Course information:

Copy and paste current course information from Class Search/Course Catalog.

<table>
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<th>Academic Unit</th>
<th>Historical, Philosophical &amp; Religious Studies</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Religious Studies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject REL</td>
<td>Number 347</td>
<td>Title Religious Pluralism and Conflict in India</td>
<td>Units: 3</td>
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</table>

Is this a cross-listed course? No

If yes, please identify course(s)

Is this a shared course? No

If so, list all academic units offering this course

Requested designation: Global Awareness-G

Note- a separate proposal is required for each designation requested

Eligibility:
Permanent numbered courses must have completed the university’s review and approval process.
For the rules governing approval of omnibus courses, contact the General Studies Program Office at (480) 965-0739.

Area(s) proposed course will serve:
A single course may be proposed for more than one core or awareness area. A course may satisfy a core area requirement and more than one awareness area requirements concurrently, but may not satisfy requirements in two core areas simultaneously, even if approved for those areas. With departmental consent, an approved General Studies course may be counted toward both the General Studies requirement and the major program of study.

Checklists for general studies designations:
Complete and attach the appropriate checklist
- Literacy and Critical Inquiry core courses (L)
- Mathematics core courses (MA)
- Computer/statistics/quantitative applications core courses (CS)
- Humanities, Fine Arts and Design core courses (HU)
- Social and Behavioral Sciences core courses (SB)
- Natural Sciences core courses (SO/SG)
- Global Awareness courses (G)
- Historical Awareness courses (H)
- Cultural Diversity in the United States courses (C)

A complete proposal should include:
☐ Signed General Studies Program Course Proposal Cover Form
☐ Criteria Checklist for the area
☐ Course Syllabus
☐ Table of Contents from the textbook, and/or lists of course materials

Contact information:
Name Cindy Baade
Phone 480-965-7183
Mail code 4302
E-mail: cynthia.baade@asu.edu

Department Chair/Director approval: (Required)
Chair/Director name (Typed): Matthew J. Garcia
Chair/Director (Signature):

Date: 1/9/15

Rev. 1/94, 4/95, 7/98, 4/00, 1/02, 10/08, 11/11/12/11, 7/12
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<th>General Studies</th>
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<td>REL 347</td>
<td>Religions of India</td>
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In-depth analysis of major Indian religious traditions in historical and contemporary context, with attention to theologies, textual genres, doctrines, rituals, political and cultural expressions.

Repeatability for credit: No  
Grading method: Student Option  
Offered by: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences – Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies, Sch Pre-requisites: ENG 102, 105 or 106 with C or better; Minimum 24 hours; Credit is allowed for only REL 347 or 394 (Religions of India)
Arizona State University Criteria Checklist for

GLOBAL AWARENESS [G]

Rationale and Objectives

Human organizations and relationships have evolved from being family and village centered to modern global interdependence. The greatest challenge in the nuclear age is developing and maintaining a global perspective which fosters international cooperation. While the modern world is comprised of politically independent states, people must transcend nationalism and recognize the significant interdependence among peoples of the world. The exposure of students to different cultural systems provides the background of thought necessary to developing a global perspective.

Cultural learning is present in many disciplines. Exposure to perspectives on art, business, engineering, music, and the natural and social sciences that lead to an understanding of the contemporary world supports the view that intercultural interaction has become a daily necessity. The complexity of American society forces people to balance regional and national goals with global concerns. Many of the most serious problems are world issues and require solutions which exhibit mutuality and reciprocity. No longer are hunger, ecology, health care delivery, language planning, information exchanges, economic and social developments, law, technology transfer, philosophy, and the arts solely national concerns; they affect all the people of the world. Survival may be dependent on the ability to generate global solutions to some of the most pressing problems.

