World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Jonathan Arbuckle  Humanities Discipline: Anthropology  Date: September 7, 2016

World Religion: Hinduism  Teaching Module Title: Hinduism Part 1

Teaching Module Goals:

1. Explore core anthropological themes of social stratification and marriage
2. Introduction to fundamental Hindu terminology and practices
3. Explore how Hinduism can both socially justify “traditional” endogamy marriage practices while allowing Tantric practitioners to break traditional marriage taboos through exogamy.

Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

1. Bowker: World Religions, pages 20-23

Class outline/Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts/Assessments for Students:

General Class Lecture/Discussion

a. Social Stratification
   i. Definition(s), what constitutes stratification?
   ii. Why are societies stratified?
   iii. Examples of stratification?
   iv. Can a society successfully support social stratification in one regard while promoting its opposite in another?

b. Marriage
   i. Endogamy vs. exogamy
   ii. Is it all about love?
   iii. Sexual and economic union
   iv. Relate to social stratification?

c. Hinduism
   i. Moksha
   ii. Dharma
   iii. Siddhi
   iv. Tantra
   v. Orthodox laws of marriage and social justifications within castes
   vi. Tantra Practices and breaking orthodox taboos

Assessment:

Focusing on the readings and class lecture/discussion, have students write a hypothetical dialogue between themselves and a 1) a follower of “orthodox” Hindu practices and 2) an “unorthodox” Hindu practitioner. The student should mediate the discussion between the two practitioners and focus on the differences between their individual practices, how they relate to social stratification, marriage practices, cultural taboos, and how, if any, middle ground can be found between the two.