

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY —FACULTY OF ARTS**

**Department of Classics and Religion**

**Religious Studies 203 L01: Asian Religions**

**Course Outline – Winter 2017, MWF 12:00-12:50, ENA 101**

(University of Calgary Policy about course outlines may be found in Academic Regulations, Section E, of the *University Calendar*)

Instructor: James B. Apple, Ph.D.

Office: SS 532

Office hours: R 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Or by appointment.

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**Required Textbook:**

Willard G. Oxtoby & Roy C. Amore, Editors. (2010) *World Religions: Eastern Traditions*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. New York: Oxford University Press.

**Course Website:** **Desire2Learn** Our course web site will list important announcements, electronic readings, important links to web pages, and downloadable documents.

**Course Description:** Asian Religions is a general introduction to the academic study of Asian religious traditions. The course familiarizes students with the major religious and philosophical traditions of select geographical areas in South, Central, and East Asia. While refining the skills of empathetic description and non-evaluative comparison, the course also examines religion as an area of academic study, examining the function of religion in relation to human beliefs, social practices, and culture in general. A primary goal of the course is for all students to learn to define, accurately describe, and compare in a non-evaluative manner, various religious traditions within Asia so as to discover significant similarities and differences in various forms of human thought and behavior.

**Course Organization and Requirements:** The course is organized on a lecture/discussion basis following the topics and readings listed in the tentative schedule (attached). Students are expected to keep up with the reading schedule. Each student is required to write three exams and a short essay. The exams will be a combination of multiple choice, identification of terms and concepts, and short answer questions. For the terms students should consult the list of Key Terms at the end of every chapter in the required text. The essay will be a two-page descriptive and cross-cultural comparison assignment, the parameters of which will be distributed in class and posted on the course Blackboard website

**Core Competencies:** Students should take seriously the fact that this is an introductory course. The examination of the various traditions will therefore be in the nature of an overview rather than an in-depth analysis. And, for the most part, the course will be descriptive in nature, introducing students to the salient characteristics and terminology of major traditions that have their historical beginnings in India, China, and Japan. The readings, lectures and discussions will be directed to this descriptive task. The tests and written assignments however, are intended to encourage critical reflection on aspects of the religious traditions themselves.

**Course Requirements and Weighting:**

1. Regular attendance, preparation of reading assignments, and regular, wakeful participation in discussion.
2. Examination #1, 20 points (20%) = Study of Religion, Hinduism
3. Examination #2, 30 points (30%) = Religions of India
4. Writing Assignment, 20 points (20%) = instructions and guidelines will be handed out in class and posted on the course website.
5. Final examination, 30 points (30%) = Comprehensive exam with emphasis on East Asian traditions.

**\* There will be a Registrar scheduled final examination in this course**

Schedule of Exams and Essays	Evaluation
1. Exam #1 on <b>Friday, February 10.</b> 2. Exam #2 on <b>Friday, March 24.</b> 3. Writing Assignment due <b>Friday, April 7.</b> 4. Comprehensive Final: <b>To be scheduled by registrar.</b>	Exam #1 (20%) Exam #2 (30%) Writing Assignment (20%) Final Exam (30%)

**Missed Exams:** If you cannot write a test on the scheduled date due to a sudden illness or emergency, you must contact the instructor or the Department office as soon as possible. To be allowed a rewrite of a test, you must provide proof of illness/emergency. Transfer of weight from a missed test or unwritten essay to another course requirement will not be allowed in this course. Without acceptable documentation (i.e. medical certificate, police report, bereavement notice, confirmation of religious observance, or court order) or without PRIOR arrangement with the instructor, missed assessments will receive an 'F'. This policy is intended to encourage diligence and integrity among students as well as to uphold principles of fairness and equality with respect to other students in the class. Excuses other than those listed above will receive little attention.

**To ensure academic honesty:** No student is allowed to leave the examination room until they have handed in their exam. No additional materials or technical aids are permitted at your desk during an exam.

**Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule:** This outline is subject to change. It may be modified if it appears to the instructor that the material is not being adequately covered in the allotted time. The amount of time devoted to particular topics is contingent on the instructor's sense of what deserves greater emphasis as the course progresses. **Remember, to be aware of changes occurring in the schedule and to receive any crucial information regarding the course, regular attendance in class is necessary.** The instructor is not responsible for accommodating those with inexcusable absences. If you must miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and to ask a fellow student to lend you their notes. In addition, important materials are regularly handed out during class. The instructor is not responsible for providing handouts at a later date for those with an inexcusable absence from class. Keep in mind that all lectures in class constitute material that may appear on the final examination. Remember, too, that it is not possible for the instructor to explain all the material contained in the readings—it is up to students to be familiar with the readings regardless of the extent to which the assigned texts are discussed in class.

**Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule:**

January. 9- 20	Course description Introduction to academic study of world religions. Overview of Geography, History and Religions of Asia. Introduction to Hinduism	Nye: Religion: Some Basics, pp.1-22 [Desire2Learn] McCutcheon-Definition of Religion, pp. 1-13 [Desire2Learn] Oxtoby: 4-26 (Introduction); Nye: Culture, pp. 23-56. Nye: Power, pp. 57-78.
Jan. 23-27	Introduction to Hinduism. The Beginnings of Hinduism: The Indus Valley Civilization and the Vedas. Classical Hinduism	Oxtoby: 30-39; Nye: Belief, pp. 105-128. The Upanisads (Oxtoby: 39-43). The Epics and Deities of Hinduism (Oxtoby: 43-55). Hindu Philosophical Schools. Oxtoby: 55-72
Jan. 30-Feb.3	Major Sects and Philosophies of Hinduism Hindu Rituals. Women in Hinduism. Modern Hinduism	Hindu Rituals and Worship. Oxtoby: 72-88; Nye, Ritual, pp. 129-151. Women's Rituals. Oxtoby: 88-93.  The Hindu Experience Today. Oxtoby: 93-100
Feb. 6-10	The Sikh Tradition Sikh Origins Notions of Guruship, Rituals, and Identity Sikhs in the Modern World. [Exam #1 Friday, February 10]	Oxtoby: 108-115; Nye: Texts, pp. 152-180. Oxtoby: 115-127.; Oxtoby: 127-140.
Feb.13-17	The Jain Tradition Jain Origins and Teachings	Oxtoby: 146-157.

	Jain Practices Reverence of Images and Jains Today	Oxtoby: 157-167. Oxtoby: 168-174. [ <b>Desire2Learn</b> ]: <b>Link</b>
Feb.20-24	<b>Mid-Term Break</b>	
Feb. 27-March 3	Introduction to Buddhism Life of Prince Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha	The Buddha and his teachings. Oxtoby: 178-190. The Nobles' Four Truths. Oxtoby:191-194 Councils and Communities. Oxtoby:194-201
March.6-10	Theravada Buddhism Mahayana Buddhism	Theravada Buddhism. Oxtoby:202-205;
March. 13-17	Vajrayana Buddhism and Mahayana in East Asia	Mahayana Buddhism in India. Oxtoby: 205-220; Vajrayana Buddhism. Oxtoby: 220-224
March. 20-24	Japanese Traditions  <b>[Exam #2 Friday, March 24]</b>	Japanese Religions overview. Oxtoby: 330-338; Origins and Differentiation. Oxtoby:338-344 Differentiation. Oxtoby: 344-350.
March 27-March 31	Shinto in Japan	The Way of the Kami. Oxtoby:350-357; Shinto myth and ritual; Contemporary Shinto. Oxtoby:357-360
April 3-7	Chinese & Korean Traditions <b>[Writing Assignment due April 7]</b>	Confucian Beginnings. Oxtoby:256-266 The Analects and Heaven's Mandate. Oxtoby:266-274 Contributors and Customs. Oxtoby:274-294
April 10	Introduction to Classical Daoism.	Introduction to Daoism. Oxtoby:294-304 The Daoist Religion. Oxtoby: 304-313
April 12	Daoism	Oxtoby: 304-313
<b>TBA</b>	<b>Registrar Scheduled Final Exam</b>	

**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, usually used 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

**Course Requirements explained:**

**1. Attendance and participation:** Regular attendance, preparation of reading assignments, and class participation are expected in a university-level class. These are not graded requirements, but obviously they will impact on your performance in the course. If you must miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and to ask a fellow student to lend you their notes.

Classroom sessions will consist of lectures on the scheduled subject matter related to the overall theoretical objective of the course. Students must prepare the material before each meeting and be ready to comprehend the topics to be covered. As much as possible, the lectures attempt to complement the required readings or address related issues not treated extensively in the assigned books. During such sessions, students must have knowledge of the required readings. Participation in class thus plays a significant role in conducting lectures.

Given the nature of the lectures, and the fact that the examination will test knowledge of material discussed in lectures as well as the readings, it cannot be overemphasized that attendance is necessary and to your advantage. Your attendance in class allows you to participate in and contribute to the class by raising questions and offering insights. More importantly, your attendance allows you to hear what specific points are being emphasized. Students are reminded that presence at lectures, participation in classroom discussion and projects, and the completion of assignments are important components of most courses, and students will serve their interests best by regular attendance. Those who choose not to attend must assume whatever risks are involved.

**2. Examination #1 (20 points=20%) and Examination #2 (30 points = 30%):** These exams may consist of true/false, multiple choice, and short essay questions. Some time in the preceding class will be devoted to review.

**3. ‘Key Term Re-description’ Writing assignment (20 points= 20%):** This will consist of a two to three page descriptive and cross-cultural comparison assignment, the parameters of which will be distributed in class and posted on the course website. All writing assignments are **due at the beginning of class Friday, April 7**. Late papers will

be **penalized 10% of the value of the assignment for each day the paper is late.** If you have any questions please contact me immediately.

**4. Final examination (30 points = 30%):** The format will be the same as for the midterm exams.

**Recording of lectures** is not permitted, except by special permission (see Tape Recording of Lectures, *University of Calgary Calendar*).

**E-mail policy:** E-mails will be responded to within 24 hours during weekdays. I do not reply to email messages that are poorly written, unclear or disrespectful.

### **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.

### **Desire2Learn Help**

Go to <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/category/d2l> for Student Help and FAQ's about Desire2Learn. 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>.

### **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](mailto: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 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.

### **Freedom of Information and Privacy**

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP): <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act indicates that assignments given by you to your course instructor will remain confidential unless otherwise stated before submission. The assignment cannot be returned to anyone else without your express permission. Similarly, any information about yourself that you share with your course instructor will not be given to anyone else without your permission. As one consequence, students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number on each subsequent page.

### **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.