

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS & RELIGION**

**RELS 319 L01: Esoteric Buddhism
Course Outline - Winter 2016
TR 11:00-12:15 p.m.**

(University of Calgary Policy about course outlines may be found from page 38 of the *University Calendar*)

James Apple, Ph.D.

Office: SS 532

Office hours: T, R 3:00-4:00 p.m.
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Course Description:

This course focuses upon the formation and development of Esoteric Buddhisms in South Asia from c. 500 c.e. to 1200 c.e. Esoteric Buddhist formations, as part of broader pan-Indic cultural movements known as Tantra, are some of the most popular yet most misunderstood forms of Buddhism. In this course, we will examine the social and historical contexts for the formation of Esoteric movements as well as consider some of the many questions concerning the history, literature, and practices of these cultural movements.

Required Texts

Davidson, Ronald M. *Indian Esoteric Buddhism: A Social History of the Tantric Movement*. (New York: Columbia University Press, 2003),

English, Elizabeth. *Vajrayoginī: Her Visualizations, Rituals, and Forms*. Boston: Wisdom Publications, 2002.

Apple, James B. *Course Pack Reading Assignments: "RELS 319, Vajrayāna Buddhism."* University of Calgary, 2012. Available at the University Bookstore.

Course Website: Desire2Learn

Our course web site will list important announcements, electronic readings, and downloadable documents.

Course Requirements and Weighting:

1. Regular attendance, preparation of reading assignments, and regular, wakeful participation in discussion.

2. Midterm examination, 30 points (30%).
3. Research paper, 30 points (30%).
4. Registrar scheduled final examination, 40 points (40%)

Schedule of Exams and Essays	Evaluation
1. Midterm in class on Thursday, Feb 25 2. Research paper due on Thursday, April 7 3. Comprehensive Final: To be scheduled by registrar.	Midterm (30%) Research paper (30%) Final (40%)

Missed Exams: If you cannot write a test on the scheduled date due to a sudden illness or emergency, you must contact me 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.

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 & 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 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 important, 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, students will serve their interests best by regular attendance. Those who choose not to attend must assume whatever risks are involved.

2. Midterm examination (30 points = 30%): This will chiefly consist of short identification and essay questions, with the possibility of some objective questions, as well. Some time in the preceding class will be devoted to review. **THE DATE OF THE MIDTERM IS Thursday, February 25.**

3. Final examination (40 points = 40%): The format will be the same as for the midterm exam. The date of the final exam is **to be scheduled by registrar.**

4. Research Paper (of approximately 1800 words) worth 30% of the final course grade, is due on *Thursday, April 7 at the beginning of class*. The requirement is an 1800 word essay reflecting detailed research and critical reflection on a specific topic pertaining to Tantric Buddhism in South Asia. Paper topics are open: you are free to choose any topic within Tantric Buddhist traditions (specific texts, practices, historical figures work best). **PAPER PARAMETERS AND GUIDELINES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS AND POSTED ON OUR D2L COURSE SITE.** 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.

Recording of the lectures is not permitted, except by special permission (see Tape Recording of Lectures, *University of Calgary Calendar*, p. 44).

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: *Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contributions of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarism on any assignments or examinations are regarded as extremely serious academic offenses. Students are advised to consult pp 48-51 of the University Calendar which provides a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with plagiarism, cheating, and other academic misconduct. If*

you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor.

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

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.

Electronic Device Policy: Please review the university policy regarding specific permission and forms required for recording of lectures:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>

Scientific evidence demonstrates that use of cellphones lowers student achievement as well as damages the brain (see links below). Use of cellphones are not permitted while attending class. Cell phones must be turned off and not taken out in class for texting or any other purposes. The in-class wearing of earphones or similar devices is not permitted. Computers should not be used for watching videos or playing computer games.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/mental-wealth/201402/gray-matters-too-much-screen-time-damages-the-brain>

<http://blog.chron.com/sciguy/2013/12/study-students-who-use-cellphones-more-get-lower-grades/>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/memory-medic/201303/why-writing-hand-could-make-you-smarter>

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 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.