

**University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts
Department of Classics and Religion**

**Religious Studies 203 L01: World Religions, Eastern
Fall 2015
MWF 11-11:50**

Instructor: Elizabeth Rohlman
E-mail: elizabeth.rohlman@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Mondays 9-11am and by appointment

Office: Social Science 550
Phone: (403) 220-3287

TA: Daniel Fishley, danielfishley@hotmail.com

“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:

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

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

Nadeau, Randall L. *Asian Religions: A Cultural Perspective*. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell, 2014. ISBN: 9781118471068

** Additional required readings will be available on D2L.

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 professor or the teaching assistant. Weekly discussions will begin in the second week of class, on Friday, September 18.

In preparation for weekly discussions, 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 D2L.

Students should note that credit for participation is contingent upon attendance at, and participation in, Friday classes.

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): Monday, October 5

Exam 2 (Buddhism): Friday, November 6

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

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.

Students must write all exams to pass this course; skipping any exam will result in a final grade of "F."

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.

**** There is no registrar-scheduled final exam for this course.****

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

Participation : 15%
Exam 1: 37.5% *
Exam 2: 37.5% *
Exam 3: 10% *

**** 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 37.5% 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 and exam dates, 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 (section K, which can be found here: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>). If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor, or librarian staff.

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at

http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf.

Desire 2 Learn (D2L) Help:

Go to <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students> for Student Help and FAQ's about D2L. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are also available on this website.

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>.

Classics Student Society:

Classics Student Society is the Greek and Roman Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: classsoc@ucalgary.ca or visit <http://grst.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/classics-students-society>.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

- For program planning and advice, students in the Faculty of Arts will contact The Arts Students' Centre (ASC). Drop in at SS102, call at 403-220-3580 or email at ascarts@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 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.