

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY —FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Religious Studies

RELS 359 L01: East Asian Religious Traditions

Fall 2011, MWF 12:00-12:50pm, SS113

(The University of Calgary policy about course outlines may be found on page 39 of the University Calendar.)

Instructor: Shinobu Apple, Ph.D.

Office: SS 1330

Office Hour: M 1:00-2:00pm or by appointment

Contact: sapple@ucalgary.ca or shinobuapple@hotmail.com

Required Texts:

Xinzhong Yao (2000), *An Introduction to Confucianism*, Cambridge University Press.

Livia Kohn (2008), *Introducing Daoism*, Routledge.

Nobutaka Inoue, et.al., (2004), *Shinto: A Short History*, Routledge.

Reading materials on Blackboard

Course Website [Blackboard]:

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

Course Description:

This course will focus on East Asian religious traditions other than Buddhism, namely Confucianism, Daoism, and Kami-worship/Shintoism. While the aforementioned religious traditions are often considered to be indigenous religions in comparison to Buddhism, throughout history all these traditions including Buddhism have influenced and interacted with each other. The interaction among these religious traditions has greatly affected the historical development of East Asia's religious landscape. In this course, students will investigate these religious traditions in their historical and cultural contexts through an interdisciplinary approach, focusing on history, politics, literature, and the arts.

Course Objectives:

Through taking this course, students will be able to:

- identify and explain the characteristics of the major religious traditions in East Asia, except Buddhism,
- discuss their historical and cultural interaction and transformation among religious traditions in East Asia including Buddhism, and
- develop analytical thinking skills through class discussion and group activities.

Course Requirements and Weighting:

Open-Book Tests #1: Oct. 21, #2: Nov. 2, and #3: Nov.16 – 12% (4% each)

In-Class Written Responses* – 8%

Group Presentations – 40% (Group Presentation Guidelines will be distributed in the first class)

Individual Paper Project – 40% (Paper Project Guidelines will be distributed in the first class)

*The In-Class Written Response (ICWR) is an open-book mini-essay that is written based on the assigned reading. This activity helps students develop their understanding of

the subject matter learned through the assigned reading, as well as the presentation. It is assigned to complete and submit in class. There will be total of 12 ICWRs in this course and the best 10 out of 12 will be taken into the evaluation. ICWRs should be **at least three paragraphs that consist of more than three sentences each**. A synopsis or a list will not be accepted.

**There will be no Registrar scheduled Final Exam for this course.*

Missed Exams and Assignments:

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.

Course Communication:

Students are required to check the Announcements on Blackboard and/or their registered email on a regular basis as the topic and reading materials for a class may be changed or newly posted.

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

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 is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Students are advised to consult pp 49-52 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.

Academic Accommodation:

If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and you 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. Once registered, please discuss any upcoming tests/examinations with the instructor two weeks before the scheduled date. DRC web address is:
www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/Others/DRC/

Gnosis:

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: 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 new 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. 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 (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 4th Floor of MacEwan Student Centre.
- 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.

Tentative Course 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 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. The instructor is not responsible for providing handouts at a later date for those who are absent from class. Remember that it is not possible for the instructor to explain all the material contained in the readings in class; it is up to students to be familiar with the content of the readings regardless of the extent to which the assigned texts are discussed in class.

Week	Subjects
1 (Sep 12 - 16)	Introduction Brief Overview of Religious Traditions in East Asia
2 (Sep 19 - 23)	Orientation for Group Research Project
3 (Sep 26 - 30)	Group Research Activities
4 (Oct 3 - 7)	Group Consultation and Group Research Activities

5 (Oct 10 – 14) <i>* 10/10 Univ. Closed</i>	Confucianism (Group Presentations)
6 (Oct 17 – 21)	Confucianism (Group Presentations) Exam #1 (10/21)
7 (Oct 24 – 28)	Daoism (Group Presentations)
8 (Oct 31 - Nov 4)	Daoism(Group Presentations) Exam #2 (11/2)
9 (Nov 7 – 11) <i>* 10-13 Reading week</i>	Shintoism (Group Presentations)
10 (Nov 14 – 18)	Shintoism (Group Presentations) Exam #3 (11/16)
11 (Nov 21 – 25)	Paper Peer Review
12 (Nov 28 – Dec 2)	Students' Poster/PowerPoint Presentations & In-Class Writing Presentation Reviews
13 (Dec 5 – 9)	Students' Poster/PowerPoint Presentations & In-Class Writing Presentation Reviews