

University of Calgary  
Faculty of Humanities  
Department of Religious Studies

August 22, 2006

RELS 203 L04 - Fall 2006 - World Religions – Eastern

Instructor: Yumi Onozawa

Class Time: MWF 9:00-9:50 (No classes - October 9: Thanksgiving Day or November 13: Reading Week)

Office / Hours: SS 1323 / MW 10:00-10:50 (or by appointment)

Telephone: 220-7906

E-mail: onozaway@ucalgary.ca (N.B. E-mails will be read and replied to only during university business hours: weekdays, 8:30am - 4:30pm)

**Required Textbook:** Theodore M. Ludwig. *The Sacred Paths of the East*. 3rd ed., Prentice Hall, 2006. (Student will assume full responsibility if they choose to use the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.)

**Course Description:**

This course will introduce Eastern religious traditions that have been and are practiced in Asia, focusing on India, Tibet, China, and Japan. We will explore Hinduism (India), Buddhism and its developments in India, Tibet, China, and Japan, Confucianism and Daoism (China) and Shintoism (Japan). By studying the historical developments of each tradition and its social, political, and cultural contexts, we will attempt to understand how philosophy and religious practices have been shaped and affected human life. The textbook and lectures will be the main sources, but we will also make use of video and visual aids to explore the multiple dimensions of each tradition.

**Core Competencies:**

Students will learn a diversity of religious phenomena and concerns, such as philosophy, worldviews, morality, rituals, festivals, and so on. When studying Eastern religious traditions, for the sake of critical analysis, it is important at times to consciously suspend preconceived ideas derived from Western religious thought. Furthermore, when approaching the material of this course, one should try to avoid claims or views that are based on one's beliefs and avoid the application of these personal beliefs to the interpretation of the course material.

**Course Requirements:**

**A. Quizzes and Exams**

- |            |            |     |   |
|------------|------------|-----|---|
| 1. Exam 1  | Oct. 11    | 30% | Hinduism                                  |
| 2. Exam 2  | Nov. 10    | 30% | Buddhism                                  |
| 3. Exam 3: | <b>TBA</b> | 30% | Chinese and Japanese religious traditions |

**Registrar's Office final exam**

**Format and Purpose:****A . Exams**

All exams consist of two sections: fill-in-the-blanks and 6 short answers. The exams are designed to test knowledge and information from the class materials including textbook, lectures, films and other visual aids (photos).

**B. A Reflection Paper: 10 % of the total grade**

Students will compose one reflection paper on ONE of the three films that will be screened during the semester (Oct. 6, Nov. 8, and Dec.1). Students whose surname begins with A to I will write on the first film, students J to P will write on the second, and Q to Z the third. The paper will be 3 pages long (approximately 750 words, double-spaced, 12 pt font and printed). E-mail submissions will not be accepted. The due date is one week after the film has been shown (Oct. 13, Nov. 15, and Dec. 8). Due dates will be assigned by the instructor. Students are not allowed to rewrite the paper.

Guidelines for the paper will be given to help establish a good structure. Guidelines will be given during the class prior to the film day. (They will not be given through e-mail). Students may use knowledge from the textbook and lectures to support their comments and arguments for the paper.

Late submission will lose one letter grade for each day including weekends (e.g. A → A- for one day late submission). If students cannot hand in the paper on the due date in class, they should bring it to the Department of Religious Studies (SS 1301) and have it date-stamped. Note: Papers will be graded for proper format, argumentation, and context.

**General Comments**

1. Tests and assignments must be written/submitted on the dates scheduled. No exceptions will be made, except for death, significant illness, or domestic affliction (supported by a valid, original note from a physician or counsellor). The instructor must be contacted within 24 hours of a missed exam or deadline either through e-mail, phone, or contacting the Department of Religious Studies (220-5886).
2. Students who are absent from class should make arrangements with a classmate for class notes or handouts. Handouts will only be made available in class. They will not be available through e-mail or other electronic means, and the instructor will not loan out lecture notes.
3. Students must maintain "back up" copies of all submissions; no concessions will be made for "lost" materials.
4. Recording of the lectures is not permitted, except by special permission.
5. In order to encourage and facilitate class discussion, students should study the relevant sections in the textbook prior to each class.
6. Students are encouraged to speak with the instructor during office hours if they have any questions. Phone conversations and e-mails are a less direct and effective means of communication.

Grading

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme:

A+	100 - 96	A	95 - 90	A-	89 - 85
B+	84 - 80	B	79 - 75	B-	74 - 70
C+	69 - 65	C	64 - 60	C-	59 - 55
D+	54 - 53	D	52-50	F	Under 50

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.

Academic Honesty:

*Plagiarism is not tolerated at the University of Calgary and has serious consequences. Your essays/presentations must be your own work and inadequate referencing may be seen as plagiarism. Please see the relevant sections on Academic Misconduct in the current University Calendar. If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor.*

Academic Accommodation:

If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Once registered, please discuss any upcoming tests/examinations with the instructor **two weeks** before the scheduled date.

Gnosis:

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: [gnosis@ucalgary.ca](mailto:gnosis@ucalgary.ca) or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.

**Class Schedule**

<b>Week 1</b>	Sept. 11, 13, 15	Introduction to Eastern Religions and Hinduism (Early development)
<b>2</b>	Sept. 18, 20, 22	Hinduism (Vedic teaching and Epic era)
<b>3</b>	Sept. 25, 27, 29	Hinduism (Hindu philosophy and Sectarian movement)
<b>4</b>	Oct. 2, 4, 6	Hinduism (Hindu rituals and festivals), Oct. 4, Paper guidelines, Oct. 6, Film ( <b>Paper due on Oct. 13</b> )
<b>5</b>	Oct. 11, 13	Oct 11, <b>Exam 1</b> , Oct. 13, Buddhism (Life of the Buddha and his teaching)
<b>6</b>	Oct. 16, 18, 20	Buddhism (the Buddha's teaching continued and Early Buddhism)
<b>7</b>	Oct. 23, 25, 27	Buddhism (Mahayana Buddhism), 27, Buddhism (Buddhism in China and Japan)
<b>8</b>	Oct. 30, Nov. 1, 3	Buddhism (Buddhism in China and Japan and Buddhism in Tibet)
<b>9</b>	Nov. 6, 8, 10	Nov. 6, Paper guidelines, Nov. 8, Film ( <b>Paper due on Nov. 15</b> ), Nov. 10, <b>Exam 2</b>

<b>10</b>	Nov. 15, 17	Chinese religious traditions (Early civilization)
<b>11</b>	Nov. 20, 22, 24	Chinese religious traditions (Confucianism and Taoism)
<b>12</b>	Nov. 27, 29, Dec. 1	Chinese religious traditions (Neo-confucianism and popular beliefs), Nov. 29, Paper guidelines, Dec.1, Film ( <b>Paper due on Dec. 8</b> )
<b>13</b>	Dec. 4, 6, 8	Japanese religion
<b>TBA</b>		<b>Registrar's Office scheduled final exam</b>