The word university, from universitas, implies that knowledge comes from many sources and is not restricted to local, regional, or national perspectives. The Global Awareness Area recognizes the need for an understanding of the values, elements, and social processes of cultures other than the culture of the United States. Learning which recognizes the nature of others cultures and the relationship of America's cultural system to generic human goals and welfare will help create the multicultural and global perspective necessary for effective interaction in the human community.

Courses which meet the requirement in global awareness are of one or more of the following types: (1) in-depth area studies which are concerned with an examination of culture-specific elements of a region of the world, country, or culture group, (2) the study of contemporary non-English language courses that have a significant cultural component, (3) comparative cultural studies with an emphasis on non-U.S. areas, and (4) in-depth studies of non-U.S. centered cultural interrelationships of global scope such as the global interdependence produced by problems of world ecology, multinational corporations, migration, and the threat of nuclear war.
Proposer: Please complete the following section and attach appropriate documentation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>1. Studies must be composed of subject matter that addresses or leads to an understanding of the contemporary world outside the U.S.</th>
<th>Syllabus: Course Description, Required Readings, Schedule</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>2. The course must match at least one of the following descriptions: (check all which may apply):</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>a. In-depth area studies which are concerned with an examination of culture-specific elements of a region, country or culture group. The area or culture studied must be non-U.S. and the study must contribute to an understanding of the contemporary world.</td>
<td>Syllabus: Course Description, Required Readings, Schedule</td>
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<tr>
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<td>b. The course is a language course for a contemporary non-English language, and has a significant cultural component.</td>
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<td>c. The course is a comparative cultural study in which most, i.e., more than half, of the material is devoted to non-U.S. areas.</td>
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<td>d. The course is a study of the cultural significance of a non-U.S.-centered global issue. The course examines the role of its target issue within each culture and the interrelatedness of various global cultures on that issue. It looks at the cultural significance of its issue in various cultures outside the U.S., both examining the issue's place within each culture and the effects of that issue on world cultures.</td>
<td>Syllabus: Course Description, Required Readings, Schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criteria (from checksheet)</td>
<td>How course meets spirit (contextualize specific examples in next column)</td>
<td>Please provide detailed evidence of how course meets criteria (i.e., where in syllabus)</td>
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<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAMPLE: 2d: study the cultural significance of a non-U.S. centered global issue</td>
<td>SAMPLE: The course examines the cultural significance of financial markets Japan, Korea, and the UK.</td>
<td>SAMPLE: Module 2 shows how Japanese literature has shaped how Japanese people understand world markets. Module 3 shows how Japanese popular culture has been changed by the world financial market system. Modules 4 &amp; 5 do the same for Korea and modules 6 &amp; 7 do the same for the UK.</td>
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</table>

1 Study of India

The course examines religion and culture in India

Syllabus: Course Description, Schedule all weeks, selected Required Readings, title pages and contents

2a In-depth Area Study of major religions of India

The course examines the histories, doctrines, practices and political relationship of major religions of India

Syllabus, Schedule: weeks 1&2-survey; weeks 3&4 Hinduism; weeks 5&6 Islam; week 8 Sikhism; week 10 Buddhism and Jain; 11 Buddhism; week 12 Christianity; selected Required Readings, title pages and content

2d Study of religious pluralism, conflict, and related issues in India

The course focuses on religious pluralism and conflict, and on related issues of social reform; globalization and migration

Syllabus, Schedule: week 1 - survey, week 5 and 6 Hindu-Muslim, week 8 Hindu-Sikh; week 9 Hindu Nationalism; week 11 Dalit reforms; week 12 Hindu-Christian; week 13 modes of coexistence; week 15 globalization and diaspora; selected Required Readings, title pages and content
-course description-
India is the home of many religions. Hinduism, her most ancient religion claims its origins from the third millennium BCE and honors the proverbial number of 33 million goddesses and gods guiding devotees on their karmic journey towards salvation; Buddhism, that originated in India in the 6th century BCE, discourages the idea of a personified god and proclaims compassion and self-discipline as the path to the enlightenment and liberation from suffering for the Self; Islam has reached India as early as the 8th century and preaches prayer, charity and submission to the one Allah as the way to peace, wholeness, and paradise.

