

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2016

Course RELS 203 L01: Asian Religions
Time M/W/F 10:00-10:50
Instructor Craig W. C. Ginn, PhD
Office Hours T/R 1:30-2:30 in SS 555
Office SS 502
E-mail cwcginn@ucalgary.ca
Telephone (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), textual tradition, leading figures, institutions, practices, and beliefs/philosophies. 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, the theistic spectrum, the human condition, liberation, ritual, devotion, moral teachings, aspects of authority, philosophy, sectarianism, reformation, and dimensional analysis. Course material will also consider the introduction of eastern religions and philosophies to the west.

The course will be composed of four modules:

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

Online elements for this course:

In addition to the textbook readings, students will be required to read select excerpts from sacred texts and online sources. Links will be posted on D2L.

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:

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
January 25	Module 1 Studying Religions (chapter 1)	15%
February 29	Module 2 Hinduism (chapter 6)	30%
March 30	Module 3 Jainism and Buddhism (chapters 7 and 8)	30%
TBD (Scheduled by the Registrar's Office)	Module 4 Confucianism, Daoism, and Sikhism (chapters 9 and 10)	25%

Final Exam: To be scheduled by the Registrar's Office during Final Examination Period April 16-27. Students must be available to write the final exam during the Final Examination period.

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

Adjusted Grades: The instructor will implement a standard measure of .5% adjustment for grades. Please do not send email inquiries asking the instructor to increase or 'round up' your final grade.

Policy with regard to missed assessments: If a student misses a test, 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. There are of course many reasons for missing the test that are not considered to be valid, including but not limited to: work schedules that conflict with the day of the test, family functions that conflict with the day of the test, forgetting about the test, traffic congestion on the day of the test, and having no internet connection on the day of the test.

Extra Assignments: There are no extra assignments for this course. Students will not be given an opportunity to submit extra work or retake tests to increase their grade.

Weighting of Module Tests: The weighting for module tests is identified above. The weighting of tests will not be changed to accommodate individual student requests.

Expectations for student conduct in this course:

Please be courteous toward other students in the course. For students who raise questions during class, please contribute to the resourceful use of classroom time by limiting the number of questions you ask in each class. While evaluative inquiries are permitted, students are encouraged to steer their inquiries toward objective investigation rather than confessional or adversarial agendas.

Expectations for email correspondence in this course:

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. Inquiries related to exams or assignments must be sent no less than 24 hours before a deadline. Do not ask the instructor to preview your exam answers and study materials.

Electronic Device Policy:

Laptops are permitted if used for the purpose of taking lecture notes. Do not use laptops during class for email, Facebook, or other nonacademic activities. Cell phones must be turned off during the entire class time. Texting during class is not permitted. Taking pictures in the classroom is not permitted. This includes taking pictures of data projector images and slides. Students that distract the instructor or other students due to the misuse of electronic devices during class will be requested to leave the classroom.

Recording of lectures is prohibited without the consent of the instructor. According to Academic Regulations E.6, “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.”

Requests for makeup tests and/or assignments:

This course does not provide makeup tests or assignments.

Visitors:

If space permits, students may request to bring a visitor to attend a lecture. All visitors must be currently registered at the University of Calgary. Send all requests to the course instructor by email at least 24 hours in advance of the lecture, providing the name and student ID of the visitor(s).

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. 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.

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.

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.