MW 723 Religions of India

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ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Spring 2004

MW723  Religions of India

Meeting Time:  Tuesday  4:00 – 6:00  
Instructor:    Terry C. Muck  
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Office Hours:  Wednesday afternoon, 2:00 – 4:30; before and after class;  
e-mail; special appointment.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, students study the origin, history, and basic tenets of the religions of India. 
Focus will be placed on the major world religions of Hinduism and Buddhism, but in order to 
understand them in their context we will also study Jainism, Sikhism, and the indigenous 
religions common to this geographical area. Special attention will be paid to the way these 
religious traditions of India relate to one another (and to indigenous folk religions) in both their 
historical and modern contexts. Students learn basic religious study skills and will visit a Hindu 
or Buddhist temple.

II. COURSE GOALS

A. Students will articulate the core teachings of Indian religions, describing them in ways 
agreeable to representative adherents of those religious traditions;  
B. Students will develop tools of analysis enabling them to research the history, beliefs, 
and practices of religious traditions;  
C. Students will create missiological approaches to people of Indian religious 
backgrounds;  
D. Students will experience Indian religions in their local, practiced form, developing 
skills of participant observation and empathetic learning.

II. TEXTBOOKS

Embree, Ainslie ed.. Sources of Indian Tradition, 2 vols.  New York: Columbia 
484 pages  
udies methodology. (Book provided by instructor)
III. ASSIGNMENTS
   1. Class attendance (10 percent)
   2. Two visit reports (10 percent each)
   3. A mission strategy paper on either Hinduism or Buddhism (40 percent)
   4. Final Exam (40 percent each)

IV. CLASS SCHEDULE

   February 17: A Religious Recipe: Methodological tools needed for the study of Indian religion
   February 24: Constructing a Religious Profile
               Wolpert, 3-225
   March 2: Indian Indigenous Religion and Worldview
            Wolpert, 226-456
   March 9: Hinduism
            Embree, 1-199
   March 16: How Hinduism Interacts
            Embree, 203-378
   March 23: Bhagavad Gita
            Gita, 1-122
   April 6: Buddhism
            Embree, 381-510
   April 13: How Buddhism Interacts
            Hay, 1-127
   April 20: Dhammapada
            Dhammapada, 1-121
   April 27: The Sects
            Hay, 128-274
   May 4: Christianity in India
           Hay, 275-411
   May 11: Emerging Buddhism