Religious life in India was always dynamic — allowing for reform and the emergence of new religions such as Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism — accommodating various Syrian, Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant Christian denominations — and granting shelter and protection for persecuted religions such as Zoroastrianism and Judaism. India was however also always the site of religious conflicts and communalist violence — seeing the militant division of the followers of the gods Vishnu and Shiva in medieval times — experiencing the gradual emergence of hostilities between Hindus and Muslims in colonial times — and facing recurring violence between Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and Christians in its post-colonial presence today.

This course will introduce you to the vibrant religious plurality and enduring religious conflicts of India. We will look at historical backgrounds and contemporary events, study sacred books and ritual practices, contemplate local circumstances and global reverberations. Special topics will be: Hindu gods and castes; Muslim heritage and Sufi saints; Buddhist origins and Dalit ('Untouchable') revivalism; Indian Christians and Hindu-Catholic syncretism; religious acculturation and communalist conflict; modern Holy Men and urban religiosity; Indian religion and global diaspora.

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DESIGNATION G

ble) revivalism; Indian Christians and Hindu-Catholic syncretism; religious acculturation and communalist conflict; modern Holy Men and urban religiosity; Indian religion and global diaspora.

The course will combine lecture, video and image analysis, and in class discussion. Modes of evaluation will include mid-term exam, media research paper, film reflection, and final paper.

Required Readings
Books (available at ASU bookstore)

Articles and Chapters (accessible on blackboard)
Henn, Alexander, Crossroads of Religions: Shrines, Mobility and Urban Space in Goa, in: International Journal of Urban and Regional Research 2008, 32.3 S 658–670
Madan, T.N.: Religion in India, in: Daedalus 1989/118,4:115-146
DESIGNATION G


Assignments and Grades

1) Class Participation. Class Participation will count for 10% of your grade. Class participation is NOT the same as class attendance. You are expected to take an active role in this class, discussing the reading and raising further topics of interest for discussion. For each day, who contributes to the discussion will get one or more points, who does not contribute will get zero point, who does not attend class will get negative points.

2) Media Research Paper, due February 6th, will count 15% of your grade. Find two or three current electronic articles in mainstream news media (such as New York Times, BBC, Reuters, Times of India, India Today) dealing with religious issues in contemporary India, submit a (500 to 700 words) commentary as to what they say about 'religions of India'.

3) Midterm Exam on February 20th will count for 20% of your grade. It will be a 75 minutes in-class exam dealing with the material so far discussed in class. Its format will be four or five questions to be answered by bullet-points, and four or five questions to be answered by mini-essay.

4) Film Reflection Paper, due March 20th, will count for 15% of your grade. Summarize and discuss the relations between the various religious traditions of India in a short paper (700 to 1000 words) that are portrayed in the two videos shown in class.

5) Final Paper Proposal, due March 27, will count for 5% of your grade. It should have 300-400 words and present: a working title, abstract and bibliography of your Final Paper project.

6) Oral Presentation of your paper in class on May 1st will count 5% of your grade.

7) Final Paper, due May 7th, will count for 30% of your grade. It shall be 2000-2500 words in length dealing with any one of the religious traditions or problems discussed in class. The topic is to be selected by you and approved by me. You may use sources dealt with in class, but should also use a substantial amount of self-researched new sources. Internet blogs and WIKIPEDIA are not acceptable sources for your paper. They may be used as examples of opinions, but not as
representatives of factual statements. The final paper needs to be structured by: introduction, elaboration, conclusion and bibliography. All significant facts and arguments borrowed from bibliographic or electronic sources need to referenced in the text by author name and year of the source. All figures and verbatim quotations need to be referenced in the text by author name, year and page number(s). All sources used in the text need to be evidenced in a bibliography at the end of the paper. The bibliography needs to follow an acknowledged academic style, for instance the one used in the *Journal of Asian Studies* or the *Chicago Style*.

