

History of Art 676 Hindu Iconography

Instructor: Susan L. Huntington

Office: 124 Hayes (you may leave a message in 100 Hayes)

Office Hours: By appointment

Requirements:

You are required to know the materials presented in lecture, as well as the materials covered in the assigned readings.

Exams will be based on information given in lecture and the assigned readings.

In addition to the exams, you are required to make a Notebook that will be turned in for grading. See below for Notebook requirements.

Grading:

Midterm 1	25%	Thurs. Oct. 28 (test is partly open-Notebook)
Midterm 2	25%	Mon. Dec. 6, 1-2:00 (test is partly open-Notebook)
Final exam	25%	Mon. Dec. 6, 2-2:48 (test is open-Notebook)
Notebook	25%	Mon. Dec. 6 (turn in with final)

Exams:

Due to the special nature of this course, which does not emphasize style (and therefore many of the usual concerns of an art history course), you will not be tested on broad, chronological trends and developments.

Exams will emphasize recognition of specific iconographic forms and understanding of their iconological messages. Understanding of general concepts and variations within the Hindu religion will be important.

Exams will consist of both objective (factual) material and essays.

During portions of each midterm, and during the final, you will be permitted to use your Notebook (but no other books or papers). If you choose to use your Notebook during these exams, the Notebook must be typed and up-to-date (that is, you may not merely use your handwritten class notes).

Textbooks:

1. David R. Kinsley, *Hinduism* (Prentice-Hall)
2. Diana L. Eck, *Darsan: Seeing the Divine Image in India* (Anima)

Readings:

Readings will be assigned in the above two books and in books on reserve in the Fine Arts Library in the Wexner Center. (See last page.)

4. "The Goddess" (mainly Durga); read Danielou chpts. 20 and 23; Kinsley, *Hindu Goddesses*, Intro. and chpt. 7

Part IV: Other Hindu deities (approx. 2 weeks)

Pronunciation and Spelling: (24)

For a guide to pronunciation of Sanskrit, see pp. xix-xxii of Susan L. Huntington, *Art of Ancient India*. For standardized spellings of words, use the Glossary and Index in *Art of Ancient India*. (Following by using the Index to find the relevant page numbers.)

Course Outline and Readings

Part I: Introduction and Background (approx. 2 weeks)

1. Introduction to Indian geography and culture
2. Introduction to Hinduism (Kinsley, chpt. 1)
3. Central Hindu Beliefs (Kinsley, chpt. 5)
4. Worship in the Hindu Tradition (Kinsley, chpt. 6)
5. Hindu Social Structure (Kinsley, chpt. 7)
6. Dissent in Hinduism (Kinsley, chpt. 3)
7. Hinduism and the Arts (Kinsley, chpt. 4; Eck, whole book)
8. Historical overview (Kinsley, chpt. 2)
 - . Origins: Prehistoric period (Stone Age, Indus Civilization, Vedic and Upanisadic periods)
 - . Early Traces (Maurya, Sunga, Kusana periods)
 - . Later Florescence (Gupta, Calukya, Pallava periods)
 - . Later Florescence (Northern, Southern, Deccan regional developments)
 - . Late Trends (Krsna revivalism, folk trends, popular culture)

Part II: Analyzing Indian Images (approx. 1 week)

1. images as symbols; multivalent symbolism; *slesa* (double entendre)
2. attributes and miscellaneous symbols
3. *mudras* (hand gestures)
4. *vahanas* ("vehicles")
5. jewelry, hairstyles, and clothing
6. demeanor
7. idealization of body forms and stances

Part III: The Major Hindu Deities (approx. 3-4 weeks)

READINGS: given below; also look through appropriate sections of Rao

1. Brahma (read Danielou, chpt. 19)
2. Visnu, including Krsna and other *avataras* and *vyuhas*; read Danielou, chpts. 11-14)
3. Siva (read Danielou, chpts. 15-18)
4. "The Goddess" (mainly Durga); read Danielou chpts. 20 and 23; Kinsley, *Hindu Goddesses*, Intro. and chpt. 7

Part IV: Other Hindu deities (approx. 2 weeks)

5. Ganesa (Danielou, chpt. 24)
6. Karttikeya (Danielou, chpt. 24)

(Read appropriate sections of Danielou for the following by using the Index to find the relevant page numbers.)

