

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Patrick Meegan

Humanities Discipline: World History

Date: October 7, 2016

World Religion: Hinduism

Teaching Module Title: Hindu Immigrants in the United States

Teaching Module Goals:

1. Introduce students to basic information regarding Hindu immigration to America.
2. Familiarize students with the basic historical events related to Hinduism in the modern United States.

Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

1. Duiker and Spielvogel, *The Essential World History, Volume II: Since 1500*, Chapter 21, pp545-548.
2. Mann, Gurinder Singh, and Paul Numrich, and Raymond Williams, *Buddhists, Hindus, and Sikhs in America*, Chapters 4, 5, and 6.

Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

1. What was the cultural background of the first American Hindus?
2. What was the historical situation in the Indian subcontinent at the beginning of Hindu immigration to America?
3. How have American Hindus responded to their presence amid the greater American culture? What changes have they adopted, and what impact has this had? Discuss the differences among first- and second-generation immigrant Hindus.

Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

Come to class with written responses to these questions. We will discuss the answers together and have a brief lecture in preparation for a quiz, which I will give the students after this class session.

Important points to stress in classroom discussion:

1. India under the British Raj connected India to the greater world of the British Empire, facilitating early Hindu immigration.
2. There have been challenges that Hindus in America faced, and some still face.
3. American Hindus have interacted with and become a part of the larger American society.