BASIC PROGRAM of LIBERAL EDUCATION FOR ADULTS
Summer 2020
Foundational Texts of Hinduism:
The *Upanishads* and the *Bhagavad Gita*

### COURSE INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>CODE &amp; SECTION</th>
<th>LENGTH OF COURSE:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundational Texts of Hinduism: The <em>Upanishads</em> and the <em>Bhagavad Gita</em></td>
<td>BASC70063 Section 20U1</td>
<td>8 WEEKS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE SCHEDULE</th>
<th>CLASS LOCATION</th>
<th>INSTRUCTOR:</th>
<th>EMAIL:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DAYS: Tuesdays, Jun 23-Aug 11 TIMES: 9:30am-12:45pm</td>
<td>ONLINE</td>
<td>Stephen C. Walker</td>
<td><a href="mailto:scwalker@uchicago.edu">scwalker@uchicago.edu</a></td>
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</tbody>
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### GRAHAM SCHOOL INFORMATION

PHONE: 773.702.1722 WEBSITE: https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu

You will receive an email invitation from UChicago Canvas inviting you to participate in the Canvas site for your course. “Accept” the invitation then sign-in or set up your Canvas account. For Help, visit: https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts

### PREREQUISITES

None

### ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students should register before the course begins.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Who or what am I, and what kind of world do I inhabit? What explains why some of us prosper while others fail? Am I really obliged to do this, that, and the other thing just because my culture says so? How can I face the inevitable pains and miseries that seem to sap my life of meaning—many of which I’m dealing with precisely because I’m doing what people tell me is right? Whatever answers you may have to these questions before reading the *Upanishads* and the *Bhagavad Gita*, you’ll almost certainly have different answers afterward. These are among the most powerful and evocative texts ever written to reframe and recenter our views about reality, personal identity, and ethics. Central to the Hindu tradition for millennia, in recent centuries they’ve attracted
worldwide interest and acclaim from poets, politicians, scientists, philosophers, and broad stretches of the reading public.

REQUIRED TEXTS

WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>TEXT</th>
<th>READING ASSIGNMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td><em>Upaniṣads</em></td>
<td>Brhadāraṇyaka chapters 1-2 (pp. 7-34)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date: June 23rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td><em>Upaniṣads</em></td>
<td>Brhadāraṇyaka chapters 3-4, 6 (pp. 34-72, 79-94)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date: June 30th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td><em>Upaniṣads</em></td>
<td>Chāndogya chapters 1, 4, 5.11-5.24, 6-8 (pp. 98-108, 128-137, 143-176)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date: July 7th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td><em>Upaniṣads</em></td>
<td>Kauśītaki chapter 3 (pp. 215-220), Kena (pp. 227-230), Katha (pp. 232-247)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date: July 14th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td><em>Upaniṣads</em></td>
<td>Śvetāsvatara (pp. 253-265)</td>
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<td>Date: July 21st</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td><em>The Bhagavad Gita</em></td>
<td>chapters 1-9 (pp. 3-43)</td>
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<td>Date: July 28th</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td><em>The Bhagavad Gita</em></td>
<td>chapters 10-18 (pp. 45-81)</td>
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<td>Date: August 4th</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td><em>Upaniṣads</em></td>
<td>Māṇḍūkya (pp. 289-290)</td>
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<td>Date: August 11th</td>
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This syllabus is a summary of course objectives and content, not a contract. All information in this syllabus is subject to change, with sufficient advance notice provided by the instructor.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE
As we may be addressing controversial topics in our class discussions, we expect students to be respectful and considerate of others.

DISABILITY INFORMATION
Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class meeting at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.