In this new course we will encounter Krishna in his many different aspects and forms, from the spiritual advisor in the Bhagavad Gita to the spirited “Krishna Gopal”, beloved deity of medieval and modern Vaishnavism. Alongside the many texts sampled in English translation we will also study Krishna in painting and iconography, and savor performances dedicated to the praise of this unique deity. See the draft syllabus below.

Students with a good reading knowledge of Hindi may also take an optional “add-on”, for one hour’s class credit, HIN 130D, in which we will read Braj Bhasha texts in the original.

Mail rupertsnell@austin.utexas.edu for more details.
**Krishna in Indian Literature and Art**

**READING:** Eck, ‘The land and story of Krishna’. Canvas.

1. **17 – 19 January**  
   **The Krishna narrative: concepts, themes, images**


2. **24 – 26 January**  
   **Episodes in the Bhāgavata Purāṇa**


3. **31 Jan – 2 February**  
   **Braj, birthplace of Krishna Gopal; the meanings of saguṇ bhakti**


4. **7 – 9 February**  
   **Radha: Krishna’s divine consort; the Gītagovinda of Jayadeva**

**READING:** Barz, ‘Kumbhandas: the devotee as salt of the earth’, Sourcebook pp. 477-504

5. **14 – 16 February**  
   **Caitanya and the Gaudiya tradition of Krishna-bhakti**

**READING:** Listopad, ‘In the service of Kṛṣṇa: paintings from Nathdwara’. Canvas.

6. **21 – 23 February**  
   **Vallabha and the Pushtimarg**

**READING:** Stewart, ‘When Rāhu devours the moon…’, 1997. Canvas.

7. **28 Feb – 2 March**  
   **Krishna as Shrinathji**

**READING:** Hawley, *At play with Krishna: pilgrimage dramas from Vrindaban*, 1981; 3-20, 53-73, 155-167.  
**WRITING:** Take-home exam (due 23 March)

8. **7 – 9 March**  
   **Hagiography: saintly folk as Krishna’s servants and intimates**

**READING:** Hawley, ‘Braj: fishing in Sur’s Ocean’. Sourcebook pp. 223-240;  
**READING:** Martin, ‘Rajasthan: Mirabai and her poetry’. Sourcebook pp. 241-254.

9. **28 – 30 March**  
   **Poetry and vision in the works of Surdas and Mirabai**

**READING:** Smith, ‘Old Indian: the two Sanskrit epics’. Canvas.

10. **4 – 6 April**  
    **Krishna in the Mahābhārata**

**READING:** Minor, ‘Krishna in the Bhagavad Gita’. Sourcebook pp. 77-94.

11. **11 – 13 April**  
    **The Bhagavad Gītā**

**WRITING:** Term paper (due 2nd May)

12. **18 – 20 April**  
    **Bringing Krishna to the classroom: Student presentations**

**WRITING:** Term paper (due 2nd May)

13. **25 – 27 April**  
    **Bringing Krishna to the classroom: Student presentations**

**READING:** [Rosenstein article on Haridasis & Radhavallabhis — citation details needed.]

14. **2 – 4 May**  
    **How texts develop and are transmitted: the case of the Caurāsī Pada**
ASSESSMENT

Participation and Discussion 25%
Weekly response papers 25%
Take-home midterm, due 23rd March 25%
Term paper (2000 words), due 2nd May 25%

GRADING SCALE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
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<td>D-</td>
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<td>0-59</td>
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HOW TO DO WELL IN THIS COURSE

Guidance is available to you at every stage, especially in the writing of your term paper: you are not alone here. Feedback on outlines and drafts is available and you are strongly advised to take this opportunity for enhancing your work!

PARTICIPATION & DISCUSSION

Our classes will run on the seminar model, regularly beginning with a discussion of the week’s reading and then branching out into a broader presentation and discussion of the week’s topic. Your careful reading of the various articles and chapters will facilitate your writing of the response papers, will help you take a meaningful part in class discussions (leading to a good grade in the 25% of the total allocated to Participation & Discussion), and will strengthen your hand when it comes to writing the mid-term exam and the term paper.
RESPONSE PAPERS

Response papers should be brief — about 300-600 words. Head your paper with the bibliographical details, like this:


There is much good advice online for the writing of response papers: in particular the PDF available from Duke University is worth reading before you start your first piece:


The ideal response paper for this class will include (a) your synopsis of the author’s main points, and (b) your individual reaction to what has been said. Your papers are to be written in English and submitted through Canvas, through which I will give you timely feedback. Don’t fall behind in your work, and I won’t either!

BIBLIOGRAPHY


Bhāgavata Purāṇa — see next.


Jayadeva, Gītagovinda — see Miller 1997.


*Mahābhārata*: see Satyamurti, and Smith.


Rosenstein, Lucy [article on Haridasis & Radhavallabhis — details to follow!]


