

Introduction to Hindu Spiritual Care and Hindu Ministry
HDS 3391
Spring 2021 – Thursdays 12-2 – by Zoom



Within the frame of general qualities expected for spiritual care and ministry in the 21st century, this new and experimental course at Harvard Divinity School explores starting points, attitudes, and specific ways of acting that distinguish Hindu perspectives and practices – identifying common values and attitudes, without excluding the inevitable diversity across Hindu traditions. Some attention will be paid to starting points in Hindu scriptures and philosophies, but the focus will be on applications, practices and behaviors, with respect to particular locales, ranging from hospital chaplaincy and care for the dying, to campus ministry, counseling of individuals and of couples preparing to marry, and other pertinent areas of need and concern.

The course will be team-taught by Swami Tyagananda, the Director of the Ramakrishna Vedanta Society in Boston and Harvard University's Hindu chaplain, and Francis X Clooney SJ of the HDS faculty. Experts in the field will visit this zoomed course on occasion.

The course is limited to 20 students, preference given to Harvard students taking it for credit. Students from the College are most welcome.

For further information, contact Professor Clooney (fclooney@hds.harvard.edu)