

# **Religious Studies 160A**

## **Religious Traditions of India**

UCSB Summer Session B, 2008

MTWR 12:30-1:50

Girvetz Hall 1108

**Instructor:** Rahuldeep Singh Gill  
rahuldeepgill@gmail.com

**Office Hours:** HSSB 3055

Tuesdays 11:00 – 12:00

Wednesdays 2:00 – 3:00

And By Appointment

### **Course Description:**

This course takes an inclusive, historical approach to the study of Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, Muslim, and Sikh traditions in South Asia. Addressing religious phenomena from pre-historic to contemporary times, this course will provide students with a foundation to understand the impact of religion in the history and politics of South Asian society. Class period will entail a combination of lectures, small-group workshops, and large-group discussions.

### **Course Objectives:**

As part of their participation in this course, students will be asked to:

- **READ** primary and secondary source materials, regularly and actively
- Enthusiastically **PARTICIPATE** in course discussions and workshops
- **RECALL** information (for examples: geography, chronology, vocabulary); **DEFINE** basic concepts; **IDENTIFY** texts and the traditions to which they belong; **ORGANIZE** concepts chronologically
- **APPLY** learned concepts to new situations; demonstrate an internalization of course learning to illustrate new points
- **IDENTIFY** patterns in course materials and **ARTICULATE** new or hidden meanings of things, across religious traditions and across time
- Offer informed **COMMENT** on Indian religious and political life

### **Course Policies and Requirements:**

- Create and maintain an atmosphere of respect.
- Three Examinations.
- Class attendance is assumed. Participation is required.

## Student Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated on their participation in class, and performance on three examinations, each of which will be administered at the end of every two-week period.

Participation: 10%

Exam 1: 20% (Take-Home, Due 3 pm on **15 August**)

Exam 2: 30% (In-Class on **28 August**)

Exam 3: 40% (Take-Home, Due 3 pm on **12 September**)

## Grading Scheme:

**A:** Student excels in her ability to recall information, synthesize and apply it; Student can offer informed comment on the topics being discussed, and demonstrates superior analytical skills.

**B:** Strong, above-average performance; Student demonstrates the ability to recall information and also demonstrates the ability to synthesize and apply; Student's ability to analyze, critique, and evaluate are continuing to develop.

**C:** Adequate performance; Student possesses ability to recall most facts and identify most texts, concepts and terms; Demonstrates basic ability to apply, analyze, and synthesize information, but not able to offer adequate critique or evaluation of course concepts.

**D / F:** Student fails to meet course requirements.

## Teaching Philosophy:

I chose my career as a researcher and teacher to do my part to foster dialogues in classrooms that extend beyond the academy. Studying the religions of the world, their histories, and the religious lives of practitioners goes far in promoting cross-cultural understanding. I believe I can best do this by fostering learning environments that assume these values. My objectives are:

- To design respectful learning environments that are conducive to exploration and discussion.
- To use critical thinking to inspire lifelong learning that prepares students for citizenship in democratic societies, for life in the global marketplace, and to apply their learning in a world of continually shifting boundaries.
- To minimize obstructions to students' learning. I know first-hand that learning involves a series of acquired skill sets, and I see sensitivity to different styles of learning and educational backgrounds as part of my role. I strive to adapt my teaching style so that my students can better learn.

## Course Materials:

I have done my best to keep course readings to a minimum, so I expect assigned readings to be fully completed. Read often, and actively. Write down questions about the reading, and seek my help whenever you need it.

- Course Reader available at Grafikart, Isla Vista
- Religions of South Asia: An Introduction (Edited by Mittal and Thursby)  
Available at UCSB BOOKSTORE  
ISBN 0415223911
- Death Before Dying (Sultan Bahu, translations by Jamal Elias)  
Available on Library website  
ISBN 0520212428
- Songs of the Saints of India (Translations by Hawley and Juergensmeyer)  
Available at UCSB BOOKSTORE  
ISBN 0195694201

**PLEASE NOTE:** Hard copies of all reading materials are on 2-hour reserve at Davidson Library.

### Statement of Academic Honesty:

Any work that you submit for this class **MUST BE YOUR OWN** and in **YOUR OWN WORDS**. If you are going to use other people's ideas, or words, you must be clear about when you are doing that and whose words you are using.

For your own sake, please do not transgress the lines of academic integrity. I take these issues extremely seriously, and **WILL PROSECUTE** any violations to the **FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE**.

For clarification, please view the University of California's conduct code:  
[http://hep.ucsb.edu/people/hnn/conduct/cam\\_reg\\_stud\\_a.html](http://hep.ucsb.edu/people/hnn/conduct/cam_reg_stud_a.html)

### Available Support Services:

Please seek my help whenever you need it. Aside from myself, see your peers and classmates as resources.

Campus Learning and Assistance Services (CLAS) are an excellent resource as well. Some of the services they offer that may be of use to you this summer:

- Workshops on writing, and test-taking
- Drop-in sessions and individual appointments for reading, writing, and test-taking
- English as a Second Language (ESL) services

For more information, please visit: <http://www.clas.ucsb.edu/>