

**Anna A. Golovkova**  
**Course Description**

Hindu Literatures  
Rel 2220/Asian 2552, Spring 2018  
Bowdoin College

In this exploration of Hindu texts, we delve into some of the most ancient and beloved literature from the Indian subcontinent. Students read major scriptural sources, including the Vedas and Upanishads. In our study of the epics (the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata*, including the *Bhagavad Gita*), we discuss translations from Sanskrit and popular retellings of these stories into other languages and media. We discuss the Puranas, reading the story of the warrior Goddess in the *Devi Mahatmyam* and investigate visual representations of gods and goddesses. We also sample Sanskrit classical poetry and devotional literature to the Goddess translated from Bengali. Throughout the course, students discuss the concepts of *karma* (action), *dharma* (moral obligation), *bhakti* (devotion), and *moksha* (liberation).