

## Hinduism: Classical Texts HRHS 4771

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Fall Semester 2014  
Tuesday 11:10-2:00  
MUDD Building Room 206

Mark Twain in his travels through India in the 19<sup>th</sup> century said, *"India had the start of the whole world in the beginning of things. She had the first civilization; she had the first accumulation of material wealth; she was populous with deep thinkers and subtle intellects; she had mines, and woods, and a fruitful soul."*



Come and explore the "fruitful soul of India" through the beauty of classical Hindu scriptural texts. This course will begin with selections from the Upanishads, the last portion of the Vedas, circa 800 B.C.E. and analyze, not only the verses, but also, the commentary, written in the 8<sup>th</sup> century C.E. by Shankara, considered to be one of the foremost philosophers of Indian thought. Portions of the Bhagavad-gita along with Shankara's analysis of the selected verses will be read. The course will close by reading in full, *Advaita Makaranda*, a 14<sup>th</sup> century text from the tradition of Advaita Vedanta.