

Course Syllabus

PHIL 3585-001 – Hinduism, Jainism, and Ecology

Section 001

FALL 2010

3 Credit Hours

Course Description

Learning Outcomes

- To understand how members of different religious communities in South Asia have conceptualized nature and the relationship between humans, the divine, and the natural world
- To acquire a working vocabulary that will enable you to speak in an informed way about South Asian religions
- To design and write a research paper around a compelling question related to religion and environmentalism in South Asia
- To be able to articulate the limits and possibilities of employing religious discourse to address a significant social problem
- To examine, challenge and clarify one's own self-understanding, world view and fundamental values

Course Structure

Class time will be divided between lectures, select documentary screenings, and discussions of the required readings.

Instructor

Dr. Pankaj Jain – Assistant Professor

Email: pankaj.jain@unt.edu

Phone: 940-369-7574

Office Location: 325J, Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies

Office Hours: Wednesdays 3 to 5pm

Course Meetings

Lecture

Days: MWF

Time: 12:00 – 12:50pm

Location: WH 210

This meeting is required.

Course Materials

Textbooks

Hinduism and Ecology: The Intersection of Earth, Sky, and Water - Christopher Chapple and Mary Evelyn Tucker

Edition: 1

ISBN: 9780945454267

Web Link: <http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?recid=26892>

Cost: 35\$

This textbook is required.

Jainism and Ecology - Christopher Chapple

Edition: 1

ISBN: 9780945454342

Web Link: <http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?recid=27422>

Cost: 27.5\$

This textbook is required.

Purifying the Earthly Body of God Religion and Ecology in Hindu India - Lance Nelson

Edition: 1

ISBN: 0-7914-3924-0

Web Link: <http://www.sunypress.edu/p-2837-purifying-the-earthly-body-of-g.aspx>

Cost: 28.95

This textbook is optional.

Ethical Perspectives on Environmental Issues in India - George A James

Edition: 1

ISBN: 8176480509

Web Link: http://www.amazon.com/gp/offer_listing/8176480509/ref=dp_olp_used?ie=UTF8&qid=1272674486&sr=8-1&condition=used

Cost: 30\$

This textbook is optional.

Hinduism and Ecology – Ranchor Prime

Edition: 1

ISBN:

Web Link: <http://www.fov.org.uk/hinduism/hinduism.html>

All the books are also on reserve in the library.

Grading

Grade Components

Component	Weight	Details
Class Preparation and Participation	10%	Class preparation and participation is essential for success in this course. Students are expected to come to class having completed all written, readings, and viewing assignments and should be prepared to actively participate in meaningful discussion about readings in question and/or complete a short fact-quiz (these will be occasional, but usually unannounced). Active participation may include sharing your questions and comments about the readings with the class, engaging your class mates in relevant and

Component	Weight	Details
		<p>meaningful dialogue based on the topics/readings, and/or participating in other class activities (e.g., small group discussions, worksheets, and so forth). Class preparation and participation is evaluated using the following criteria:</p> <p>A+ (100%) Outstanding class preparation and class participation. Student meets and exceeds all criteria for "A" (described below).</p> <p>A (95%) Student comes to class prepared, having read and thought about the assigned texts and having completed all written assignments. Student often comes with written notes, and participates actively in class. Student arrives on time, stays the full length of the class, is attentive, responds when called upon, and volunteers frequently with pertinent questions and comments.</p> <p>B (85%) Student is usually prepared, sometimes with written notes, and responds when called upon. Student is attentive, participates in all activities, and volunteers with questions and comments on occasion.</p> <p>C (75%) Student shows evidence of being unprepared from time to time. Due to lack of preparation, student may have some trouble responding to instructor's questions or participating in class discussion/activities. Student does not volunteer often and sometimes comes to class late/leaves early.</p> <p>D (65%) Student is unprepared and/or inattentive. Student never volunteers and regularly comes to class late/leaves early.</p> <p>F (0%) Student exhibits a lack of concern for the class, sleeps in class, or distracts his/her class mates. Student's behavior has a negative effect on the class.</p>
Response Papers	45%	<p>Three short essays (5 pages each) that synthesize your thoughts on the readings, and class discussions. You may write on any topic of your choosing provided that you clear it with the instructor. Ideally, each essay should include discussion of at least two of the course</p>

