

Hinduism and Buddhism – Religion 3543

Theory & Practice in the Indian Tradition



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My office hours will be held on 2nd Floor
of Griffis Hall Shackouls Honors College
2:30–3:15 PM on Tues. and Thurs.

INTRODUCTION

This course is an introduction to Hindu and Buddhist religious philosophy and meditational practice through a close examination of two central Hindu and Buddhist texts, the *Teachings on Yoga (Yogasūtra)* of Patañjali and *The Middle Way (Mūlamadhyamakakārika)* of Nāgārjuna. Both texts were composed in Sanskrit, and received extensive attention from learned commentators over many hundreds of years, spawning many religious traditions and practices. Furthermore, the texts and commentators continue to be vivifying sources of inspiration and constructive philosophy in Hindu and Buddhist traditions today. A clear understanding of these two scriptures will give you a broad understanding of some of the major themes in the Indian religious and philosophical disciplines, as well as the ability to engage with specific primary source material.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- (1) *The Yoga Sūtras of Patañjali: A New Edition, Translation and Commentary*. Translated by Edwin Bryant. New York, New York: North Point Press. ISBN 9780865477360.
- (2) *Nāgārjuna's Middle Way: The Mūlamadhyamakakārikā*. Translated by Mark Siderits & Shōryū Katsura. Somerville, Massachusetts: Wisdom Publications. ISBN 1614290504.

EVALUATION

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| (1) Attendance & Participation – 10% | (4) Final Paper – 20% |
| (2) In-class quizzes – 10% | (5) Midterm Exam – 25% |
| (3) Research Proposal – 10% | (6) Final Exam – 25% |

CLASS PARTICIPATION means that one makes regular and relevant contributions to discussions with full attention. There are two in class **IN-CLASS QUIZZES**, which evaluate your knowledge of the Required Readings and Lectures; there is *no credit* for non-attendance and they cannot be made up unless a valid excuse is provided beforehand. The **MIDTERM** and **FINAL** will consist of multiple choice questions and essays based on the Required Readings and Lectures. Your **RESEARCH PROPOSAL** should be 2-3 pages long, should include a bibliography and should clearly outline what you want to investigate in your Final Paper. Your **FINAL PAPER** should be 7-9 pages long and should demonstrate a detailed understanding of some aspect of our course material.

General Considerations

- My grading policy and expectations are also provided on my website under “Grade Explanation.” The MSU Honor code will be strictly enforced. Any instance of cheating will result in an automatic XF. Cell-phones and texting are *not* permitted in class. Computers can be used *only* with permission.
- Class attendance is strongly encouraged since we will “unpack” what are often difficult and lengthy readings, frequently through the use of handouts and slides. Furthermore, careful and detailed note-taking is also strongly encouraged since the semester is long and our memories are not always as powerful as we would like.

- I will never be offended or surprised if you wish to ask a question in class. I enjoy questions, even of a challenging nature. Feel free to interrupt me at any time! I will never think your question obvious or think less of you for having asked it. The class time is **your** time, so use it in **your** advantage.
- I only answer emails Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, but you are welcome to email me at any time. However, in your email, please identify yourself, your class and your class time, and address me by my name, use complete sentences and avoid text-language. Please also consult the syllabus and other relevant material *before* emailing me to see if your question is answered therein. I will reserve the right not to answer emails that neglect any of the above.

RESOURCES

Student Honor Code	http://www.honorcode.msstate.edu/
Student Services	http://www.sss.msstate.edu/
Databases	http://library.msstate.edu/DatabasePortal/subject.asp?id=19
J Edelmann's Website	http://www.philosophyandreligion.msstate.edu/faculty/edelmann.php

TENTATIVE WEEKLY LECTURES AND READINGS

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| <p>1 Introduction to Course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Introducing Hinduism and Buddhism ☞ <i>Yogasūtra</i>, Introduction by Edwin Bryant <p>2 The Self When it Abides in its True Nature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ <i>Yogasūtra</i>, I.1-I.4 <p>3 Philosophy of Mind and Mental Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ <i>Yogasūtra</i> – I.5-I.16; IV.22-IV.26 <p>4 Samādhi and Yogic Theology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ <i>Yogasūtra</i> – I.17-I.29; I.50-I.51 ☞ Research Proposal Due <p>5 Kriya-yoga, Karma, Suffering, the Seer and Seen, and Liberation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ <i>Yogasūtra</i> – II.1-II.19 ☞ Quiz #1 <p>6 The Eight-fold Yoga and Liberation (<i>kaivalya</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ <i>Yogasūtra</i> – II.28-II.34; II.46-II.55; III.1-III.3 <p>7 Paranormal Powers and Ultimate Liberation (<i>kaivalya</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ <i>Yogasūtra</i> – III.16-III.55; IV.29-IV.34 <p>8 Midterm Exam and Catch Up</p> | <p>9 Spring Break</p> <p>10 Abhidharma and Madhyamaka Buddhism, and the Four Noble Truths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ <i>Mūlamadhyamakakārikā</i> – Intro by Siderits & Katsura; Dedicatory Verse; and Ch 24 <p>11 Why There is no Essential Self (<i>anātman</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ <i>Mūlamadhyamakakārikā</i> – Ch 4 & Ch 18 <p>12 Nāgārjuna's Conception of the Buddha (the <i>Tathāgata</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ <i>Mūlamadhyamakakārikā</i> – Ch 16 & Ch 22 ☞ Quiz #2 <p>13 Analysis of Suffering and the False Conception</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ <i>Mūlamadhyamakakārikā</i> – Ch 6 & 23 <p>14 Nirvāna and the Twelfefold Chain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ <i>Mūlamadhyamakakārikā</i> – Chs 25-26 <p>15 Analysis of View</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ <i>Mūlamadhyamakakārikā</i> – Ch 27 ☞ Final Papers Due <p>16 Catch Up and Review for Final Exam</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Final Exam: Weds, May 7, 3-6 PM</p> |
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