NEW for SPRING 2015!!!

Religions of India
Journey to the real

REL 3330 and RLG 5331
Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00-12:15
Prof. Steven Vose

India has captured the imagination for over 5,000 years. A crossroads for adventurers, traders and spiritual seekers, many have sought India for its wealth and wisdom. Today, India struggles to balance tradition and modernity in the world’s largest democracy. From the ancient sages to the “India, Inc.” of today, come explore the religious life of India!

Read the wisdom of the Vedas and the secrets of the Upanishads. Meditate on the Buddha’s teachings. Encounter the stark ethics of the Jains. Find out what Yoga is all about. Explore the unique forms Islam took on in India, and understand the hybrid religion of the Sikhs. Gaze alongside worshippers at images of gods and goddesses and interpret the symbols of the temple. Hear the voices of wandering poets, singing of their devotion to God and denouncing the caste system.

Why did Mahatma Gandhi take a non-violent path to freedom from colonial rule? Why did Partition happen, creating Pakistan and India out of a British colony? What is happening to India’s traditions in this new phase of rapid economic growth? We will explore these questions and more as we learn about the religious lives that have shaped India.

An additional, separate session for graduate students will be held on Thursdays, 9:30-10:45.