Component	Weight	Details
		readings and should refer to relevant assigned readings. Each essay will be worth roughly 15% of the total grade. Essays are due on Blackboard website on the following dates: Friday (Week 4), Friday (Week 8), and Friday (Week 12)
Final Project	35%	Write a research essay of about 8 to 10 pages, you must cite additional articles and references for this essay.
Oral Presentations	10%	Each student will be asked to give one short oral presentation (7-10 minutes) over the course of the semester in which they connect readings with relevant Indian cultural, social, and historical contexts. This can be based on your research project.

Letter Grades

This Course uses Standard UNT Letter Grading:

97 ≤ **A+** ≤ 100

93 ≤ **A** < 97

90 ≤ **A-** < 93

87 ≤ **B+** < 90

83 ≤ **B** < 87

80 ≤ **B-** < 83

77 ≤ **C+** < 80

73 ≤ **C** < 77

70 ≤ **C-** < 73

67 ≤ **D+** < 70

63 ≤ **D** < 67

60 ≤ **D-** < 63

0 ≤ **F** < 60

Requirements for Credit-Only (S/U) Grading

In order to receive a grade of S, students are required to take all exams and quizzes, complete all assignments, and earn a grade of C- or better. Conversion from letter grading to credit only (S/U) grading is subject to university deadlines. Refer to the Registration and Records calendar for deadlines related to grading.

Policies on Incomplete Grades

- An “Incomplete” is a non-punitive grade given only if a student: (1) has completed 75% of the coursework, (2) is passing the course, (3) and has a justifiable and documented reason beyond the control of the student for not completing the work on schedule (i.e. serious illness or military service).

- The student must complete the coursework within one year of granting the grade of “I”.
- If the student does not complete the coursework within one year, the student’s grade will be changed from “I” to the default grade entered by the instructor or to an “F”.

Late Assignments

Christopher Key Chapple, “Toward an Indigenous Indian Environmentalism,” in *Purifying the Earthly Body of God*;

In *Hinduism and Ecology* ed. by Chapple and Tucker

O. P. Dwivedi, “Dharmic Ecology”;

Harold Coward, “Ecological Implications of Karma Theory,”

Video: Drowned out

Week 5 — 09/20/2010 - 09/24/2010

Philip Lutgendorf, “City, Forest, and Cosmos: Ecological Perspectives from the Sanskrit Epics,”

Ann Gold “‘If you Cut a Branch You Cut My Finger’: Court Forest and Environmental Ethics in Rajasthan,”

Video: Science for Survival

Week 6 — 09/27/2010 - 10/01/2010

Ranchor Prime, *Hinduism and Ecology: Seeds of Truth* pp. 1-57,

In *Hinduism and Ecology* ed. by Chapple and Tucker,

Bruce Sullivan, Theology and Ecology at the Birthplace of Krsna,

In *Hinduism and Ecology* ed. by Chapple and Tucker

T. N. Knoshoo, “Gandhian Environmentalism,” in *Ethical Perspectives on Environmental Issues in India*.

Larry Shinn, “The Inner Logic of Gandhian Ecology”

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYuCkn_Pw3E,

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zuqvGAzDi0>

Appiko:

Week 8 — 10/11/2010 - 10/15/2010

Chris Deegan, “The Narmada: Circumambulation of a Sacred Landscape,”

George A. James, “Ethical and Religious Dimensions of Chipko Resistance,”

Video: Dam/age: a film with Arundhati Roy

Week 9 — 10/18/2010 - 10/22/2010

Christopher Chapple, "Jainism and Ecology" pp. 119-140, 193-224

Video: Frontiers of Peace and Maharaja Burger

Week 11 — 11/3/2010 – 11/5/2010