



Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit - 2020-2021

Hinduism

Course Code	G_BATRSPC110
Credits	6
Period	P5
Course Level	100
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	Faculty of Religion and Theology
Course Coordinator	dr. V.A. van Bijlert
Examiner	dr. V.A. van Bijlert
Teaching Staff	prof. dr. S.S. Nandram, dr. V.A. van Bijlert
Teaching method(s)	Seminar, Lecture

Course Objective

The student acquires knowledge of the sociological model of Hinduism
The student gains insight into the workings of this sociological model
The student gains insight in the way the sociological model influences Hindu mythology, ritual, festivals, spirituality, soteriology and philosophy
The student develops the skill to assign the variety of forms of Hinduism their respective place within the sociological model

Course Content

The course comprises the following themes: Hindu sacred social order, world renunciation, social hierarchy, ritual purity and impurity, handling of death, Gods and Goddesses, private and public forms of devotion, different kinds of religious leaders, Hindu soteriology, Hinduism in the diaspora.

Teaching Methods

Classes and discussion

Method of Assessment

Class room presentations by the student (20%). In these presentations the student reveals insight in the relations between the sociological model of Hinduism and the way this is reflected in various specific aspects of Hinduism. such as mythology, rituals, festivals, spirituality and philosophy. In this way the student also learns to apply the model to these phenomena and also gains insight in how and why they can change over time..

The paper (80%) . The paper is supposed to discuss a subject of personal interest to the student and should include some independent research in libraries and / or online. In the paper the student shows writing skills

and the ability to independently make a deeper investigation of a particular aspect of Hinduism.

Entry Requirements

No special preliminary requirements

Literature

Through Canvas the student will receive a summary of the topics that are being discussed, as well as powerpoint slides.

Flood, Gavin. 1996 (or later reprints). An Introduction to Hinduism. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 0-521-43878-0

Target Audience

Bachelor and Premaster

Additional Information

It will be helpful for students to look online for English translations of the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita and study these a bit.

Explanation Canvas

Canvas will be extensively used: part of the study material will be put on Canvas and the students are required to discuss their ideas and findings on the discussion forum of Canvas.