

**University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts
Department of Religious Studies**

**Religious Studies 203 L01: World Religions, Eastern
Fall 2012
MWF 12-12:50**

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30-2:30pm and by appointment

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“Why is it that the history of the East is a history of Religions?”
- Karl Marx (1818-1883)

Course Description and Goals:

This course surveys the historical origins of religious traditions rooted in Asia—specifically Hinduism, Buddhism, and the Chinese traditions of Confucianism and Taoism. By emphasizing the reading of primary texts in translation, we will explore the major ideas and practices of these traditions, making special note of the cultural, historical, political and material contexts in which they were conceived and expressed. Upon completion of this course, students should possess an historical understanding of these specific traditions and a general working knowledge of how to approach religious literature critically.

Required textbooks:

Embree, Ainslie T, editor. *Sources of Indian Tradition, Volume One*. Second Edition. New York: Columbia University Press, 1988. ISBN: 0-231-06651-1

Ivanhoe, Philip and Brayan Van Norden, editors. *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 2001. ISBN: 0-87220-780-3

Miller, Barbara Stoler, translator. *The Bhagavad-Gita: Krishna's Counsel in Time of War*. New York: Bantam Classic, 2004. ISBN: 0-553-21365-2

Suggested Textbook:

Oxtoby & Amore, editors. *World Religions: Eastern Traditions*. Third Edition. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2010. ISBN: 978-0-19-5426767-2

** On occasion, additional readings will be available on Blackboard.

Course Requirements:

Participation: Regular class attendance and thorough, thoughtful reading of assigned texts are mandatory. While class will consist primarily of lectures on Mondays and Wednesdays, Friday sessions will be devoted to discussion of course material. These discussions will take place in small groups facilitated by the teaching assistants. Small group tutorials will begin in the third week of class, on Friday, September 28. Group assignments and meeting locations will be announced on Monday, September 24.

In preparation for tutorial sessions, students must complete a critical reading of assigned primary texts. A critical reading entails asking exploratory questions of the text. A reading guide students should apply to all assigned texts is included at the end of the course syllabus. In addition, topic-specific reading questions will be posted each week on Blackboard.

Students' participation will be evaluated based on preparedness for Friday tutorials and productive contribution to tutorial discussions. Productive contribution to discussion is based on proper preparation for class (i.e., completion of assigned readings), is relevant to the week's topic, and is expressed in a respectful manner. Students should note that all discourse in this class—whether on-line or in class—is to be expressed in a manner that is respectful of the professor, teaching assistants, and other students. Students will receive feedback and guidance on their participation grades throughout the semester.

Students should note that credit for participation is contingent upon attendance at, and participation in, Friday tutorials. Excessive absence will result in failing marks for participation.

Exams: Students will write three in-class exams during the term. Exams will test students' understanding of assigned primary-text readings, mastery of key concepts and vocabulary, and ability to analyze these texts and concepts with respect to their historical and cultural contexts. Details on the format of exams will be provided in class.

Exam 1 (Hinduism): Wednesday, October 10

Exam 2 (Buddhism): Monday, November 5

Exam 3 (Confucianism & Taoism): Friday, December 7

There will be no registrar-scheduled final in this course.

Only in cases of genuine emergency will arrangements for make-up exams be made. In cases of genuine emergency, students **must** notify the instructor and their teaching assistant no later than 24 hours after the missed exam. Failure to do so may result in a grade of "zero" on the missed exam.

Etiquette:

All discussion in this class, whether in person or online, is to be expressed with courtesy and respect for your fellow students, the teaching assistants, and the instructor.

Students are expected to be fully engaged in class during lecture and tutorials. Multi-tasking during class is strongly discouraged, and the following activities are prohibited during lecture: talking, texting,

internet surfing, wearing of earbuds, and any other activities that will distract you or your fellow students. Students who engage in these activities will be asked to leave the lecture hall.

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

- Participation: 20%
- Exam 1: 30% *
- Exam 2: 40% *
- Exam 3: 10% *

Students must receive passing grades on all assignments in order to pass this course.

**** Students may choose to count their lowest exam grade as 10% of the final grade. For example, if you do well on Exam 3, you may count that grade as 30% and count a lower grade from Exam 1 or Exam 2 as 10%.***

A final letter grade will be assigned based on the following department-approved scale:

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

Syllabus:

A complete syllabus, including a schedule of readings, exam dates and the reading guide, will be distributed on the first day of class.

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

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than **fourteen (14) days** after the start of the course.

Blackboard Help

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/online-services/blackboard> for Student Help and FAQ's about Blackboard. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are available at <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students>. Instructions for using the Digital Drop Box are available here: http://library.blackboard.com/docs/r6/6_1/student/bbls_r6_1_student/digital_drop_box.htm.

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>.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at

artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representative

The Student Ombuds Office provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. See www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at arts1@ucalgary.ca.

Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints. Please check this website and not the nearest assembly point for this course.

Safewalk

The Safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). This service is free and available to students, staff and campus visitors 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year. Call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help phones located throughout campus to request a walk.