**Grading Key**

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<th>Grade</th>
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<td>A+</td>
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<td>99-93%</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>&lt;50%</td>
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**Academic Dishonesty**

Academic honesty is expected of all students in all examinations, papers, laboratory work, academic transactions and records. The possible sanctions include, but are not limited to, appropriate grade penalties, course failure (indicated on the transcript as a grade of F), course failure due to academic dishonesty (indicated on the transcript as a grade of XE), loss of registration privileges, disqualification and dismissal. For more information, see [http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity](http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity).

**Disability Accommodations**

Qualified students with disabilities who will require disability accommodations in this class are encouraged to make their requests to me at the beginning of the semester either during office hours or by appointment. Note: Prior to receiving disability accommodations, verification of eligibility from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) is required. Disability information is confidential.

**Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/23</td>
<td>Religion(s) and Indian Society</td>
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<td>Readings:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Madan, Religion in India, pp. 115-146 (blackboard)</td>
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<td>- Blackwell: Indian Society: Contemporary Issues, pp. 135-182 (blackboard)</td>
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<td>Video:</td>
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<td>1/30</td>
<td>Hinduism — History, Gods, and Sacred Texts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Readings</td>
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| Week 3 | Watson: India. A Concise History, pp. 11-38 (book)  
Grimes et al: Hindu Dharma, in Mittal: Religions of South Asia, pp. 15-57 (book)  
Fuller: Gods and Goddesses, in: Camphor Flame, 29-56, (blackboard)  
*Religion in Hindu India. 52 mins. 2002 online*  
*Comment [AH12]: 2a major religions of India - Hinduism* |  |
| Week 4 | **Hinduism — Philosophies, Rituals, and Society**  
Readings:  
Grimes et al: Hindu Dharma, in Mittal: Religions of South Asia, pp. 57-84 (book)  
Fuller: Popular Hinduism and Indian Society, in: Camphor Flame, pp.3-28 (blackboard)  
Pinglé: The Caste System, pp. 231-253, (blackboard)  
Videos:  
*Hinduism*, 50 mins. [BL80.3 W67 2003 v. 2]  
*Puja*, 12 mins. [SHPRS frontdesk]  
*DUE Media Research Paper*  
*Comment [AH13]: 2a major religions of India - Hinduism* |  |
| Week 5 | **Islam — Sultans, Moghuls, and Sufis**  
Readings:  
Watson: A Concise History of India pp. 87-118 (book)  
Ruffle: Islam in South Asia, pp. 192-211 (blackboard)  
Madan: Islam in South Asia, in: Modern Myth, pp. 106-149 (blackboard)  
Dharwadker: Kabir, pp. 77-81 (blackboard)  
Videos:  
*The Story of India: The Meeting of Two Oceans. 2008, 55 mins.*  
*Comment [AH14]: 2a major religions of India - Islam; 2d religious pluralism, conflict, and related issues - Hindu-Muslim* |  |
| Week 6 | **Hindu – Muslim Partition: Colonial Legacy and New State**  
Readings:  
Watson: A Concise History of India pp. 129-156 (book)  
Metcalfe and Metcalfe: The 1940s: Triumph and Tragedy, in Concise History of India, pp. 200-226 (blackboard)  
Pandey: The Colonial Construction of Communalism, pp. 132-168 (blackboard)  
Videos:  
*The Sky Below, 70mins.*  
*Comment [AH15]: 2a major religions of India - Islam; 2d religious pluralism, conflict, and related issues - Hindu-Muslim* |  |
| Week 7 | **REVISION – STUDY GUIDE** |  |
| Week 8 | **Sikhism and the Story of Sikhs**  
Readings:  
Singh: Sikh Dharam, in Mittal: Religions of South Asia, pp.131-148 (book)  
*Comment [AH16]: 2a major religions of India - Sikhism; 2d religious pluralism, conflict, and related issues - Hindu-Sikh* |  |
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<td>4/10 week 13</td>
<td>Modes of Coexistence</td>
<td>- Mayaram: Beyond Ethnicity? Being Hindu and Muslim in South Asia, pp. 18-39 (blackboard)</td>
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<td>- Henn, Crossroads of Religions, pp. 658-670 (blackboard)</td>
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<td>4/17 week 14</td>
<td>Holy Men and Modernity</td>
<td>- Urban: Avatar of Our Age, Sathya Sai Baba and the Cultural Contradictions of Late Capitalism, pp. 73-93 (blackboard)</td>
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<td>- White: The Sai Baba Movement: Approaches to the Study of Indian Saints, pp. 863-878 (blackboard)</td>
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<td>4/24 week 15</td>
<td>Globalization and Diaspora</td>
<td>- Kurien: Becoming American by Becoming Hindu, pp. 37-71 (blackboard)</td>
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<td>- Eck: New Age Hinduism, pp. 111-137 (blackboard)</td>
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<td>- So Far From India, 1983, 45 mins. [online]</td>
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RELIGIONS OF SOUTH ASIA

