World Religions 1st Semester 2022

**Socratic Seminar #1 on Hinduism**

**Overview:**

Remember that 50% of your 1st Semester Grade is based on 3 'Socratic Seminars' this semester.

10% is your 1 essay that you already submitted via Canvas. (or creative project you will present today)

5% is your active participation in today’s Socratic Seminar (today is the day you really want to be on-task, participate in small groups, and share 1 thing with the large group!)

**DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS**

1. **How would Hinduism answer Big Question #1: What is the meaning of life?**
2. **How would Hinduism answer Big Question #2: What is 'God'? How can you 'know God?'**
3. **How would Hinduism answer Big Question #3: How should you approach and understand 'death'?**
4. What do you personally like best about Hinduism?
5. What do you personally NOT like about Hinduism? Or what are some ‘criticisms’ you have about Hinduism?
6. How is Hinduism similar to 1 or more other religions?
7. How is Hinduism different from 1 or more religions?
8. What are 2 THOUGHTFUL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS you would like your group to discuss. Try to make the discussion questions related to Hinduism.
9. Open my website to: “Week 4 Hinduism Text Chapter Final Pages”. Only read pages 49-50 ‘Coming of Age in the Universe’. Discuss several different main ideas from these pages. Do a close reading discussion of a specific line or passage also.
10. Open my website to: “Week 4 Hinduism Text Chapter Final Pages”. Only read pages 52 ‘The World Welcome and Farewell’. Discuss several different main ideas from this page. Do a close reading discussion of a specific line or passage also.
11. Now continue to read pages 53-54. Discuss several different main ideas from these pages. Do a close reading discussion of a specific line or passage also.
12. Re-read Page 55. Discuss several different main ideas from these pages. Do a close reading discussion of a specific line or passage also.
13. As we have seen Hinduism is a very “diverse’, ‘open’ and ‘practical’ religion in many ways. As such there is an additional idea in “Hinduism” that there are different ‘stages of your individual life right now’ to consider. So read pages 40-41 and discuss what are the ‘4 stages’ of your individual life and your thoughts about it.
14. Let’s talk about some famous Western musicians who have been inspired through their personal study of Hinduism. Open my website Week 3 The Beatles and Hinduism
15. Open my website “Week 4 LIVING HINDUISM”
16. One criticism of this World Religions class is that we only look at “the good stuff” of each religion and not enough at “the bad stuff”. I agree with this! I am a World Religions teacher, but I am also a History teacher. Let’s spend a few minutes looking at Hinduism from a “Marxist, History” perspective….
17. Marxist Historians look at religion as just another “ideology of power” or in Nietzsche’s words “everything is a will to power.” All ‘religious ideas’ are mostly some people trying to exert power over other people. What are your thoughts about this Marxist historical view of religion?
18. The most famous example of this in Hinduism would be ‘the caste system’ which has its basis in the sacred texts of The Vedas. Let’s read a quick review of this…..Open my website to “Week 4 A History Book View of Hinduism” and read pages 63-64 and discuss the main ideas.
19. One thing I find interesting as a historian is not only how dominant groups can use ‘religion’ to conquer and oppress minority and subordinate groups, but also how minority/subordinate groups can also use ‘religion’ to ‘fight back’ against the dominant group. Discuss your thoughts about this and can you give some examples of this from World History and USA History?
20. Some historians argue this also happens with Hinduism as well. The Indo-European lighter-skinned Aryans conquered the darker skinned Dasas in India using the Vedas and the caste system. However the Dasas then fought back through the Upanishads. How did they do this? Can you give some examples from class?
21. Let’s look at one famous example from The Bhagavad-Gita….Open my website: “Week 4 Bhagavad-Gita Part 1” and re-read page 35. Discuss main ideas and specific passages of this page that support this theory.
22. This is our FINAL DISCUSSION ON HINDUISM. What would you like to say, share, or ask?