



Michigan State University  
Fulbright-Hays Group Study Abroad 2009:  
Nepal in the Contemporary World



Lesson Plan

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**Title:** Comparative Study of Hinduism and Christianity

**Subject Areas:** World History, World Cultures, or Comparative Religion

**Grade Levels:** 9 – 12<sup>th</sup> grade

**Length of Lesson:** 3 -4 traditional schedule class periods (or 2+ days for block scheduling plus time outside class for the editorial.

**Summary/Overview:**

When asked, most people would state that Hinduism is a polytheistic religion but is it? How did it get that label? Why do we consider Hinduism with Vishnu, Shiva and Brahma (all part of the absolute god; Brahman) a polytheistic religion and Christianity with the Holy Trinity (father, son and holy spirit/ghost) a monotheistic religion? This lesson will explore both religions and ask students to compare the two belief systems.

- Assessment: The students will be assessed both formally and informally throughout this unit. There will be a brainstorming session, formative assessments throughout the power point presentations and finally, a written assessment to gauge their overall comprehension of the material.

The culminating assessment is to have the students write an editorial to a newspaper responding to the headline of "The Mono's Have It: Hinduism Reclassified as a Monotheistic Religion". The students, using Christianity as their model of comparison, will agree or disagree with the new classification while supporting their argument with evidence.

**Primary Objectives:**

- The students will be able to define in their own words what constitutes a world religion.
- The students will be able to apply their prior knowledge of mono and polytheistic religions to Hinduism and Christianity, using evidence from each religion and applying it to their classification.

- The students will be able to identify the basic doctrine of both Hinduism and Christianity. Using their knowledge, they will be able to compare and contrast the basic belief system for each religion.

**Required Resources/Materials:**

- Brainstorming worksheet (provided)
- Hinduism power point (provided)
- Power point guided notes (provided)
- Venn diagram (provided)
- Christianity power point (provided)

**Procedure:**

The lesson is designed to last 2 – 3 days in a block schedule but can easily be adapted to your time frame and the student’s level of prior knowledge.

The lesson is chronically organized in the following manner:

- Brain storming
- Hinduism power point (with guided notes)
- Review
- Christianity power point (with guided notes)
- Completion of a Venn diagram
- Development of their editorial

**Assessments:**

The students will be able to apply their knowledge of both Christianity and Hinduism by using data to compare/contrast the two religions and to state their opinion as to whether or not Hinduism and Christianity are appropriately labeled as polytheistic and monotheistic religions respectively.

**Michigan Content Expectations Met:**

- Foundations: F3  
Growth and Development of World Religions
- 4.1.1 – Crisis in the Classical World
- 4.1.2 – World Religions

**Bibliography Unique to this lesson:**

Arquilevich, Gabriel. World Religions; Grade 6 – 8. Westminster: Teacher Created Resources, Inc. 2006.

Maharjan, Dr. Mangal Man. Comparative Study of Hinduism and Christianity in Nepal. Kathmandu, Nepal: Ekta Books, 2002.

“Religion and Ethics – Hinduism.” British Broadcasting Channel.  
(<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/hinduism/>). August 9, 2009.

Renard, John. The Handy Religion Answer Book. Detroit: Visible Ink Press, 2002.

Toropov, Brandon and Buckles, Father Luke. The Complete Idiot’s Guide to World Religions. Indianapolis: Beach Brook Productions, 2002.

Spielvogel, Jackson. World History. Columbus: Glencoe/McGraw Hill, 2010.