

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION**

**COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2015**

<b>Course</b>	RELS 203 L02: Asian Religions
<b>Time</b>	Web-based
<b>Instructor</b>	Craig W. C. Ginn, PhD
<b>E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:cwcginn@ucalgary.ca">cwcginn@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>Office Hours</b>	T/R 2:00-3:00
<b>Office</b>	SS 502
<b>Telephone</b>	(403) 220-5612

**Required Text(s):**

World Religions: A Guide to the Essentials, Thomas A. Robinson and Hillary Rodrigues (editors)  
Baker Academic, November 2014, Print.

**Course Description:**

This course will provide an introduction to eastern religions focusing on Hinduism and Buddhism, with some attention to Jainism, Confucianism, Daoism, and Sikhism. Each tradition will be presented according to its historical background, cultural context(s), sacred texts, leading figures, institutions, practices, and beliefs/philosophies. Special attention will be given to understandings of the theistic spectrum, the self, the human condition, liberation, ritual, devotion, moral teachings, aspects of authority, philosophy, and sectarianism. Course material will also consider the introduction of eastern religions and philosophies to the west.

The course will be composed of five modules:

- Module 1 Studying World Religions (chapter one)
- Module 2 Hinduism (chapter six)
- Module 3 Jainism and Buddhism (chapters seven and eight)
- Module 4 Confucianism and Daoism (chapter ten)
- Module 5 Sikhism (chapter nine)

Course content will be delivered through readings (text and online readings) audio files (lectures and interviews) and online documentaries available through the University of Calgary library (Films on Demand).

**Online elements for this course:**

Accessing online texts, websites, and documentaries. Completing online tests.

**Tests:**

All tests for this course are completed online. Each module test will be available for a 12-hour period of time on the date assigned for the test. Module tests are timed, requiring students to

complete the test within a specified time limit. It is important for students to take extra care to ensure that they have access to dependable power and internet service. Do not rely on your computer battery as your only power source when taking the exam. Plug in your computer power cord. “My battery died” will not be considered an acceptable reason for failing to complete the test. For students who experience interruption to internet service while taking the exam, please contact the instructor as soon as internet service is restored. In the meantime, document your location, and the date and time of the interruption to internet service. If a student cannot complete the exam during the 12-hour period of time on the dates assigned for the test due to interruption to internet service or computer malfunction, the student must notify the instructor of the interruption to internet service within 24 hours after the test period via email.

**Core Competencies:**

Upon completion of this course, students will become familiar with:

- approaches to the study of religion
- key terms and concepts in the study of religion
- the historical-geographical context of the eastern religious traditions
- the chronological development of the eastern religious traditions
- key themes and teachings in the eastern religious traditions
- key religious and philosophical texts
- reformation and sectarianism
- the introduction of eastern religions to North America

**Course Requirements:**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Date of Online Availability</b>	<b>Weight (%)</b>
<i>Orientation Quiz</i> : Includes course information available in the course outline	January 16 10:00 am until at 10:00 pm	5%
<i>Module 1 Test</i> (Studying World Religions): Includes chapter 1 and module 1 course materials	January 30 10:00 am until at 10:00 pm	10%
<i>Module 2 Test</i> (Hinduism): Includes chapter 6 and module 6 course materials	February 27 10:00 am until at 10:00 pm	30%
<i>Module 3 Test</i> (Jainism and Buddhism): Includes chapters 7 and 8, and module 3 course materials	March 19 10:00 am until at 10:00 pm	30%
<i>Module 4 Test</i> (Confucianism and Daoism): Includes chapter 10 and module 4 course materials	March 31 10:00 am until at 10:00 pm	15%
<i>Module 5 Test</i> (Sikhism): Includes chapter 9 and module 5 course materials	April 15 10:00 am until at 10:00 pm	10%

There is no registrar-scheduled final examination for this course.

**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, standardized within the Department of Classics and Religion:

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

**Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments:**

If a student misses a test due to illness or an emergency, the student must provide the instructor with supporting documentation (note from doctor, counselor, accident report, etc.) within 48 hours of the absence. If documentation is not provided within 48 hours, the student will not be provided an opportunity to make up the test and will receive a numerical mark of zero.

**Expectations for email correspondence in this course:**

Please be courteous in email correspondence. Inquiries related to exams or assignments must be sent no less than 24 hours before a deadline. Please identify the subject of your email and clearly identify yourself by your full 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 the D2L course site for schedule information.

**Syllabus:**

A complete syllabus will be made available the first week of class.

**References and Bibliography:**

The Department of Classics and Religion uses the most recent edition of the Chicago Manual of Style and requires references and bibliographies to adhere to the Chicago citation system. You can find a quick guide here: [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html).

Alternatively please consult with the library staff for help and advice using the Chicago citation style.

**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, librarian staff or the Chicago manual of style.

**Academic Accommodation**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services 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.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:classsoc@ucalgary.ca) or visit <http://grst.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/classics-students-society>.

## **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Students' Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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 program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds) for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](http://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.