

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RELS 363 L01 – COMPARATIVE PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION – FALL 2010

Instructor: Dr. K. U. Froese

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Office / Hours: SS 1328 / Tuesdays 2:00-3:15pm

Class time: TR 11:00am-12:15pm

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Plato, *The Republic*

Augustine, *The Essential Augustine*

The Bhagavad-Gita: Krishna's Counsel in Time of War

Daodejing: A Philosophical Translation

Immanuel Kant, *Religion within the Bounds of Mere Reason*

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

This course examines some fundamental philosophical and religious questions from a variety of perspectives, drawing upon Western and Eastern traditions. The course is not intended as a survey of these systems of thought but rather aims to encourage cross-cultural comparisons of metaphysical, ethical, and religious ideas. Emphasis will be placed on developing analytical and critical thinking skills. Students will be encouraged to engage with these texts in order to reflect on some of the prevailing assumptions of contemporary societies.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Mid-term exam	October 19	40%*
In-class exam	December 2	10%
Final paper (8-10 pages)	due in class December 7	50%

Paper topics will be distributed in class and will require students to engage in a cross-cultural comparison by drawing on Western and Eastern works. Late papers will be graded down at a rate of 3% a day.

The in-class exams **MUST** be written on the date specified. Make-up tests will only be granted under *exceptional* circumstances and must be accompanied by appropriate documentation.
There will be no Registrar scheduled final exam in this course.

**You may choose to count the exam for which you receive the highest grade for 40% and the other midterm for 10%. In other words, if your grade for the final in-class exam is higher than that of the mid-term, you may count that for 40%.*

Tentative Schedule

Plato's Republic Sept. 14-28

Required reading: *Republic* Books I-IV, VI-VII

The Bhagavad-Gita Sept. 30-Oct. 7

Required readings: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 11, 13-15

Augustine Oct. 12-26

Required Readings: *Confessions: (on blackboard)* Book I i-xi Book II ii, iv-vi.

The Essential Augustine IV pp. 127-131, VIII, IX, X

Nagarjuna Oct. 28-Nov. 2

Required readings: *Fundamental Wisdom of the Middle Way (on blackboard)* Books 1, 2, 24, 25

Kant Nov. 4-16

Religion within the Bounds of Mere Reason

Required Readings: Piece I and Piece 2 Section 1 (pp. 17-85)

Daodejing Nov. 18-25

(Complete)

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	95.9 - 90	A-	89.9 - 85
B+	84.9 - 80	B	79.9 - 75	B-	74.9 - 70
C+	69.9 - 65	C	64.9 - 60	C-	59.9 - 55
D+	54.9 - 53	D	52.9-50	F	Under 50

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

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 ACCOMODATION

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.

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>.