

## World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

**Teacher Name:** Patrick Meegan

**Humanities Discipline:** World History

**Date:** September 8, 2016

**World Religion:** Hinduism

**Teaching Module Title:** The Origins and Early Development of Hinduism

### Teaching Module Goals:

1. Introduce students to the basic religious scriptures and the time frame of their origin.
2. Examine the cultural and religious environment that led to the spread of Hinduism.
3. Familiarize students with the basic historical effects of Hindu philosophy.

### Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

1. Duiker and Spielvogel, *The Essential World History, Volume I: to 1800*, Chapter 2.
2. *The Thirteen Principal Upanishads*
3. *The Bhagavad-Gita - The Second Teaching: Philosophy and Spiritual Discipline* <http://goo.gl/ke5Q4D>

### Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

1. What was the cultural background of the first Hindus?
2. What was the political situation at the dawn of Hinduism? Who ruled India?
3. What are *dharma* and *karma*?
4. What are the *Upanishads* and the *Bhagavad-Gita*?

### Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

Come to class with written responses to these questions. We will discuss the answers together and have a brief lecture in preparation for a quiz, which I will give the students after this class session.

### Important points to stress in classroom discussion:

1. The concept of numerous reincarnations is reflected in the thematic repetitions in the *Bhagavad-Gita* in Arjuna's questions and Krishna's answers.
2. Hinduism drew largely, but not exclusively, from the ancient Aryan beliefs, which they brought into India after 1500 B.C.E.
3. The class system of India was reinforced by the teachings of Hinduism.