An introduction

Edited by Sushil Mittal and Gene Thursby
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FRANCIS WATSON
 Revised and updated edition
 with a new chapter by DILIP HIRO

188 illustrations
4 maps

Thames & Hudson
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Lived Islam in South Asia

Adaptation, Accommodation & Conflict

EDITED BY

Imtiaz Ahmad & Helmut Reifeld
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Preface

The papers in this book have grown out of a conference titled: 'Lived Islam in South Asia: Adaptation, Liminality and Conflict', held in Goa between 4 and 8 December 2002. Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Germany initiated and organized this conference, as a part of a world-wide series of seminars and workshops called 'Dialogue with Islam'.

Ever since its inception in the 1960s, Konrad Adenauer Foundation has been interested in initiating dialogues between different ideological positions. There were two main reasons for organizing the present conference. First, there has been an enormous body of literature on Islam in West Asia, largely due to the international focus on that region. By contrast, Islam in South Asia has not received its due attention. We hoped to correct this imbalance in some small way through this conference. It was not our intention however, to enter theological or political debates, but gain better understanding of how Islam was practised by a large section of the world's population.

Second, since September 11, the quest for more knowledge about Islam has increased greatly, specially in the west. But together with this, there has also been a growth in dangerous stereotypes about the connection of Islam to violence. It seemed to us therefore, extremely important to dispel some of these misconceptions about such a large section of people who call themselves Muslims and try to
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Fritz Blackwell

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To Julian and Austin, grandsons—and to Tasha.
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The Sociopolitical Effects of Ideological Change: The Buddhist Conversion of Maharashtrian Untouchables

JAYASHREE B. GOKHALE

On October 14, 1956, thousands of Maharashtrian Untouchables, led by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (1891–1956), renounced their ancestral Hindu faith and converted en masse to Buddhism. This article treats the origins of that conversion, the institutions that were established as a result of it, the ideology that was formulated around it, and the processes of social change that followed it. The decision to break completely with Hinduism was a momentous one for an Untouchable community that occupied the lowest rungs of the Maharashtrian caste and class order. It meant both the repudiation of ideology and of the complex of social relationships that had developed around it. Hence the conversion had implications not only for individual and collective consciousness but also for relationships among other dalit (Marathi, "poor and downtrodden") communities and the wider society.

The Mahar community is notable in having produced B. R. Ambedkar, the instigator of the Buddhist conversion, the foremost Untouchable leader of modern times, and the chief architect of the Indian Constitution of 1950. In his own community, Ambedkar is revered as a savior; he has become the central symbol of the Mahar-Buddhist movement. Although many historical precedents for conversion by Untouchables to dissident Hindu traditions and other religions (Christianity and Islam) exist, the Buddhist conversion of 1956 was a unique instance in modern times; it was the first organized expression of dissatisfaction with the Hindu order that involved the determination to leave it. The Buddhist conversion of the Mahars represents in many

---

Jayashree B. Gokhale is Visiting Research Scholar, South Asia Regional Studies, University of Pennsylvania.

