

## World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

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**Humanities Discipline:** History

**Date:** August 17, 2016

**World Religion:** Hinduism

**Module Title:** Hindu encounters with U.S. culture and American English

### Teaching module goals:

To illustrate that Hindu words, cultural concepts, and certain elements of the Hindu religion have become a part of modern U.S. culture and American English.

### Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

1. *World Religions: The Great faiths explored and explained* by John Bowker pp.21-43
2. *Hinduism and the 1960's; The rise of the counter culture* by Paul Oliver
3. *Zee, do you speak Hindu: and other stories* by Bai Barot
4. [www.tm.org](http://www.tm.org)
5. <http://www.sunnypress.edu/p-4174-gurus-in-America.aspx>
6. <http://www.religionfacts.com/hare-krishna>

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/urban-yogis>

### Study Questions and/or Discussion Prompt for Students:

1. Ask the students to define what the following words mean to them in their world today: Yogi/Yoga, Guru, Karma, dharma and mantras.
2. How do Hindus define the meaning of these words. Are the definitions and meanings different?
3. How does the Hindu trinity differ from the Christian trinity?
4. What is the difference between mantras and prayers that other faiths use?
5. Do you know anyone who practices Yoga? What are they doing and how does it differ from various forms of yoga in Hindu traditions?
6. if you called someone Guru what would you mean? What is a Hindu Guru?
7. If someone would ask you what is your Karma? What would they be talking about? What is Hindu Karma?
8. What is dharma? What kind of behavior do you exhibit when you practice dharma?
9. Do you know anyone who practices meditation? What are they doing? What is transcendental meditation?
10. Have you ever seen Hare Krishna practitioners at the airport or other public places? What are they doing? How are they worshiping Vishnu?

### Written Assignments and/or Assessment Instruments:

1. Ask the students to interview a person who practices yoga and/or transcendental meditation to see how that person understands what she is doing. Does she connect her activities with Hindu religion? If not, why not? The students should present a written analysis of the findings.
2. Quiz the students on the meaning of the words guru, yoga/yogi, karma, dharma and mantras. Have them write out the definitions of the words.