

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Jonathan Arbuckle **Humanities Discipline:** Anthropology **Date:** September 7, 2016

World Religion: Hinduism **Teaching Module Title:** Hinduism Part 1

Teaching Module Goals:

1. Explore core anthropological themes of social stratification and marriage
2. Introduction to fundamental Hindu terminology and practices
3. Explore how Hinduism can both socially justify “traditional” endogamy marriage practices while allowing Tantric practitioners to break traditional marriage taboos through exogamy.

Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

1. Bowker: *World Religions*, pages 20-23
2. Tantra and Tantric Traditions of Hinduism, Oxford Research Encyclopedia:
<http://religion.oxfordre.com/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199340378.001.0001/acrefore-9780199340378-e-59?rskey=iP5zaO&result=2>

Class outline/Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts/Assessments for Students:

General Class Lecture/Discussion

- a. Social Stratification
 - i. Definition(s), what constitutes stratification?
 - ii. Why are societies stratified?
 - iii. Examples of stratification?
 - iv. Can a society successfully support social stratification in one regard while promoting its opposite in another?
- b. Marriage
 - i. Endogamy vs. exogamy
 - ii. Is it all about love?
 - iii. Sexual and economic union
 - iv. Relate to social stratification?
- c. Hinduism
 - i. Moksha
 - ii. Dharma
 - iii. Siddhi
 - iv. Tantra
 - v. Orthodox laws of marriage and social justifications within castes
 - vi. Tantra Practices and breaking orthodox taboos

Assessment:

Focusing on the readings and class lecture/discussion, have students write a hypothetical dialogue between themselves and a 1) a follower of “orthodox” Hindu practices and 2) an “unorthodox” Hindu practitioner. The student should mediate the discussion between the two practitioners and focus on the differences between their individual practices, how they relate to social stratification, marriage practices, cultural taboos, and how, if any, middle ground can be found between the two.