Course Description, Objectives, and Student Learning Outcomes: This course will examine the fundamental themes and principles of Hindu and Buddhist philosophy: Brahman/Atman; Shunyata; The distinction between Reality and appearance; Karma; Karma Yoga (Selfless Service); Raja Yoga (Meditation); Samadhi/Nirvana (Enlightenment); etc.

The primary learning objectives and student learning outcomes follow: (1) To develop the capacity to see and comprehend the world through the eyes of the Hindu and Buddhist yogi; (2) To foster the ability to appropriate yogic wisdom, compassion, and peace in our daily lives; (3) To develop a meditation practice in order to experience, first-hand, the yogic state of consciousness; (4) To conduct a Karma Yoga (Selfless Service) exercise in order to develop one’s compassion; (5) To determine whether or not the wisdom of Hinduism and Buddhism is perennial – that is, can it come alive and be meaningful for us in the 21st century?

As a course in intellectual history, the following broad objectives follow: (1) Impart the values of intellectual integrity and honesty; (2) Develop respect for the materials of historical inquiry; (3) Foster a capacity for dialogue with the past; (4) Engender an understanding of good scholarly technique and practice.

Course Requirements: Two take-home written assignments (about 6 pages each) focusing on the assigned readings; One in-class presentation of about 5-10 minutes describing a karma yoga (selfless service) exercise that you have completed; Assigned readings must be read carefully prior to class; Class participation is strongly encouraged; Attendance is mandatory.

Class Preparation: For each assigned reading, you should be prepared to discuss in class two insights that you found to be particularly interesting, meaningful, or problematic.

Grade Determinants: Each paper is worth 35% of your grade (a total of 70%); The karma yoga project: 10%; Attendance and class participation: 20%. Note: If you miss more than three classes, you will be in danger of failing.
Required Texts:

Eknath Easwaran, *The Upanishads*
Eknath Easwaran, *The Bhagavad Gita*
Eknath Easwaran, *The Dhammapada*
Shunryu Suzuki, *Zen Mind, Beginner’s Mind*

(Texts may be purchased from the MICA bookstore; total cost: approximately $36)

Class Schedule

8/31 – Introduction to Eastern Philosophy/Meditation Instruction

9/7 -- Labor Day Holiday

9/14 - Introduction to Hinduism

9/21 – *The Upanishads*: Mandukya (p. 199-205); Chandogya, chapter 7(p. 139-141); Shvetashvatara (p. 159-165); Paramahamsa (p. 291-293)

9/28 – *The Upanishads*: Brihadaranyaka (p. 106, par 11; p.109-115); Katha (p. 79-83); Mundaka (p. 185-196); Shvetashvatara (p. 169-178)

10/5 – *The Bhagavad Gita* (chapters 1-9)

10/12 – *The Bhagavad Gita* (chapters 10-18)

10/19 – Fall break

10/26 – Swami Satchidananda Video: The Nature of Reality (*1st paper due*)

11/2 – Introduction to Buddhism

11/9 - *The Dhammapada*

11/16 – Introduction to Zen Buddhism

11/23 – *Zen Mind, Beginner’s Mind*

11/30 - Class Visitation: Shastri Stephen Clarke (Baltimore Shambhala Meditation Center)

12/7 – Student Presentations: Karma Yoga project (*2nd paper due*)

12/14 – Student Presentations: Karma Yoga project/Course Evaluations
**Americans with Disabilities Act**
Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Learning Resource Center at 410-225-2416, in Bunting 458, to establish eligibility and coordinate reasonable accommodations.

**Environmental Health and Safety (EHS)**
It is the responsibility of faculty and students to follow health and safety guidelines relevant to their individual activities, processes, and to review MICA’s Emergency Action Plan and attend EHS training. It is each faculty member's responsibility to coordinate with the EHS Office to ensure that all risks associated with their class activities are identified and to assure that their respective classroom procedures mirror the EHS and Academic Department guidelines. Each of these policies and procedures must be followed by all students and faculty. Most importantly, faculty are to act in accordance with all safety compliance, state and federal, as employees of this college and are expected to act as examples of how to create art in a way to minimize risk, and reduce harm to themselves and the environment. Faculty must identify and require appropriate personal protective equipment for each art making process, for each student, in all of their classes, when applicable. Students are required to purchase personal protection equipment appropriate for their major. Those students who do not have the proper personal protection equipment will not be permitted to attend class until safe measures and personal protection are in place.

**Plagiarism**
Each discipline within the arts has specific and appropriate means for students to cite or acknowledge sources and the ideas and material of others used in their own work. Students have the responsibility to become familiar with such processes and to carefully follow their use in developing original work.

**Policy**
MICA will not tolerate plagiarism, which is defined as claiming authorship of, or using someone else's ideas or work without proper acknowledgment. Without proper attribution, a student may NOT replicate another's work, paraphrase another's ideas, or appropriate images in a manner that violates the specific rules against plagiarism in the student's department. In addition, students may not submit the same work for credit in more than one course without the explicit approval of the all of the instructors of the courses involved.

**Consequences**
When an instructor has evidence that a student has plagiarized work submitted for course
credit, the instructor will confront the student and impose penalties that may include failing the course. In the case of a serious violation or repeated infractions from the same student, the instructor will report the infractions to the department chair. Depending on the circumstances of the case, the department chair may then report the student to the Office of Academic Affairs, which may choose to impose further penalties, including suspension or expulsion.

**Appeal Process**

Students who are penalized by an instructor or department for committing plagiarism have the right to appeal the charge and penalties that ensue. Within three weeks of institutional action, the student must submit a letter of appeal to the department chairperson or program director, or relevant dean or provost related to the course for which actions were taken. The academic officer will assign three members of the relevant department/division to serve on a review panel. The panel will meet with the student and instructor of record and will review all relevant and available materials. The panel will determine whether or not to confirm the charge and penalties. The findings of the panel are final. The panel will notify the instructor, the chairperson, division, the student, and the Office of Academic Affairs of their findings and any recommendations for change in penalties.

**Title IX Accommodation**

Maryland Institute College of Art seeks to provide an environment based on mutual respect that is free of bias, discrimination and harassment. If you have encountered sexual harassment/misconduct/assault we encourage you to report this. Disclosures made to faculty must be reported to the Title IX Coordinator, Title IX Deputy Coordinator, or Title IX specialist. Disclosure made by students in course assignments are not exempt from mandatory reporting. If you require academic accommodations due to an incident involving sexual harassment or discrimination, please contact Student Affairs at 410.225.2422 or Human Resources at 410.225.2363.

**Students with Extended Illness or Cause for Legitimate Absence**

In the case of extended illness or other legitimate absences that may keep the student from attending a class for more than three meetings, students must contact the Student development specialist in the Division of Student Affairs so that instructors can be notified. Graduate students must contact the instructor, program director, the Office of Graduate Studies. Students in art education of professional studies programs must contact the Dean for the center for Art Education or the Dean of the School for Professional and Continuing Studies, respectively. The appropriate administrator will facilitate a conversation with faculty to determine whether the student can achieve satisfactory academic progress.