

**Religion 01:840:368:01**  
**Introduction to Hindu Philosophy**  
**Location:** Cook/Douglass Campus Building, ARH Room 200  
**Tuesday & Thursday:** 5:35-6:55  
Instructor: Edwin Bryant  
E-mail: <edbryant@religion.rutgers.edu>  
Office Hours: Tues 1-2.00 PM, 64 College Ave #202

**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.**

**Required Reading *Books available at the Douglass Coop:***

King, Richard *Indian Philosophy*. Washington D.C.: Georgetown Press, 1999.

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

New York: Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2009

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

**Required Readings (available on sakai)**

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

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

**Tue Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>**

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

*Readings:* Introduction to Indian Philosophy.

**Thur Jan 24<sup>th</sup>**

*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.

**Tue Jan 29<sup>th</sup>**

*Focus:* The Upaniṣads,

*Readings:* Olivelle,

Kena 1-2.

Kaṭha (entire).

**Thur Jan 31<sup>st</sup>**

*Focus:* The Upaniṣads

*Readings:* Olivelle,

Muṇḍaka (entire).

Śvetāśvatara (entire).

**Tue Feb 5<sup>th</sup>**

*Focus:* The concept of Indian philosophy

*Readings:* King, chapters 1-2 India and the History of philosophy; Can Philosophy be Indian?

**Thur Feb 7<sup>th</sup>**

*Focus:* The Varieties of Indian Philosophy

*Readings:* King, *Indian Philosophy* Chap 3.

**Tue Feb 12<sup>th</sup>**

*Focus:* Buddhist Philosophy in India.

*Readings: King, Indian Philosophy, chapter 4.*

**Thur Feb 14th**

*Focus: Ontology: What really exists*

*Readings: King, Indian Philosophy, Chap 5.*

**Tue Feb 19th**

*Focus: Epistemology: How do we know what we know?*

*Readings: King, Indian Philosophy, chapter 6*

**Thur Feb 21st**

*Focus: Perception: Do we see things as they are?*

*Readings: King, Indian Philosophy, chapter 7*

**Tue Feb 26th**

*Focus: Consciousness and the Body: What are we?*

*Readings: King, Indian Philosophy, chapter 8*

**Thur Feb 28th**

*Focus: Creation and Causality: Where do we come from?*

*Readings: King, Indian Philosophy, chapter 9*

**Tue March 5th**

*Focus: Yoga Sūtras*

*Readings: Chapter I, Samādhi pāda*

**Thur March 7th**

*Focus: Quiz I*

**Tue March 12th**

*Focus: Yoga Sūtras*

*Readings: Chapter I cont, Samādhi pāda*

**Thur March 14th**

*Focus: Yoga Sūtras*

*Readings: Chapter II, Samādhi pāda (practice)*

**Spring break** Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>

**Tue March 26th**

*Focus Yoga Sūtras*

*Readings:* Chapter II, cont *Samādhi pāda*

**Thur March 28<sup>th</sup>**

*Focus: Yoga Sūtras*

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

**Tue April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

*Readings Nyāya Sūtras*

*Focus:* Chapter I, Knowledge Sources

**Thur April 4<sup>th</sup>**

*Focus: Nyāya Sūtras*

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

**Tue April 9<sup>th</sup>**

*Focus: Nyāya Sūtras*

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

**Thur April 11<sup>th</sup>**

*Focus: Nyāya Sūtras*

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

**Tue April 16<sup>th</sup>**

*Focus: Nyāya Sūtras*

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

**Thur April 18<sup>th</sup>**

*Focus: Nyāya Sūtras*

*Readings:* Chapter 9, Debate 175-200

**Tue April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

*Focus: Quiz II*

**Thur April 25<sup>th</sup>**

*Focus: The Bhagavad Gītā*

*Readings:* Chapter II-III.

**Tue April 30<sup>th</sup>**

*Focus: The Bhagavad Gītā*

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

**Thur May 2<sup>nd</sup> Final Quiz.**