7. Surya
8. Laksmi (Kinsley, *Hindu Goddesses*, chpt. 2)
9. Sarasvati (Kinsley, *Hindu Goddesses*, chpt. 4)
10. Seven Mothers (Saptamatrkas)
11. The Planets (*grahas*)
12. The Dikpalas
13. The Vedic deities
14. The River Goddesses (Ganga and Yamuna) (Kinsley, *Hindu Goddesses*, chpt. 12)
15. Wealth deities
16. Composite deities
17. Tantric imagery (including *sakti* cults and non-representational "abstract" art) (Kinsley, *Hindu Goddesses*, chpts. 8 and 11)
18. Miscellaneous

Part V: Hindu saints and sages (approx. 2 days)

Part VI: Hindu Images in Context: Temples as the Sacred Abodes of the Gods (read Kramrisch, *Hindu Temple*, chpts. 1 and 8) (approx. 3-4 days)

Part VII: Hindu Images in Context: Iconographic Programs (approx. 1 week)

Part VIII: Iconographic Texts (approx. 3-4 days)

Notebook Assignment

The Notebook that you will prepare as your out-of-class assignment serves the following purposes:

1. it provides a resource for the open-Notebook portions of your exams
2. it provides a resource for future reference

Required:

1. retype class notes and keep in a chronological fashion in one section of your Notebook (you may wish to enhance the notes with materials from your readings; you may also wish to copy sections of the notes and put in other sections of the Notebook)

2. additional material on three deities (or variations of deities) TO BE APPROVED BY PROFESSOR HUNTINGTON IN ADVANCE; for suggestions and instructions, see next page.

Optional:

3. You may wish to include typed notes based on your readings (these will be helpful during the open book exams, since during the exams you will be able to use your Notebooks, but not any other books)

4. You are free to organize your Notebook in any way that you wish; you may cross reference, create an index, a glossary, and any other tools you feel will help you in your study of Hindu art.

5. You may include xeroxes of photographs of different images to serve as reminders to you but this is not required. You might also include drawings made from slides shown in lecture.

Reading list (on reserve in the Fine Arts Library, Wexner Center):

Banerjea, J. N. <i>Devel. of Hindu Iconography</i>	BL 1205 B 3 1956	OR
Basham, A. L. <i>The Origins and Development of Classical Hinduism</i>	BL 1152.3B371989	OR
Coomaraswamy, A. <i>The Dance of Siva</i>	DS 423 C77 1968	OR
Danielou, Alain <i>Hindu Polytheism</i>	BL 1216 D 3	CR
Eck, Diana L. <i>Darsan</i>	BL 1205 E25 1985	CR
Huntington, Susan L. <i>Art of Ancient India</i>	N 7301 H86 1985	CR
Kinsley, David <i>Hinduism</i>	BL 1202 K48 1982	CR
Kinsley, David <i>Hindu Goddesses</i>	BL1216.2K561986	CR
Kramrisch, Stella <i>The Hindu Temple</i> , 2 vols.	NA 6002 K 72 1976	CR
Rao, T.A. G. <i>Elements of Hindu Iconography</i>	BL 1201 G65 1971	CR
Stutley, M. and J. <i>Dictionary of Hinduism</i>	BL 1105 S78	OR
Walker, Benjamin <i>Hindu World</i> , 2 vols.	BL1105 W3	OR
Zimmer, H. <i>Myths and Symbols in Indian Art and Civilization</i>	BL 2003 Z 72 1972	OR

LIST OF DEITIES TO ADD TO NOTEBOOKS

1. Each student should select three deities from the list below. (Some of you will have to work on the same deity as there are not enough to go around.)

2. For each deity you should try to:

- . give alternative names and forms for the deity
- . identify original religious texts (e.g. Vedas, specific Puranas, etc.) that mention/discuss the deity
- . identify the major characteristics of the deity (attributes, mudras, vahanas, color, features of costume and ornamentation, etc.)
- . identify main meanings associated with the deity and how the deity might be used in temple context, worship rituals, etc.
- . relate main stories associated with deeds/life of the deity
- . identify other deities with which your deity is closely associated
- . provide some historical perspective (e.g. deity's name appears in Vedas, earliest forms seen in Gupta period, becomes mainly popular in Tamil region of south India in Cola period, etc.)
- . if deity is particularly (or solely) popular in one region of India, specify
- . provide illustrations showing typical and more unusual forms
- . note any festivals/holidays especially associated with the deity

3. Select your deities from the following list:

Agastya (male sage)
Agni (male)
Balarama (male)
Camunda (female)
Candi (female)
Garuda (male)
Indra (male)
kinnara(s) (= kinnaras) ("heavenly musicians")
Jambhala/Kubera (male)
Kama (male)
Lajja-Gauri (female)
Lakulisa (male)
Manikka Vasahar (male saint)
raksasa(s) ("night wanderers", a category of evil beings)
Revanta (male)
Rudra (male)
Sasta/Aiyanar (male)
Uma (female)
Varuna (male)
Vasudhara/Vasundhara (female)
Yama (male)