This article is derived from a book manuscript being prepared for publication, entitled From Concessions to Confrontation: The Politics of an Indian Untouchable Community, based on the author's Ph.D. dissertation (Gokhale 1980). The author's research in India in 1976 was supported by a grant from McGill University; in 1981 her research was funded by a grant from the American Institute of Indian Studies. An earlier version of this article was delivered at the annual conference of the Association for Asian Studies, Washington, D.C., March 1984. She is grateful to E. G. Goode and William Boyer and to two anonymous reviewers of the earlier draft for helpful suggestions.

I have deliberately not used "Harijan" (Gandhi's term for Untouchable, meaning "children of God"). Mahar-Buddhists find this term demeaning and patronizing and do not use it themselves. I recognize that Buddhists will find it still "Mahar-Buddhist" inappropriate. My reason for using that term will become apparent in this article; it says something about the meaning of the conversion, which has in some ways reinforced the ethnic identity of the Mahars. I also use dalit (Marathi, "poor and downtrodden"), which is the term of choice for many Untouchables and is an effort to transcend and oppose varna (caste) distinctions on the basis of class. In practice, dalit has become a euphemism for Untouchable, just as "Buddhist" (Marathi, Nuva Bauddha or Bauddha) is a euphemism for "Mahar." I also use "Scheduled Caste" (SC), the appellation used by the Indian Government to refer to Untouchables.
Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar: Rebel against Hindu Tradition

BALKRISHNA GOVIND GOKHALE
Wake Forest University, Winston Salem, North Carolina, U.S.A.

FOR ALMOST three decades (1928–1956) Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar (1891–1956) was an unrelenting challenge to Hindu dogma and social practices. To most political leaders, including M. K. Gandhi (1869–1948) and Jawaharlal Nehru (1889–1964), he was a troublesome spectre casting a menacing shadow over their grand national designs. To the orthodox Hindu he was anathema, an “untouchable” who persistently refused “to keep his place.” To millions of his followers he was a “father figure,” Babasaheb as he was fondly and reverently addressed, a veritable saviour vindicating their human rights and heroically striving to lift them out of the mire of poverty and degradation into which the Hindu social system had cast them. Cram-full of facts, vitriolic in his denunciations, unbending in his personal and general likes and dislikes, tireless in his energy and prophetic in his pronouncements, Ambedkar symbolised a unique phenomenon in the political and social history of modern India.

It is too early to deliver definitive judgment on the longevity and vitality of Ambedkar’s impact upon Hinduism. In its characteristic way Hinduism epitomised him as its “modern Manu” and promptly laid his ghost to rest. Ambedkar had challenged Hinduism where it was most vulnerable, the caste system and its correlate – untouchability. The bastions of the system have begun to show cracks, but it will be a long time before they will crumble if recent studies are any indication. As his final riposte, Ambedkar led millions of his followers into a new religion (Buddhism) in October 1956 in the hope that they would escape the tyranny of the caste system thereby. But in hundreds of villages in Maharashtra they simply seem to have exchanged one label for another, for now they are taken to be “untouchable” Buddhists!

