The Ethics of Life in South Asian Religions

This course will explore bioethics and ecological ethics in the traditions of Hinduism and Jainism. Through course readings, film and audiovisuals, news and social media, and classroom discussions, students will learn about the religious diversity of South Asia, and their various understandings of life (human, animal, and beyond). We will consider biomedical and ecological issues such as euthanasia, female infanticide, the definitions of marriage, and conservation efforts, that are a part of ongoing public discourse in South Asia and across diaspora communities.

Fall 2014 • Tues/Thurs 9:30-10:45 AM • REL 350-O
Instructor: Arthi Devarajan, Ph.D. • Dooley Memorial 215

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Explore The Hindu Tradition
Introduction to Hinduism

Fall 2014 • Mon/Wed/Fri
11:15-12:05 PM • REL 100-D
Instructor: Arthi Devarajan Ph.D.
Whitten LC 120

Sources of Hindu belief and practice date back as early as 1500 BCE, but the mythologies of India harken to time immemorial. The tradition that is today known as Hinduism developed through the rise and fall of empires, the evolution of social hierarchies, and through colorful stories about heroes and divinities. Today, Hindu practices are part of the landscape not only in India, but in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Southeast Asia and the Americas, too. Through readings, art and images, and numerous films and audiovisual materials, this course will offer students an introduction to the methods and theories of Religious Studies as it reveals the diversity of Hinduism.