

## World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

**Teacher Name:** Jeffrey Dodge

**Humanities Discipline:** Philosophy

**Date:** September 7, 2016

**World Religion:** Hinduism

**Teaching Module Title:** General Philosophy (PHIL 101)

The Philosophy of Religion: Hinduism (PHIL 220)

Introduction to the Ethics of Hinduism (PHIL 102)

### Teaching Module Goals:

1. (PHIL 220) Introduce students to origins and development of Hindu religious ideas and Hindu religious practice.
2. (PHIL 102) Introduce students to Hindu moral thinking.
3. (PHIL 101) Introduce students to Hindu philosophy, especially on religion.

### Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

Bowker, *World Religions: The Great Faiths Explored and Explained*

### Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

1. What is the basis for Hindu philosophy? What shaped Hindu thoughts and practices and give brief explanation of each.
2. Explain the origin of Hindu peoples. What events, beliefs, & practices shaped their identity? How have those beliefs and practices continued to develop?
3. What are the major sections of the *Bhagavad Gita*? Explain two major Hindu beliefs from each of those sections.
4. What other major Hindu religious works, other than the Gita (Vedas and Upanishads), have influenced the development of Hinduism? List and explain the importance of each text.
5. Who are the major deities in Hinduism and what is their role in Hindu life? (Brahman, Vishnu, Shiva, etc.)
6. What is the Hindi name for "Hinduism" and what does it mean? (Sanatana Dharma – Everlasting appropriate behavior)
7. What is the importance of atman (humans are an eternal soul reborn many times) in Hindu thought and practice?
8. Explain the importance of *moksha* (release) (PHIL 220) and *karma* in moral law - ethics (PHIL 102).
9. Explain the importance of the major paths to moksha (PHIL 220).
10. How did the Hindu understanding of "truth and the universe" affect their thought and practice (PHIL 101, PHIL 220)?
11. List some of the major moral values of Hinduism (name the source), and explain their importance (PHIL 102).
12. Explain the meaning of avatars (incarnations) and why they are worshipped (PHIL 220)
13. Explain the sects (Groups – Vedic, Mother Goddess, Shiva, Vishnu) and castes (social status – priests, warriors, traders & farmers, menials & servants, outcasts, untouchables) of Hinduism, and what impact these groups have had on Hindu society (PHIL 102, 220).
14. What is the purpose of worship (being in the god's presence & being seen by the god) and pilgrimages to shrines and temples in Hinduism?

### Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

(PHIL 220) Black Board Journal entries (essay minimum 500 words each).

(PHIL 102) Black Board Discussion Board (minimum 500 words).

(PHIL 101) Black Board Discussion Board (minimum 500 words).

**Additional Resource information:**

1. Bhagavad Gita, Second, Third and Fourth Teaching (provide copies)
2. Upanishads, The Thirteenth Principle (provide copies)
3. Bina Gupta, "Bhagavad Gita as Duty and Virtue Ethics: Some Reflections", *Journal of Religious Ethics*, 2006 , JRE 34.3:373–395.
4. Lise Vail, "Unlike a Fool, He is not Defiled: Ascetic Purity and Ethics in the Samnyasa Upanisads. *Journal of Religious Ethics*, 2002, JRE 30.3:373–397.
5. Arti Dhand, "The Dharma of Ethics, The Ethics of Dharma: Quizzing the Ideals of Hinduism," *Journal of Religious Ethics*, 2002, JRE 30.3:347–372.