

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Janet Rhodes-Carlson **Humanities Discipline:** Human Services **Date:** November 1, 2016

World Religion: Hinduism

Teaching Module Title: An Introduction to the Hindu Faith

Teaching Module Goals:

1. Provide a historical perspective of Hinduism in the United States.
2. Familiarize students with the basic doctrines of the Hindu religion.
3. Compare and contrast Hinduism and Christianity.
4. Introduce students to gods and goddesses of the Hindu faith.

Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

1. *Buddhists, Hindus, and Sikhs in America: A Short History* pgs. 79-93 by Gurinder Singh Mann Paul Numrich, and Raymond Williams
2. "The Temple Makers" Video
3. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/hinduism/deities/shiva.shtml>
4. <http://www.himalayanacademy.com/monastery>

Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students: (In-class discussion)

1. What was the work of "Missionary Hindus" in the United States and what impact did they have?
2. What was the Hare Krishna movement?
3. What is ISKCON?
4. After reading the article Hindu-Christian Point-Counterpoint, discuss the differences that the article outline. What reactions do you have? Using the "seven dimensions" of religions approach, try to show how Hinduism and Christianity are also similar.
5. How are the Hindu and Christian belief and ethics different or similar to your own beliefs and ethics?
6. After watching the video "The Temple Makers," discuss how the temple is used and how it was created to meet the needs of Hindus of all traditions.

Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

1. Students will write a reflective journal that provides an overview of what they have learned about the Hindu religion in regard to having more than one deity, the belief in Karma, and the idea of reincarnation.
2. In addition, students will choose to do **one** of the following activities:
 - a. Visit the Bharatiya Temple & Cultural Center of Greater Lafayette and participate in an activity or event and then give an oral report to the class.
 - b. Research three (3) Hindu deities and write a 3-5 page paper describing their history, importance and what they represent. Paper is to be in APA format.
 - c. Research where other Hindu temples are located throughout the U.S. and create a map with a picture of seven of them. Create a class presentation that describes the history and any interesting facts about each of the seven.