Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - 2024-2025

Exchange

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam offers many English-taught courses in a variety of subjects, ranging from arts & culture and social sciences, neurosciences and computer science, to economics and business administration.

The International Office is responsible for course approval and course registration for exchange students. For details about course registration, requirements, credits, semesters and so on, please [visit the exchange programmes webpages](#).

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. A. Chag
Examiner	dr. A. Chag
Teaching Staff	dr. A. Chag
Teaching method(s)	Lecture, Seminar

Course Objective

After finishing this course, the student:

- has acquired knowledge of the Hindu worldview;

- has gained insight in the way the Hindu worldview influences Hindu

rituals, festivals, spirituality and soteriology;

- has gained insight into the workings of the sociological model of

Hinduism;

- has gained a basic comfort level in engaging with contemporary issues

involving Hindu context.

Course Content

The course comprises the following themes:

- Overview of Hindu philosophy, worldview

- Hindu view of existence: universe, self, divinity, concept of dharma,

advaita, sacred social orders, gods and goddesses

- Hindu view of the origins/ creation

- Introduction to Hindu epistemology: Hindu Scriptures, Importance of

living lineages and oral traditions

- Hindu view of ethics, values, purity & impurity, doctrine of karma

- Hindu ways of life: calendar, rituals, festivals, private and public

forms of devotion

- Hindu soteriology, advaita, renunciation, spirituality, cycles of

birth and death

- Hinduism's interaction with other contemporary world, modernity

The pedagogy used is a combination of reading texts, interpretation of

text, videos, group discussions and experiential practices. The course

participants will also do self-study, interact with each other, learn by

practicing, demonstrate their understanding of concepts through

assignments, Flip Learning presentations and a term paper. In this

course we will have two sessions each week.

Additional Information Teaching Methods

Seminars

Method of Assessment

Paper (80%)
Group presentation (20%)

Literature

Following main literature would be used for the course in addition to
the material on canvas:
- Aiyer, S. (1935). Evolution of Hindu moral ideals. The Calcutta
University. (https://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.237098 (Links
to an external site.))
- N.D. (1916). Sanātana Dharma: An Elementary Text-book of Hindu
Religion and Ethics., Central Hindu College.
(https://archive.org/details/dli.csl.8138 (Links to an external site.))
- Flood, G. D., & Flood, G. D. F. (1996). An introduction to Hinduism.
Cambridge University Press.

Selected pages/chapters from the following literature may be referred to
in the class:

Recommended literature (optional)
- Baba, B. (1976). The Yogasutra of Patanjali: With Commentary of Vyasa.
Motilal Banarsidass.
- Bhawuk, D. (2011). Spirituality and Indian Psychology: Lessons from
the Bhagavad-Gita. Springer Science & Business Media.
- Bijlert, Victor van. Sociological Model of Hinduism. Unpublished
(uploaded on Canvas)
- Bindlish, P. K., Nandram, S. S., & Joshi, A. (2017). Integrativeness
through pursuing integrative intelligence as the way forward. In
Managing VUCA through integrative self-management (pp. 321-330).
Springer, Cham.
- Bindlish, P. K., & Nandram, S. S. (2019). Manifestation of worldview
in a metaphor. International Journal of Business and Globalisation,
23(3), 464-474.
- Bryant, Edwin F. 2009. The Yoga Sūtra of Patañjali: A New Edition,
Translation, and Commentary. New York: North Point Press A division of
Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
- Burley, Mikel. 2007. Classical Sāṃkhya and Yoga: An Indian metaphysics
of experience. London & New York: Routledge.
- Epistemology in Classical Indian Philosophy -
https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/epistemology-india/ (Links to an
external site.)
- Flood, G. (Ed.). (2008). The Blackwell Companion to Hinduism. John
Wiley & Sons.
- Flood, Gavin & Charles Martin trsl. eds. 2015. The Bhagavad Gita: A
New Translation, Contexts, Criticism. New York, London: W.W. Norton &
Company
- Frazier, J. (2008). Hermeneutics in Hindu studies. The Journal of
Hindu Studies, 1(1-2), 3-10.
- Galewicz, C. (2006). Fourteen Strongholds of Knowledge: On Scholarly
Commentaries, Authority, and Power in XIV Century India. Texts of Power,
The Power of the Text: Readings in Textual Authority Across History and
Cultures, 141-164.

- Klostermaier, K. K. (2007). A survey of Hinduism. Suny Press.
- Nandram S.S., 2019. Integrative Spirituality in the Fourth Industrial Revolution: From how we do things to why we exist. Inaugural lecture. Vrije University Press. Amsterdam. [online] Available at: https://research.vu.nl/en/publications/integrative-spirituality-in-the-f
- Nandram, S. S., Bindlish, P. K., Purohit, H., Joshi, A., & Hingorani, P. (2019). Foundations for Social Entrepreneurship: An Integrative Indian Perspective. In Servant Leadership, Social Entrepreneurship and the Will to Serve (pp. 161-186). Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.
- Sherma, R. D., & Sharma, A. (Eds.). (2008). Hermeneutics and Hindu thought: Toward a fusion of horizons (p. 235). New York: Springer.
- Swarupananda, S. (2016). Srimad bhagavad gita. Advaita Ashrama (A publication branch of Ramakrishna Math, Belur Math).
- Vidal, C. (2008). What is a worldview?. In De wetenschappen en het creatieve aspect van de werkelijkheid.

Additional Information

It will be helpful for the student to look online for English/Dutch (or

their native language) translations of the prominent Hindu

scriptures/texts and gain comfort with them.

Explanation Canvas

- Some reading material which is free from copyrights will be made

available through Canvas.

- The students are encouraged to use the discussion forum of Canvas for

posing questions and for interaction with the teacher and with each

other.

- Presentations must be uploaded on the Canvas before presenting in the

class.