

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY — FACULTY OF ARTS**  
**Department of Classics and Religion**  
**Religious Studies 203 L01: Asian Religions**

**Course Outline – Winter 2020**, Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:45 a.m., ES 162

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

**REVISED OUTLINE DUE TO COVID-19 Situation**

Instructor: James B. Apple, Ph.D.  
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Office hours: virtual through D2L.

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**Required Textbook:**

Willard G. Oxtoby & Roy C. Amore, Editors. (2014) *World Religions: Eastern Traditions*. 5th Edition. New York: Oxford University Press.

**Course Website:** **Desire2Learn [D2L]** Our course web site will list important announcements, electronic readings, important links to web pages, and downloadable documents. Remaining examinations will be completed online through **D2L**. The Key Term Writing Assignment will be uploaded to **Dropbox on D2L**.

**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 preparation of reading assignments and lecture notes.
2. Examination #1, 20 points (20%) = Study of Religion, Hinduism **[Completed]**
3. Examination #2, 40 points (40%) = Hinduism, Jainism, and Early Buddhism
4. Writing Assignment, 30 points (30%) = instructions and guidelines explained in class and posted on the course website.
5. Examination #3, 10 points (10%) = Comprehensive exam with emphasis on Buddhist traditions.

Schedule of Exams and Essays	Evaluation
1. Exam #1 on <b>Thursday, February 13 [completed]</b> .	Exam #1 (20%)
2. Exam #2, online D2L, on <b>Thursday, March 26</b> .	Exam #2 (40%)
3. Writing Assignment due <b>Thursday, April 9 via Dropbox on D2L</b> .	Writing Assignment (30%)
4. Exam #3, online D2L, on <b>Tuesday, April 14</b> .	Exam #3 (10%)

**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. Transfer of weight from a missed test or unwritten essay to another course requirement will not be allowed in this course. Students must complete all course components to complete the 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 Religious Studies):

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. Examinations:** All remaining examinations for this course are completed online. The examinations are NOT “open book”. Students are not permitted to consult any course materials while completing any of the examinations. Each examination will be available for a 14-hour period on the date assigned for the test. Examinations 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 an exam during the 14-hour period on the date 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. Students that require a makeup test are required to arrange a time with the instructor.

**IMPORTANT:** Course content is **NOT** available on the day of an examination. Students need to ensure that they have completed preparation for the test before the day of the test.

Reviewing Tests:

The online tests for this course display the student's final score. Examinations answers are not displayed.

**2. Examination #1 (20 points=20%) [Completed] and Examination #2 (40 points = 40%):** These exams may consist of true/false, multiple choice, and short essay questions.

**3. 'Key Term Re-description' Writing assignment (30 points= 30%) [Explained and Assigned]:** 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 by Thursday, April 9 at 4:00 p.m. via Dropbox on D2L**. 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. Examination #3 (10 points = 10%):** The format will be the same as for the midterm exams.

**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. Emails must be sent from a University of Calgary (@ucalgary.ca) email address.

#### **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.

### **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.

**REVISED Tentative Lecture Material and Reading Schedule on  
Following Page**

**REVISED Tentative Lecture Material and Reading Schedule:**

March. 17-19	Introduction to Buddhism  Life of Prince Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha	The Buddha and his teachings. Oxtoby: 200-213.  The Nobles' Four Truths. Oxtoby:213-218 Councils and Communities. Oxtoby:218-224
March. 24-26	Theravada Buddhism Mahayana Buddhism <b>[Exam #2 Thursday, Online D2L March 26]</b>	Theravada Buddhism. Oxtoby:224-232;
March 31- April 2	Mahayana Buddhism	Mahayana Buddhism in India. Oxtoby: 232-248;
April 7-9	Vajrayana Buddhism and Mahayana in East Asia  <b>[Writing Assignment due April 9]</b>	Mahayana Buddhism in India. Oxtoby: 232-248;  <i>Vajrayana Buddhism. Oxtoby: 248-276</i>
April 14	<b>[Exam #3, Online D2L, Tuesday, April 14]</b>	