

University of Calgary
Faculty of Humanities
Department of Religious Studies

August 2, 2007

RELS 203 L03 - Fall 2007 - World Religions – Eastern

Instructor: Yumi Onozawa

Class Time: TR 14:00-15:15 (No class –November 13th: Reading Week)

Office / Hours: SS 1304 / T 15:20-16:00 (or by appointment)

Telephone: 220-5612

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. (Students will assume full responsibility if they choose to use the 2nd 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 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 about a variety of religious phenomena and concerns, such as philosophy, worldviews, morality, rituals, festivals. 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. One should try to avoid claims or views that are based on one's personal beliefs and avoid the application of these beliefs to the interpretation of the course material.

Course Requirements:

Exams

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| 1. Exam 1 | Oct. 9 | 30% | Hinduism |
| 2. Exam 2 | Nov. 6 | 30% | Buddhism |
| 3. Exam 3: | TBA | 40% | Chinese and Japanese religious traditions |

Registrar Scheduled Final Exam

Format and Purpose of the Exam:

All exams consist of three sections: 1. fill-in-the-blanks, 2. short answers, and 3. a short essay. The exams are designed to test knowledge and information from the class materials including textbook, lectures, films and other visual aids (i.e. photos). As for the essay question, a comprehensive understanding of the subject as well as critical thinking will be evaluated.

General Comments

1. Exams 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 obtaining 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. Recording of the lectures is not permitted, except by special permission.
4. In order to encourage and facilitate class discussion, students should study the relevant sections in the textbook prior to each class.
5. 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 or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.

Class Schedule

Week	Date	Subject(s)	Reading
Week 1	Sept. 11, 13	Introduction to Eastern Religions and Hinduism (Early development and Vedic teachings)	pp. 37-42, 74-75
2	Sept. 18, 20	Hinduism (Vedic teachings con't and Epic era)	pp. 42-47, 57-59, 62-68
3	Sept. 25, 27	Hinduism (Hindu philosophy and Sectarian movement)	pp. 47-51, 56, 59-62, 69-73, 85-87
4	Oct. 2, 4	Hinduism (Hindu rituals and festivals), 4, Film on Hinduism	pp. 75-84, 90-92
5	Oct. 9, 11	9, Exam 1 , 11, Buddhism (Life of the Buddha and his teaching)	pp. 93-99
6	Oct. 16, 18	Buddhism (the Buddha's teaching continued and Early Buddhism)	pp. 99-101, 110-112, 114-121
7	Oct. 23, 25	23, Film on Buddhism, 25, Buddhism (Mahayana Buddhism)	pp. 101-102, 112-114, 120-123, 124-131, 134-141
8	Oct. 30, Nov. 1	Buddhism (Buddhism in China and Japan and Buddhism in Tibet)	pp. 103-107, 109, 183-188, 216-218, 252-254, 267-269
9	Nov. 6, 8	6, Exam 2 , 8, Chinese religious traditions (Early civilization)	pp. 172-176, 198-199, 204-206, 228-230
10	Nov. 15	Chinese religious traditions (Confucianism)	pp. 176-179, 207-208, 210-213, 219-220, 232-237
11	Nov. 20, 22	Chinese religious traditions (Daoism and Popular beliefs)	pp. 179-183, 188-190, 197, 200-202, 208-209, 213-216, 218, 220-224, 237-238
12	Nov. 27, 29	Chinese religious tradition (Neo-confucianism), 29, Film on Confucianism and Daoism	pp. 190-192, 202-203, 211, 241-243
13	Dec. 4, 6	Japanese religion	pp. 244-248, 254-256, 259-264, 258, 264-265, 280-288
TBA		Registrar Scheduled Final Exam	