

## World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

**Teacher Name:** Joe Skvarenina

**Humanities Discipline:** History

**Date:** Oct.2, 2016

**World Religion:** Hinduism

**Teaching Module Title:** Missionary Hinduism and Intellectual Hinduism in the United States

### Teaching Module Goals:

To understand how missionary or intellectual Hinduism and how it became woven into American culture in the mid-nineteenth century and beyond. Also students should gain an appreciation of Hindu practice adopted by non-Asians in the United States. Discuss how philosophers and writers Ralph Waldo Emerson and David Thoreau were influenced by Hindu thought and sacred texts.

### Arranged Readings and/or websites:

1. *Buddhists, Hindus, and Sikhs in America : A Short History* by Gurinder Singh Mann, Paul Numrich, and Raymond Williams.
2. *Hinduism in North America* by Jacob Neusner
3. <http://pluralism.org/timeline/hinduismiinAmerica>.
4. <http://religionfacts.com/hare-krisna>.
5. <https://parliamentofreligions.org/parliamant/Chicago-1983>.
6. <https://www.transcendentalists.com//what.htm>.
7. <http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/10/immigrtaiion-act-1965/408409/>.

### Students Questions and/or prompts for students:

1. Define missionary Hinduism or intellectual Hinduism. How did it get started in America during the mid-nineteenth century?
2. How did Ralph Waldo Emerson and David Thoreau become attracted to Hinduism? What is transcendental meditation?
3. What did Swami Vivekananda do at the World's Parliament of Religions in 1893? How did he provide an alternative to the "materialism of the west?" Why did he establish Vedanta Societies? What role do the ashrams play in the Vedanta Society? What is the primary focus of the Vedanta Society?
4. How did Hinduism develop in the United States before the Immigration Act of 1965?
5. What is the International Society for Krishna Consciousness? Why was it popular during the 1970's?

### Written Assignments and/or Assessments Instruments:

Establish three groups to further study and discuss Transcendentalism, the World Parliament of Religion, and Krishna Consciousness and how they became woven into American culture and society. How did these non-Asians function as intellectual Hindus in these organizations? How did they adapt Hindu practice in their movements? Ask all three groups to present their findings to the class as a group presentation. After the conclusion of the presentation ask students to write an essay on their understandings.