

**The University of Calgary  
Faculty of Humanities  
Department of Religious Studies**

**Course Information: RELS 200 L01, Fall 2008**

**Title** The Origin and Nature of Religious Worldviews  
**Venue** TR 9:30-10:45, room: A 140  
**Instructor** L. Eslinger  
**Contacts** phone: 220-3281; email: [eslinger@ucalgary.ca](mailto:eslinger@ucalgary.ca); office: [SS1334](#)  
 office hr.: R 3:30-4:30 or by appointment  
**GTAs** Darryl Ferguson  
 Kathleen Jones  
**Text** W. Matthews, *World Religions* (Thomson/Wadsworth, 2007).

**Orientation**

RelS 200 takes an evolutionary ecology approach to the mythology of Asia's world religions. RelS 200 considers religious mythology as an adaptive response to environment, surveying representative religious traditions in three regions: south Asia (Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism), East Asia (Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, and Shinto), and west Asia (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam).

**Credit Work**

<i>Schedule</i>		<i>Grading Scale</i>					
<b>1.</b> First text interpretation (09 Oct due 14 Oct; [5%/day late penalty])	20	<b>A</b>	100-90	<b>B-</b>	74-70	<b>D+</b>	54-50
<b>2.</b> Mid-term exam (1 hr., 21 Oct; must be written as scheduled; mark your calendar now)	30	<b>A-</b>	89-85	<b>C+</b>	69-65	<b>D</b>	49-45
<b>3.</b> Second text interpretation (27 Nov due 02 Dec; [5%/day late penalty])	20	<b>B+</b>	84-80	<b>C</b>	64-60	<b>F</b>	44-0
<b>4.</b> Final exam (1 hr. registrar scheduled)	30	<b>B</b>	79-75	<b>C-</b>	59-55		
Total: ( <i>N.B. no additional credit work will be offered.</i> )	100						

**Academic Honesty**

Students should be familiar with University regulations regarding academic integrity (*University Calendar*, see the index item, "Misconduct, academic").