

Schedule

Oct 30	Hinduism and Buddhism in Western Modernity	“Buddhism” Pages 49-50 “Hinduism” Pages 130-131
Nov 1	Abrahamic Religions	No Readings!
Nov 4	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Quiz2. Review Outline of Ritual Theory Assignment3. Tutorial on Field Research Assignment	Read the comments on your returned Outline of Ritual Theory Assignment

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BUDDHISM AND HINDUISM IN THE WEST

Last Class

- Vajrayana Buddhism
- Samsara and Rebirth
- The self (anatman)
- Women in Buddhism
- Meditation
- Worldly Concerns

Outline

Buddhism and Hinduism in North America

Quiz question at the end, so stick around!

Focus on

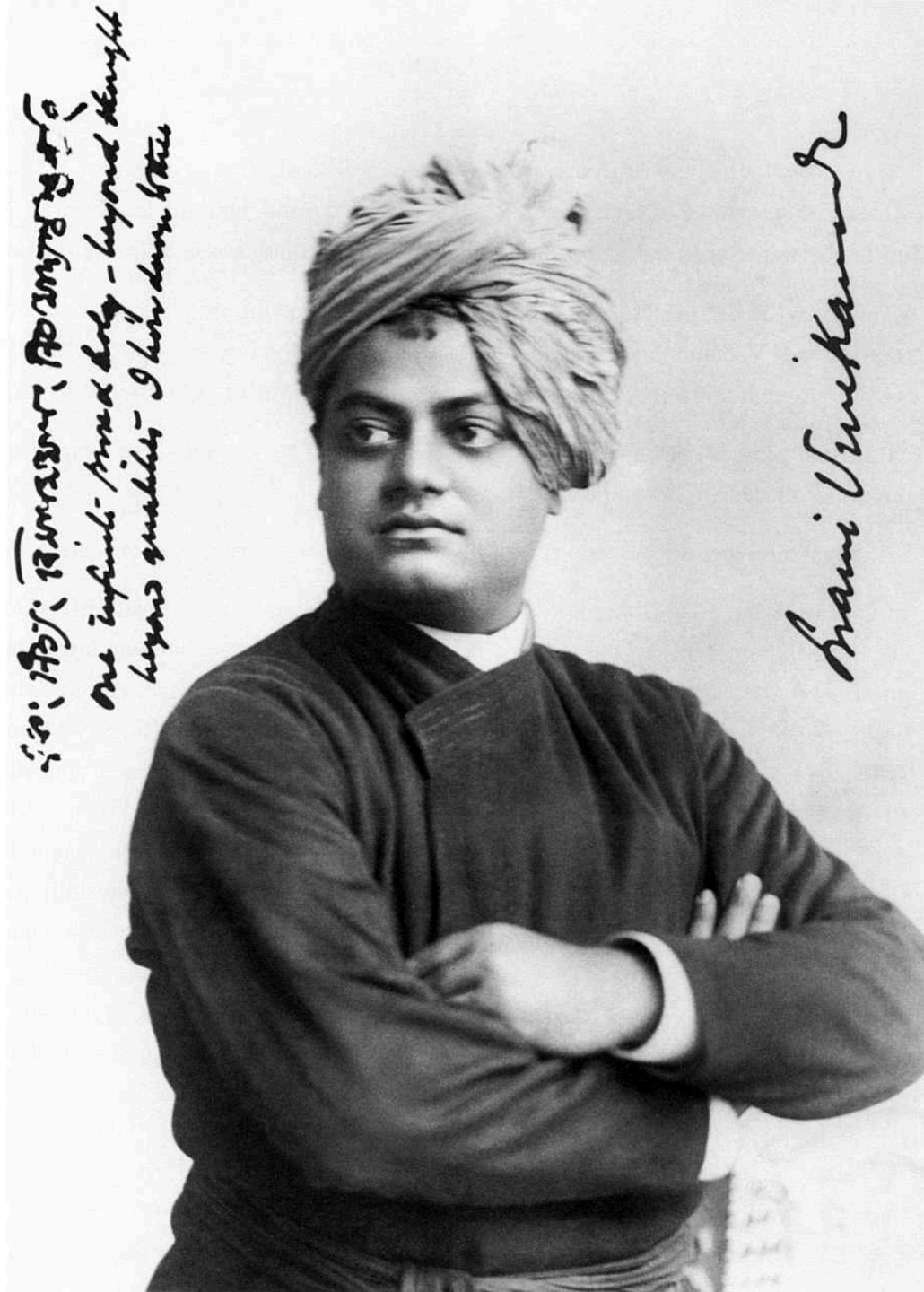
- Cult scares
- New Age Spirituality
- Yoga and Mindfulness in public schools
- Is yoga religious?

Hinduism and Buddhism in North America

- Hinduism and Buddhism known to North America, but did not become influential until late 1800s
- Major event, **World Parliament of Religions, Chicago, 1893**
- Representatives from Judaism, Christianity, and Islam were present
- Buddhism was represented by Zen Buddhist Soyen Shaku, and Theravada Buddhist Anagarika Dharmapala

Swami Vivekananda 1863-1902

- Perhaps most important person at the Parliament
- Popularized yoga and *vedanta* in North America
- Presented Hinduism to a very interested and willing American audience



ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय
One infinite - mind body - beyond thought
beyond qualities - I bow down to thee

Swami Vivekananda

- There was already significant interest in “eastern” and “esoteric” religion in North America thanks to the rise of the Theosophical Society
- Swami Vivekananda was a very charismatic, smart, well spoken person, and presented a form of Hinduism that fit with American desire for a spiritual religion

D.T. Suzuki (1870-1966)

- Popularized Buddhism in North America
- Wrote a lot on Zen Buddhism and popularized koans as tools for gaining enlightenment
- Many Zen centres formed in the USA and Canada
- Emphasis on mindfulness, personal experience, and meditation
- Buddhist “spirituality” particularly appealing in North America

Cults and New Religious Movements

- Buddhist NRM
- Spirituality and New Age movements in the 1960s and 70s took up Buddhist and Hindu ideas
- ISKCON, International Society for Krishna Consciousness



ISKCON

- Also known as Hare Krishna
- Initially feared as dangerous cult
- Often presented as stereotype of New Age religions seeking converts

Yoga and Mindfulness in Public Schools

Arguments for

- Yoga and mindfulness aid in children's development
- Helps manage anxiety and depression
- Some studies find a positive effect on academic performance
- Yoga is good exercise
- Yoga is inclusive of gender, physical abilities, children with ADD
- Yoga and mindfulness are physical and mental exercises, not spiritual or religious

Arguments against

- Yoga and mindfulness are religious
- Yoga teaches children Hinduism
- Public schools cannot promote religious ideologies
- Studies find that many people who begin yoga for exercise continue for spiritual reasons

Hmmmmmm...

- We're not in charge of setting up a school's curriculum, so we won't comment on whether or not yoga and mindfulness *should* or *should not* be allowed in schools
- But we *are* scholars of religion, so we can participate in this conversation

Is yoga religious?

Is mindfulness religious?

Why? Why not?