Crossroads of Religions: Shrines, Mobility and Urban Space in Goa

ALEXANDER HENN

Abstract

Wayside shrines — representing Hindu and Catholic divinities and saints — show an astonishing dynamic in the cities of Goa and India. Not only do they persist in a milieu of drastic modern change that often seems to be at odds with their traditional locations, aesthetics and purposes, but also some of them surpass temples, churches and mosques in popularity. The popularity of these seemingly marginal religious monuments is a response to three forms of mobility characterizing modern Indian urban environments: cultural mobility — the diversification and fluctuation of religious ideas and practices; social mobility — the diversification and fluctuation of people from different castes, social classes and geographical regions, as well as the change of caste and class status due to socio-economic change; and physical mobility — the movement of and movement around increasingly dense and complex flows of motorized traffic. The shrines modify and transform the centuries-old spatio-religious system of Hindus and Catholics to fit the conditions of late-modern city life. They allow a culturally diversifying, socially changing and geographically fluctuating population to engage with a variety of personalized deities and saints whose charismatic authority is not only quite independent from formalized local social hierarchies, but often also cuts across orthodox divisions between religious traditions.

Introduction

One of the most conspicuous errors of modern social theory has been the assumption that modernity would gradually eliminate religion from the public sphere. This indicates that modernization theory and Marxist theory both erred considerably in arguing that religion would retreat into the private sphere of individual belief or be replaced by the demystifying objectivity of scientific rationalism. Notably, however, the evidence today showing that this prognosis was wrong comes not only from a late-modern 'religious resurgence' (Sahlieh, 1990), which raises concerns about an increase in religious conflicts and violence in many parts of the world (Juergensmeyer, 2000). Arguably, significant proof of the fact that religion is standing its ground in modernity can also be found in its persistence and growth in many cities where, at times, it plays a rather reconciling and appeasing role (Mayaram, 2005).

In order to argue the case for the persistence of religion in the modern urban space, in this article I explore wayside shrines in the cities of Goa. Goa, to begin with, marks a special region within the Indian nation (Newman, 1988). Its peculiarity is owed to the fact that it was under Portuguese rule and Catholic hegemony for almost half a millennium.

I owe thanks to Alito Siqueira MA for his continuous support in my research in Goa. Jose Lourenco deserves gratitude for helping me locate and understand some fine shrines in Margao. I also thank Gabrielle Henn for contributing the photographs.

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Gatherings in Diaspora

Religious Communities and the New Immigration

EDITED BY
R. Stephen Warner and Judith G. Wittner
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Religion in India

T. N. Madan

In India, religion is like an axis that transforms as it turns, propelling society through history. Religion's many expressions—the Sikh, Jain, Hindu, Buddhist, Sant, and Muslim traditions—radiate like spokes, connecting with the social in one great wheel of the universe. The ways of dharma, karma, and bhakti enact its movement in everyday life; with secularism and pluralism, both evolving from these principles, Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi built the nation. Through its historical landscape, Indian society accompanies the spiritual in the same way that, according to an ancient text, a person's fortune sits, rises, and moves with him through life.

Ekam sat vipra baahudha vadanti. (The Truth is but one, though the learned state it in many ways.)

—Rig Veda
c. 1000 B.C.

Personally, I think the world as a whole will never have, and need not have, a single religion.

—Mahatma Gandhi
30 May 1913

To write about religion in India without querying the notion of religion as a discrete element of everyday life is to yield to the

T. N. Madan is Professor of Sociology and Director of the Institute of Economic Growth at the University of Delhi.
MODERN MYTHS, LOCKED MINDS

Secularism and Fundamentalism in India

with a New Introduction

T. N. MADAN


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This article is an attempt to locate the recent upsurge of Hindu communalist politics in India in its long-term historical context. It draws on the research of other academics and journalists, especially with regard to the recent activities of the Hindu communalist organizations. It agrees with those who question theories ascribing the appeal of fanaticism to the essential nature of Indian society or the power of ethnicity. It is with regard to the reasons for such appeal that this article offers a series of hypotheses that differ from those currently in vogue.

