Course Requirements and Grades: Students are required to prepare for lectures by fulfilling reading assignments prior to attendance. Starting on October 13, teams of two-three students will lead discussion on the readings for that week. Each member of that week’s team will send an email to everyone in the class, by no later than the Sunday before class, with an attachment containing the following elements:

1) a five-page analysis of the readings, linking the week’s “text” to the “context” of that week’s readings as well as, where appropriate, readings from prior weeks
2) a list of at least five questions about the readings, which will serve as the basis for our in-class seminar discussion.

Grades will be calculated as follows: three in-class quizzes (30%); student papers/presentations (30%); final take-home examination (40%).

Books for Purchase:


Excerpted chapters and articles in course reader: many of these readings will also be accessible through eRes (http://eres.library.ucsb.edu) password: drive


____________, “Two Tales of Destiny,” in Tales of Ancient India (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1959)


Dan McDougall, “Indian cult kills children for goddess,” *The Observer*, March 6, 2006


Readings accessible via email from Professor White:


____________, *Rasarnava*, chap. 18 (translation typescript)

____________, *Siddha-siddhanta-Paddhati*, chapter 3 (translation typescript)

Schedule of Class Meetings

Sept. 29  Introduction

Oct. 6  Narrative Accounts of Indian Yogis

text:  Van Buiten, *Tales of Ancient India*, pp. 128-38

context:  White, *Sinister Yogis*, pp. 1-37; 198-217

Layne, *Banabhata Kadambari*, pp. 223-27

Smith, *Self Possessed*, pp. 286-94

White, “The Wonders of Sri Mastnath,” pp. 399-411

McDougall, “Indian cult kills children for goddess”
Oct. 13          Origins of Yoga

text: White, *Sinister Yogis*, pp. 141-51

context: White, *Sinister Yogis*, pp. 48-78; 135-41
Roebuck, *Upanisads*, pp. 364-83; 471-78
Miller, *Yoga, Discipline of Freedom*, pp. 60-73
Van Buitenen, *Bhagavadgîtâ*, pp. 85-121

Oct. 20          Siddhas, Yogis, Tantrikas and Alchemists

text: White, *Alchemical Body*, pp. 48-51; 114-18

context: White, *Tantra in Practice*, pp. 3-38
White, *Kiss of the Yogini*, pp. xi-xv, 1-22; 160-73
White, *Alchemical Body*, pp. 1-14; 90-110

Oct. 27          Tantra, Polity, and Society in Medieval South Asia

QUIZ #1

text: White, *Alchemical Body*, pp. 1 [first paragraph], 118-22, 304-12

context: Davidson, *Indian Esoteric Buddhism*, pp. 121-44
White, *Kiss of the Yogini*, pp. 123-59
White, *Sinister Yogis*, pp. 198-205; 217-34

Nov. 3          Bhairava, God of Power

text: Lorenzen, *Kapalikas and Kalamukhas*, pp. 31-48

context: Davidson, *Indian Esoteric Buddhism*, pp. 211-17
Lorenzen, *Kapalikas and Kalamukhas*, pp. 84-95
White, *Alchemical Body*, pp. 174-79
White, “At the Mandala’s Dark Fringe,” pp. 200-15

Nov. 10         Yoginis and other Goddesses of Power

text: Sattar, *Tales from the Kathasaritsagara*, pp. 92-103

White, *Kiss of the Yogini*, pp. 35-66; 188-218
Nov. 17  Tantra and Alchemy/Power Substances
         QUIZ #2

text:  White, "Ocean of Mercury," pp. 281-87

         White, *Kiss of the Yogini*, pp. 67-122

Nov. 24  Body Mapping in Yoga, Tantra and Alchemy

text:  White, *Siddha-siddhanta-Paddhati*, pp. 1-6

context:  White, *Alchemical Body*, pp. 218-62
         White, *Kiss of the Yogini*, pp. 219-57

Dec. 1  Alchemical and Yogic Transformations
         QUIZ #3

text:  White, *Rasarnava*, pp. 1-6

context:  Qvarnström, *Yogasatra*, pp. 101-10; 139-46; 180-86
         White, *Alchemical Body*, pp. 263-302
         White, *Sinister Yogis*, pp. 161-77

Dec. 11  take-home FINAL EXAMINATION due at midnight