

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

04/08/31

Religious Studies 203-L01  
World Religions - Eastern  
Instructor  
Office  
Office Hours  
Telephone  
E-mail  
Teaching Assistants

Course Outline, Fall 2004  
MWF 10:00 – 10:50  
Ronald Neufeldt  
SS 1338  
MWF 11:00 – 12:00  
220 - 6350  
[rneufeld@ucalgary.ca](mailto:rneufeld@ucalgary.ca)  
Erin O'Brien  
Chrissy Lakusta

Required Text

Willard G. Oxtoby, *World Religions, Eastern Traditions*, Oxford (latest edition)

Course Description

The course is designed to be an introduction to religious traditions in India, China and Japan. The concern of the course will be to understand how life and its goals are understood in the Hindu, Jain, Sikh, Buddhist, Confucian, Taoist and Shinto traditions.

Course Organization and Requirements

The course is organized on a lecture/tutorial basis following the topics and readings listed in the schedule (attached). Students are expected to keep up with the reading schedule. Each student is required to write three in-class tests and eight brief responses to questions set for the tutorial sessions. The tests will be a combination of identification of terms and concepts and short paragraph answer questions. For the terms students should consult the list of Key Terms contained at the end of every chapter of the text. For each tutorial session students are required to respond in the form of short essays of no more than one page to the questions set for each tutorial session. All responses will be read by the instructor or teaching assistants and two of the required eight responses will receive comment. All eight responses are required for a student to receive the 10% allotted for this exercise. Each missed assignment will result in an appropriate percentage reduction in the grade for the written assignments. Late responses will be not be accepted unless there is an acceptable excuse.

Purpose of the Course

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 which have their origins in the India, China, and Japan. The readings, lectures and tutorials will be directed to this descriptive task. The written assignments however, are intended to encourage critical reflection on aspects of the religious traditions themselves.

## Course Requirements

The course requirements will be weighted as follows:

Test #1 (October 15)	30%
Test #2 (November 5)	30%
Test #3 (December 8)	30%
Tutorial responses	10%

Please note that there will be **no** registrar scheduled final examination in this 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:

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

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.

### Recording of lectures:

Recording any part of any lectures in any form must first approved be by the instructor in writing and is for individual private study only. See current Calendar, Tape recording of Lectures.

### Academic Honesty:

Students should be familiar with University regulations regarding academic integrity; see relevant pages in the current University Calendar.

### Academic Accommodation:

If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 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.

### Withdrawing from courses:

Please note the information regarding withdrawals and fee refunds in the Academic Schedule of the current University Calendar.

### 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>.*

## SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPICS	READINGS*
September 08	Introduction to Religious Studies 203pp. 1 – 21	
September 10	Film: Hinduism 330 Million Gods	XMV6089101
September 13	The Vedas	pp. 21 – 32
September 15	The Vedas	
September 17	Goals and Ends of Life	pp. 46 – 50; 86 – 99
September 20	Darshanas	
September 22	Vedanta	pp. 50 – 54
September 24	Tutorial	
September 27	Samkhya - Yoga	pp. 54 – 55
September 29	Bhakti	pp. 32-45; 57 – 67
October 01	Tutorial	
October 04	Film: Frontiers of Peace – Jainism in India	XMV5615801
October 06	Jain Traditions	pp. 161 – 193
October 08	<b>Test #1</b>	
October 11	Thanksgiving	
October 13	Sikh Traditions (XMV6129301)	pp. 127 - 147
October 15	Tutorial	
October 18	Film: Footprint of the Buddha	
October 20	Introduction and Early Teachings	pp. 213 - 227
October 22	Tutorial	
October 25	Mahayana	pp. 243 - 251
October 27	Vajrayana	pp. 252 – 258
October 29	Tutorial	
November 01	Film: Land of the Disappearing Buddha	XMV60119201
November 03	Pure Land	pp. 258 - 280
November 05	<b>Test #2</b>	
November 08	Zen	pp. 280 - 288
November 10	Confucius	pp. 352 – 362
November 12	Reading Days	
November 15	Confucians	pp. 362 - 376
November 17	Laozi	pp. 382 – 386
November 19	Tutorial	
November 22	Zhuangzi	pp. 386 – 391
November 24	Film: A Question of Balance	XMV6019401
November 26	Tutorial	
November 29	Religious Daoism	391 - 398
December 01	Film: Nature, Man and Gods	XMV5875601
December 03	Tutorial	
December 06	Shinto	341 – 352
December 08	<b>Test #3</b>	

\* All readings are from the required text, *World Religions, Eastern Traditions* .