On 6 December 1992, a sixteenth-century mosque in the medieval town of Ayodhya was destroyed in broad daylight by a fanatical Hindu mob. This was the culmination of a campaign launched by the Sangh Parivar, that is "the family" (incidentally, the term has a delightful Sicilian resonance) of organizations built around the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, ostensibly a cultural organization meant to propagate and nurture Hindu values. The RSS was banned for some time after the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi partly because it was suspected of complicity in the crime. Its leader, Golwalkar, was imprisoned but had to be released eventually because the evidence in the hands of the state prosecutor was not enough to prove in a court of law his responsibility for the assassina-
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Avatar for Our Age: Sathyia Sai Baba and the Cultural Contradictions of Late Capitalism

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Abstract

Life itself is a market. Giving and taking, bargaining and speculating, is part of the game. Life has its ... profits and losses appreciation and balance sheets. But the giving of Bhakti [devotion] in exchange for Mukti [liberation] is the most powerful business of all.—Sathyia Sai Baba (Gokak, V.K. 1975. Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, an Interpretation. Krishna Abhinav Publications, New Delhi, p. 237)

It is your imperative duty to strive for the preservation of dharma. Today some people are trying to uproot Bhuratiya Dharma (Indian Religion). We must resist all such attempts.... There are some people who are blindly enamored of Modern Western Civilization.... These so-called spurious and self-styled social reformers are trying to pollute society by depriving it of dharma.—Sathyia Sai Baba (Gokak, V.K. 1975. Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, an Interpretation. Krishna Abhinav Publications, New Delhi, p. 246)

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With his chubby cherubic face, cast in a seeming eternal smile and surrounded by a mass of curly black hair, Sathyia Sai Baba (b. 1926) stands out as perhaps India's most recognisable, most popular and most infamous of gurus. Known above all for his miraculous powers and his apparent ability to produce all variety of material objects, sweets, jewelry and trinkets out of nothingness, Sai Baba has quickly become among the most powerful religious leaders, particularly among India's affluent, well-educated middle classes. Any traveler in India knows that his image, displayed on posters, billboards, postcards and book jackets, is inescapable and that he is surely one of the most dominant cultural icons in all of the subcontinent. It has been said, not unbelievably, that the only person in India who can draw larger crowds than Sai Baba is the Prime

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The Sai Baba Movement: Approaches to the Study of Indian Saints

CHARLES S. J. WHITE

THE time has long since passed when scholars of Indian religion should have begun to consider seriously the nature of Indian sainthood and more particularly the so-called "living saints." As it is, the knowledgeable reader has very little choice of published material upon which to base his judgments. For many of the living saints there is a fairly extensive body of apologetic writing. In the nature of primary sources such works are invaluable but remain unanalyzed. There are also publications available in the occult market; but there the motives of the writers differ from those of scholarly inquiry in many cases, however interesting their contributions may be in their own right. Analytical works on modern Hinduism and its saint leadership are negligible in number. Of course we fare rather better when it comes to the literary saints of the middle ages in various parts of the land and in different traditions. But regarding them, there is often little biographical material that one can be certain of, while the traditions concerning their lives, teachings and poetry achieve the same kind of stylization that one notices in rows of identical icons in a temple.

Regarding the living saints, what is presently most necessary is that there should be thorough reporting of their behavior, preferably from first hand observation, and an objective clarification of their biographies according to certain motifs and structures. The specifically religious nature of their activities must also be investigated. In respect to that, what follows is the development of a study begun several years ago of some living saints in the Poona and Bangalore regions who together constitute a homogeneous group that I have called, The Sai Baba Movement.

The author will attempt in this paper to present sufficient data on these saints, including whatever relates to their interconnections so that we have some basis on which to make a claim, however limited in scope, that we can "understand" them. In due course we shall also attempt to sort out the more general methodological criteria which, on the basis of our study, appear necessary for the task of interpretation and also to point out the difficulties which certain judgments impose upon the satisfaction of our desire to understand.

Construction

To begin with let me say that I do not think it is feasible here to sum up everything that can be known regarding the Sai Baba Movement. It is, nevertheless, possible to begin to point out lines of approach to the question of these contemporary religious figures. As with so much else in Indian religion the origins are lost in antiquity but preserved in the flesh and blood of the living cult, even if to a degree

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