

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

**Religious Studies 203 L01: World Religions, Eastern
Winter 2012
TR 11:00-11:50am**

Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Rohlman
E-mail: elizabeth.rohlman@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:30-4:30pm and by appointment

Office: Social Science 1304
Phone: (403) 220-3287

Teaching Assistants:

Raj Balkaran, rbalkara@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Mondays 1-1:50, SS 1319
Tutorial Sections:
T03: Monday 12-12:50, CHE 202
T04: Thursday, 12-12:50, EDC 154
T05: Thursday, 1-1:50, EDC 154

Sunny Thekke-Vallyara, vvthekke@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Tuesdays 9:30-10:30, SS 1319
Tutorial Sections:
T01: Monday 10-10:50, ST 055
T02: Monday 11-11:50, ST 061
T06: Thursday 2-2:50, ST 061

Tutorial sections will begin meeting on Thursday, January 12. No tutorials will be held on Monday, January 9.

Questions and correspondence concerning this course should be directed to the teaching assistant who leads your tutorial section.

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 interpret religious literature.

Required textbooks:

- 1) Oxtoby & Amore, editors. *World Religions: Eastern Traditions*. Third Edition. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2010. ISBN: 978-0-19-5426767-2
- 2) W. J. Johnson, translator. *The Bhagavad Gita*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994. ISBN: 978-0-19-953812-6
- 3) Raymond Dawson, translator. *Confucius: The Analects*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993. ISBN: 78-0-19-954061-7
- 4) Edmund Ryden, translator. *Laozi: Daodejing*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-19-920855-5
- 5) **Additional readings are on reserve at Taylor Family Digital Library.**

Course Requirements:

Participation: Regular class attendance and thorough, thoughtful reading of assigned texts are mandatory. Participation in weekly tutorial sessions constitutes 30% of the final grade.

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 will be posted to Blackboard. In addition, topic-specific reading questions will be posted each week on Blackboard. Students' participation will be evaluated based on preparedness for tutorials

and productive contribution to tutorial discussions. Further details regarding participation grades will be distributed during the first week of 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): Tuesday, February 7

Exam 2 (Buddhism): Tuesday, March 13

Exam 3 (Confucianism & Taoism): Thursday, April 12

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: 30%
- Exam 1: 30% *
- Exam 2: 30% *
- 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%.***

*****There will be no Registrar scheduled final exam for this course.***

Grading:

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, will be distributed in 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/onlineservices/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 new 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 Office of the Student Ombuds 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.