Course Organization and Requirements: Students must attend all seminar meetings. Meetings will be divided into two parts: 1) discussions of the readings (1.5 hours); and 2) a one-hour lecture by Professor White. Beginning January 23, seminar discussions will be led by students in groups of two. These students will pre-circulate, via email, and no later than the Monday before our Thursday class meeting, questions and points for discussion based on the readings.

The writing assignment for the seminar will be a term paper of 25 pages in length that will treat of a topic relevant to Hindu Tantra, ideally from a comparative perspective. The data presented and analyzed in the paper shall support an argument for a particular theoretical or methodological approach to Hindu Tantra. Due March 23.

Term papers should include material from at least four of the following sources, and draw on articles, books, and chapters by both Indian and Western authors, in both Indic and Western languages:

1. ethnographies, colonial and post-colonial (state gazetteers; Tribes and Castes)
2. art historical journals, series volumes (Artibus Asiae, Brill Studies in South Asian Culture)
3. non-scriptural, medieval literature on Tantra (Kathaaritsagara, Malati-Madhava)
4. Sanskrit encyclopedias and compendia (Manasollasa, Sarigadharapaddhati)
5. Hindu Tantric scriptures
6. Buddhist or Jain Tantric sources
7. epigraphy
8. sources on Hindu Tantra from outside South Asia (Indonesia, Cambodia, Inner Asia)
9. secondary source material (monographs, articles) on Tantra, medieval South Asia

Books for Purchase:

____________, Sinister Yogis (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009)
David Snellgrove, Indo-Tibetan Buddhism. Indian Buddhists & Their Tibetan Successors (Boston: Shambhala, 1987).

Readings to be distributed electronically by Professor White:

Douglas Renfrew Brooks, "Encountering the Hindu 'Other': Tantrism and the Brahmans of South India," in JAAR 60:3 (Fall 1992): 405-36.
Angela Dietrich, Tantric Healing in the Kathmandu Valley (Delhi: Book Faith India, 1998).


Jan A. Schoterman, The Yonitantra (Delhi: Manohar, 1980).


Harald Tambs-Lyche, Power, Profit, and Poetry: Traditional Society in Kathiawar, Western India (Delhi: Manohar, 1997).


Schedule of Seminar Meetings

Jan. 9  
Introduction

Jan. 16  
Defining and Classifying (the) Tantra(s)

Brooks, “Encountering the Hindu 'Other’,” pp. 405-36
Dietrich, *Tantric Healing*, pp. 34-60
Flood, *Tantric Body*, pp. 3-30
Rinehart and Stewart, “Anonymous Āgama Prakāśa,” pp. 266-84
Sanderson, “Purity and Power,” 191-216
White, *Kiss of the Yogini*, pp. xi-xv, 1-22, 267-72
White, “Tantra,” pp. 574-88

Jan. 23  
Food for the Yoginis: Tantric Demonology, Possession, and Sorcery

Dalton, “Đhāranis”
Gray, *Cakrasamvara Tantra*, pp. 206-21
Hatley, “Brahmayāmala,” pp. 73-109, 419-23
Serbaveva, “Can Encounters with Yoginis?”, pp. 198-212
Törzsök, “Yogini and Goddess Possession,” pp. 179-97
Tsuda, “Cult of Śmāśāna,” pp. 96-108
White, *Kiss of the Yogini* pp. 27-66
_____，“Netra Tantra,” pp. 145-71
_____，“Yogini, Đākini, Pairikā, Strix,” pp. 7-31
_____，“Filthy Amulets”

Jan. 30  
Darlings of the Yoginis: Tantric Virtuosi and “Tantric Sex”

Davidson, *Indian Esoteric Buddhism*, pp. 194-201, 206-11, 293-335
Gray, *Cakrasamvara Tantra*, pp. 329-42
Törzsök, *Doctrine*, pp. 107-11, 149-51, 171-81
White, *Kiss of the Yogini*, pp. 160-95, 253-57
_____，“Alchemy Body,” pp. 1-10, 101-10
_____，“Sinister Yogis”, pp. 1-37, 198-220, 231-54
_____，“Yogini,” pp. 823-28
Feb. 6  Tantric Mandalas and Pantheons

Sanderson, “Śaivism and the Tantric Tradition,” pp. 660-704
White, “At the Maṇḍala’s Dark Fringe,” pp. 200-23
_______, “Bhairava,” pp. 485-90

Feb. 13  Tantric Polities

Brown, “A Magic Pill”
Davidson, *Indian Esoteric Buddhism*, pp. 68-91, 113-68
Sanderson, “Religion and the State,” pp. 229-73
White, *Kiss of the Yogini* pp. 123-59
_______, *Sinister Yogis*, pp. 220-31
_______, “Yogic and Political Power”

Feb. 20  Power Substances

Hayes, “Necklace,” pp. 308-25
Schoterman, *Yonitantra*, pp. 18-32
Snellgrove, *Indo-Tibetan Buddhism*, pp. 254-77
_______, *Kiss of the Yogini*, pp. 67-122
_______, “Mercury & Immortality,” pp. 207-28

Feb. 27  (Micro)cosmology

Dyczkowski, *Journey*, pp. 93-174
Heiliger-Seelens, *System of Five Cakras*, pp. 16-38; 225-43
Urban, *Economics of Ecstasy*, pp. 137-57
White, *Alchemical Body*, pp. 218-62
_______, *Kiss of the Yogini*, pp. 219-34
_______, “On the Magnitude of the Yogic Body,” pp. 79-90

March 6  Tantric Transactions and Transformations

Finn, *Kulacūḍāmaṇi*, pp. 83-147
Flood, “Purification of the Body,” pp. 509-20
Törzsök, *Doctrine*, pp. 121-42, 146-48, 165-70
White, *Alchemical Body*, pp. 171-83, 303-26
_______, *Kiss of the Yogini*, pp. 196-218
_______, *Sinister Yogis*, pp. 161-97
March 13  Doing, Envisioning, Knowing, Becoming

Davis, *Ritual*, pp. 112-36
Sanderson, “Maṇḍala and Agamic Identity,” pp. 169-214
Vasudeva, *Mālinivijayottaratantra*, pp. 214-33, 293-301, 351-65
White, *Kiss of the Yogini*, pp. 234-53