assistant Professor of Hindu Studies, Critical Theory and Digital Religion at the University of Denver
10/26	Divergent Paths: Tantra, Bhakti, and Puranas	Doniger, “Sects and Sex” Khilnani, “Mirabai” podcast Hawley and Juergensmeyer, “Dalit Poet-Saint” Puranas on goddess, trans. Dimmitt and van Buitenen *In class representation exercise
11/2	Festivals and Pilgrimages – Happy Diwali!	Marriott, “Holi: The Feast of Love” Rambachan, “Diwali Reflection on Lakshmi” *Guest Visit on interfaith work and approaches to Hinduism by Anantanand Rambachan, Professor of Religion, Philosophy and Asian Studies, Saint Olaf College

Schedule

		*in class definition exercise
SECTION 3:	Present Day	
11/9	Hindu Reformers and Yoga	Sen, “Debates within Colonial Hinduism” Khilnani, “Rammohan Roy” and “Periyar” podcasts Vivekananda address Williamson, “Modern Yoga and Tantra” Gandhi and Wolff, “Yoga and the Roots of Cultural Appropriation” *2:30 p.m. Guest visit on yoga in the US by Shreena Gandhi, historian of religion, race, and empire at Michigan State University.
11/16	Caste and Dalit Perspectives	Khilnani, “Ambedkar” podcast Ambedkar, “Away from the Hindus” Dutt, <i>Coming Out as Dalit</i> , excerpts *4 p.m. Public Lecture by Yashica Dutt on Caste Prejudices and Coming Out as Dalit, with the support of the Rutgers-Newark Chancellor’s Office
11/23	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING WEEK	
11/30	Global Hinduism	Kaur and Ramaswamy, “The Goddess and the Virus” Pillai, “A Hinduism of their Own: Emerging Guyanese Hindu Reading Practices in New York City” Rambachan and Shukla, “Hinduism in Fiji, Mauritius, South Africa, and Trinidad” Narayanan, “Hinduism in Pittsburg” *2:30 p.m. Guest visit on diasporic Hinduisms by Rupa Pillai, senior lecturer of Asian American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania
12/7	Representing Hinduism Today	Religion, Race, and “Never have I Ever” Roundtable Dutt on “Indian Matchmaking” Doniger, “India: Censorship by the Batra Brigade” * <i>Hinduism Today</i> exercise in class