

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Douglas Hammerling

Humanities Discipline: History

Date: September 6, 2016

World Religion: Hinduism

Teaching Module Goals:

To create a better understanding of Hindu religious traditions, terms, and origins.

Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

1. John Bower: *World Religions: The great faiths explored and explained*
2. "The History of Hindu India, Part One: From Ancient Times"—You Tube
3. BBC, "The Story of India," 1of 6, Beginnings Part 2—You Tube
4. Web site: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/hinduism>

Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

1. What is the origin of Hinduism?
2. What is Vedic religion based upon?
3. Who is Shiva in the Hindu religion?
4. Who is Vishu the Preserver?
5. What is the Ramayana?
6. What is Puja? What is central to worship in Hinduism?
7. Describe one of the pilgrimages that Hindu might go on.
8. What does the term Moksha mean?
9. Name two of the festivals that are described in the festival calendar.

Define these terms:

1. Dharma
2. Kama
3. Shakti and the Cult of Tantra
4. The Yogi

Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

1. Obtain an illustration of Shiva the Destroyer dancing the Tandava dance. Explain what this symbolizes and identify ten different symbols and their meanings in the illustration. Explain how the Shiva is worshiped.
2. Obtain an illustration of Vishu as the Universe. Identify ten difference Gods or symbols that decorate Vishnu. What was the color Blue mean? What is the symbol of the water lotus mean?
3. Explain what is the deity Ganesh is. What is the legend associated with him? Why is he revered?
4. You are going on four pilgrimages in India to a deity. Select four you might make and why.
5. It seems every month has a festival. Describe the meaning and functions of two of them.