

शुद्धे चन्दे शुद्धेदेइइ in hinduइल

Winter 2017, Washington and Lee University

Dr. Timothy Lubin, 208 Baker Hall

Course Description

Ancient India offers a surprising range of views on the nature of the nature of divinity, from highly abstract and monotheistic to vividly personal and multiform. Hindus also see in divinity both female and male aspects, sometimes envisioned as distinct persons, sometimes as aspects of the same ultimate reality; sometimes remote and awe-inspiring, sometimes as intimate as one's own Self.

Topics include: Indian conceptions of Self and Divinity, masculine and feminine aspects of the divine, the relationship between soul, mind, body, and the empirical world in Hindu thought, gender roles in devotion, the interplay of narrative and philosophy, sacred art and theater, states of possession by the divine spirit or power, and devotion to 'godmen', human beings thought to embody the divine presence. The course counts toward the WGSS minor.

Course Objectives

The aim of the course is to help students understand Hindu ways of conceiving of divinity and its presence and activity in the world and in the life of the worshiper. Students learn how to interpret mythological stories and other forms of religious expression, as well as artistic representations of deities, and their use in worship and other ritual activities.

Requirements

Required work for the course:

- (i) two 90-minute exams (each 25% of final grade);
 - (ii) two 1800-word papers (each 25% of final grade). In the case of the second paper, students will make 10-minute presentations on their topics in class.
 - (iii) a visit to the Shantiniketan Hindu Temple in Roanoke.
- Poor attendance may lower the final grade; regular contributions to class discussion can raise it.

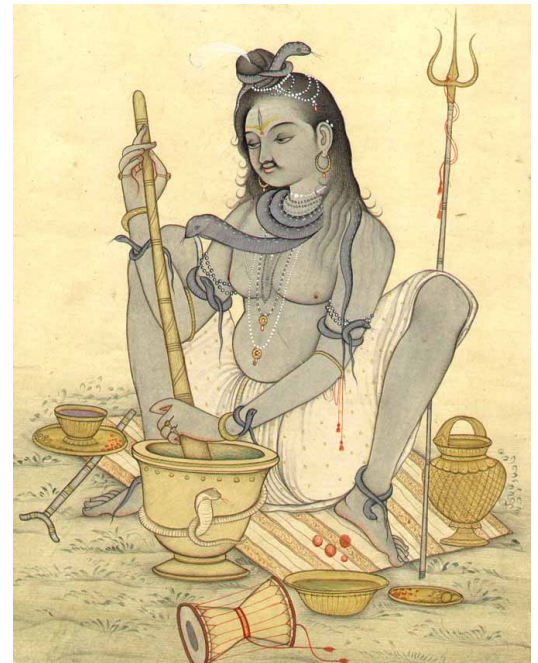
Books for Purchase

CHM = Cornelia Dimmitt & J.A.B. van Buitenen, *Classical Hindu Mythology: A Reader*

DGI = J.S. Hawley & D.M. Wulff, *Devi: Goddesses of India*

HA = T. Richard Blurton, *Hindu Art*

* = other course readings via Sakai



Śiva, the Divine Ascetic