

Lecture Series

Dr. Sushil Mittal

Professor, James Madison University, USA
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Sushil Mittal is professor of Hindu religion at JMU in Harrisonburg. Prof. Mittal was born in Canada (his “janma-bhumi”) and grew up partially in English Canada and India and mostly in French Canada. For over twenty-five years he has dedicated himself to working in the USA (his “karma-bhumi”). He is tied to India or Bharat (his “dharma-bhumi”) with a sacred thread. Prof. Mittal is a Ph.D. from the Université de Montréal. He served on the faculties of the University of Florida at Gainesville and Millikin University at Decatur.

Hindu Intellectual History and Ideas

In these lectures, we look at the ways ancient Hindu thinkers understood the nature of reality and human beings’ place within it. We examine the notions of world, community, and self as experienced and interpreted by Hindus. What are the basic assumptions underlying the Hindu worldview or world image? How do these assumptions interrelate with the various dimensions of Hindu physical, psychological, and cultural experience? How are they expressed in history, ritual, and social structures and institutions? What practical and spiritual concerns do they reflect, and what ideals and values do they create? And what tensions do we find between the ideal and the real? In short, how do Hindus experience life religiously and socially? While we spoke above of “the Hindu worldview or world image” as though this were a single entity, we shall find, in fact, that there are many Hindu worldviews and images: popular and elite, sacrificial and devotional, ascetic and social-affirming, traditional and modernizing, male and female. How do these differing perspectives with their various views/images interrelate? What are the tensions between them, and in what ways, if at all, are they integrated, transcended, or simply accepted or even ignored? Our strategy is to move between cosmological, theological, and philosophical understandings, and the ways these motivate ordinary and extraordinary human lives.

Date : 7 March 2024
Time : 11.30 AM – 01.00 PM
02.00 PM - 03.30 PM

Venue
Bootcamp 1, VDC

For Registration and more details

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