

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
SPRING 2013

RELS 203 L20 World Religions - Eastern

Instructor: Craig Ginn, PhD

Classroom: SS 109

Office: SS 1304

Contact: cwcginn@ucalgary.ca (403) 220-5612

Class Time: MW 15:00-17:45

Office hrs: MW 13:00-14:00 or by appointment

Textbook:

World Religions: A Guide to the Essentials. Thomas A. Robinson and Hillary Rodrigues, editors. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2010, Print.

Course description:

This course will provide an introduction to eastern religions including Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Confucianism, Daoism, and Sikhism. Each tradition will be presented according to its historical development, sacred texts, leading figures, institutions, practices, and beliefs. Students will be guided through an introductory reading of select excerpts of sacred texts (in English translation). Special attention will be given to understandings of self and the Divine (the Ultimate), the human condition, enlightenment, meditation, ritual, devotion, moral teachings, aspects of authority, philosophy, sectarianism, gender roles, the introduction of eastern religions and philosophies to the west, and coherency with modernity.

Course Objectives:

- To gain an understanding of the historical development of the eastern traditions
- To gain an understanding of the nature and development of philosophy and devotion
- To gain an understanding of sacred texts and approaches to authority and interpretation
- To examine key leaders and thinkers in the eastern traditions
- To gain an understanding of key terms and concepts associated with the eastern traditions
- To explore reformation, divisions, and sectarianism
- To consider the impact of eastern faiths on the west
- To discuss the reciprocal relationship between society and religion, and issues of coherence with modernity

Course requirements:

Religious Site Report

Worth 20%

Students will be provided the opportunity to visit the Avatamsaka Monastery on Wednesday June 12 during the scheduled class time. Students will be required to submit a 1200-1400 word report of the site visit. The report must: 1. Describe the history and physical environment of the site, 2. Identify and describe how the monastery is affiliated within the Buddhist tradition, and 3. Using THREE dimensions of religion (based on Ninian Smart), identify and describe how

the monastery visit informed your understanding of Buddhism in particular and Eastern religions in general. If a student is unable to attend the site visit, an alternative written assignment worth 20% must be completed. If a student will not be able to attend the site visit, the student must notify the instructor at least 48 hours in advance. Site visit reports (and alternative written assignments) are **DUE on June 19**.

Midterm exam June 5 Worth 40%
 Introductory material, Hinduism, and Jainism
 (includes lectures May 15-June 3 and textbook chapters one, six, and eight)

Final exam Scheduled by the Registrar's Office Worth 40%
 Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, and Sikhism
 (includes lectures June 5-26 and textbook chapters seven, nine, and ten)
Note: Students must be available to write the final exam on the day and time set by the Registrar's Office, up to the last day of the examination period. The dates of the final exam period are June 27-29.

Grading:

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

Absences:

If a student misses an exam or assignment, the student must provide the instructor with supporting documentation with 48 hours of the scheduled exam or assignment deadline. If documentation is not provided within 48 hours, the student will not be provided an opportunity to write the exam or submit the assignment. Missed exams or assignments will receive a numerical mark of zero.

Email:

Inquiries related to exams must be sent no less than 48 hours before the scheduled exam. Please identify the subject of your email and clearly identify yourself by name and the course you are registered in. Please do not send email inquiries related to dates and deadlines. Students shall refer to the university calendar, course outline, and final exam schedule for schedule information.

Electronic Devices:

Laptops are permitted if used for the purpose of taking notes. Do not use laptops during class for online activities such as emailing, checking Facebook, watching videos, etc. Cell phones must be turned off during class time. Texting during class is not permitted. Students that distract the instructor or other students due to the use of cell phones or misuse of laptops during class may be requested to leave the classroom for the remainder of that class period.

Recording Lectures:

According to Academic Regulations E.6, recording of lectures is prohibited without the consent of the instructor, "With the permission of the instructor, students may tape record lectures,

provided that the student and instructor sign a Release form available from departmental and faculty offices. A copy of the Release form shall be retained by the instructor and by the department in which the course is offered.”

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/onlineservices/blackboard> for Student Help and FAQs 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/bbbs_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.