This class presents a survey of Hindu religious teachings, stories, and history, as expressed through the holy days and festivals celebrated each rainy season, fall and winter by Hindus throughout India and abroad. During these holidays religious ideas, stories, and values are transmitted from one generation to the next. This course examines the little understood and rarely discussed historical development behind each celebration, based on both ancient and contemporary sources. Journey through the time and season in which you now proceed, but with a Hindu view to see the cyclical wheels of eternity touch the present. (3 units, GE area C1).

**Learning Objectives:**

Students will gain an in depth understanding of the workings of the Hindu solar and lunar calendars. They will follow not only the major Hindu holidays that occur during this half of the year, but also important regional folk festivals and special yearly ritual observances. Students will gather important insights into regional variations of these holidays, both in how they are observed and understood. Beyond the holidays and festivals themselves, students must master the important myths that inform and inspire them. In this regard all students will gain special familiarity with the various Hindu deities and how they are worshipped. Each student must attend and participate in at least one of the major holidays and be able to share insights into how that festival is observed locally. Students will additionally be called upon to work cooperatively in a group to design, create and present a creative project that lends insight into one particular festival.
Readings & Reference:
(Excerpts from these and other works are included in the schedule of readings)

Reader:
All readings must be completed before the assigned date. Readers are available at:
University Copy & Print
446 Howe Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95825
(In the University Village courtyard)
Email: orders@universitycopyprint.com
Phone: (916) 929-6147

Requirements:
Quiz: 15%
Exam 1: 20%
Group Presentations: 15%
Exam 2: 25%
Paper: 25%

Hindu Calendar:
Please refer to the Panchanga for correct astrological timings and additional information:
http://www.drikpanchang.com/calendars/hindu/hinducalendar.html

SCHEDULE:
**Week 1- Introduction, How the Dance of Serpents Bring the Rain & Krishna’s Birthday**
**Monday, August 31, 2015**
Holiday: *Krishna Janmashtami* (Friday, September 4th)
Reading: none
Homework: Watch *Little Krishna.*
(http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67S2RDPqoOJ)
Watch *Krishna aur Kans* (online).
Read *Krishna* comic (online).
*Please attend Janmashtmi on Sept. 5th, from 6PM – midnight (leave anytime after dinner).
This will be held at the La Sierra Community Center, Cypress room (rm 810), 5325 Engle Rd, Carmichael, CA 95608.

**Week 2- Labor Day Holiday- No Class**
**Monday, September 7, 2015**

Week 3- Remover of Obstacles
Monday, September 14, 2015
Holiday: Ganesha Chaturthi (Wednesday, September 16th).

Hinduism Quiz

Week 4- Being the Divine Beloved
Monday, September 21, 2015
Holiday: Radha Ashtami (Monday, September 21st).
Ganesha Visarjana (Saturday, September 26th).

Week 5- Goddess of the Village, Goddess of the Universe
Monday, September 28, 2015
Holiday: Sarva Pitru Amavasya/Pitr Paksha ( Monday, October 12th).
Sanjhi Devi Vrata (Monday, October 12th).
Explore: http://ignca.nic.in/sanjhi/introduction.htm

Week 6- Nine Nights & the Great Goddess
Monday, October 5, 2015
Holiday: Navarathri Begins ( Monday, October 13th).
Bathukamma ( Monday, October 13th).

Week 7- Dancing with God by Moonlight
Monday, October 12, 2015
Holiday: Sharad Purnima/ Raas Purnima ( Friday, October 16th).
Reading 1: Bryant, Edwin F. Krishna: The Beautiful Legend of God, Srimad Bhagavata Purana:

**Exam #1**

**Week 8- The Feminine Mirror**

**Monday, October 19, 2015**

Holiday: Sarawati Puja (Monday, October 19th).

Durga Puja/ Durga Ashtami (Tuesday, October 20th).

Maha Navami (Wednesday, October 21st).

Dussehra, Vijayadashami (Thursday, October 22nd).


**Week 9- Faith Moves Mountains** Ecology and Animal Veneration in Hinduism

**Monday, October 26, 2015**

Holiday: Ahoi Ashtami (Monday, October 26th).

Karwa Chauth (Thursday, October 29th).

Govatsa Dwadashi/Vasu Baras (Saturday, November 7th).

Dhantrayodashi/Dhanteras/Dhanvantari Trayodashi (Sunday, November 8th).

Reading 1: Churning of milk sea


**Week 10- Light & Birds in Flight**

**Monday, November 2, 2015**

Holiday: Divali (Tuesday, November 10th).

Sama Chakeva Festival (Tuesday, November 17th).


Explore: The Six Days of Deepavali/Dilwali

http://www.drikpanchang.com/diwalidhamochal.html

**Week 11- Krishna’s Two-Fisted Rebuke**

**Monday, November 9, 2015**

Holiday: Diwali, Lakshmi Puja, Narak Chaturdashi (Tuesday, November 10th).

Gowardhan Puja (Wednesday, November 11th).

Bhaiya Dooj (Thursday, November 12th).

Kansa Vadh (Friday, November 20th).


Week 12- Son of Shiva, God of Love and War

*Monday, November 16, 2015*

Holiday: Skanda-Ṣaṭhi aka Surasamharam “Demon Destruction” (Monday, November 16th).
- Tulasi Vivah (Sunday, November 22nd).
- Itu Vrat (Sunday, November 22nd).


Week 13- Light Presentations

*Monday, November 23, 2015*

Holiday: *Khandoba Festival/ Champa Shashti* (Wednesday, December 16th).


Class Presentations

Week 14- Transgression & Redemption

*Monday, November 30, 2015*

Holiday: Kalabhairav Jayanti (Wednesday, December 2nd).

Reading: tba.

Exam #2

Class Presentations & Class Party

Week 15- Wedding Victory & The Solarized Lunar God

*Monday, December 7, 2015*

Holiday: *Vivah Panchami* (Tuesday, December 15th).

Explore: Video- Ramanand Sagar's Ramayan, Episode 6 & 7
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAo9NCWXLjc
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8TEPC2feqIQ

Papers Due
- December 7, 2015: Last Day of Instruction
- December 14-18, 2015: Final Examinations
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