

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY — FACULTY OF ARTS**  
**Department of Religious Studies**  
**Religious Studies 203 L02: World Religions - Eastern**  
**Course Outline - Fall 2011, TR 9:30-10:45 a.m., ENE 243**

(University of Calgary Policy about course outlines may be found from page 39 of the *University Calendar*)

Instructor: James Apple, Ph.D.

Office: SS 1306

Office hours: T 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Or by appointment.

Teaching Assistant:

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**Required Textbook:**

Willard G. Oxtoby & Roy C. Amore, Editors. (2010) *World Religions: Eastern Traditions*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. New York: Oxford University Press.

**Course Website:** **Blackboard** Our course web site will list important announcements, electronic readings, important links to web pages, and downloadable documents.

**Course Description:** Introduction to Eastern 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 attendance, preparation of reading assignments, and regular, wakeful participation in discussion.
2. Examination #1, 20 points (20%) = Hinduism, Study of Religion
3. Examination #2, 30 points (30%) = Religions of India
4. Writing Assignment, 20 points (20%) = instructions and guidelines will be handed out in class and posted on the course website.
5. Final examination, 30 points (30%) = Comprehensive exam with emphasis on East Asian traditions.

**\* There will be a Registrar scheduled final examination in this course**

Schedule of Exams and Essays	Evaluation
1. Exam #1 on <b>Thursday, October 6.</b> 2. Exam #2 on <b>Tuesday, November 8.</b> 3. Writing Assignment due <b>Thursday, December 1.</b> 4. Comprehensive Final: <b>To be scheduled by registrar.</b>	Exam #1 (20%) Exam #2 (30%) Writing Assignment (20%) Final Exam (30%)

**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 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. 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 on 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 importantly, 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, and students will serve their interests best by regular attendance. Those who choose not to attend must assume whatever risks are involved.

**2. Examination #1 (20 points=20%) and Examination #2 (30 points = 30%):** These exams may consist of true/false, multiple choice, and short essay questions. Some time in the preceding class will be devoted to review.

**3. ‘Key Term Re-description’ Writing assignment (20 points= 20%):** 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 at the beginning of class Thursday, Dec. 1**. 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. Final examination (30 points = 30%):** The format will be the same as for the midterm exam.

**Recording of lectures** is not permitted, except by special permission (see Tape Recording of Lectures, *University of Calgary Calendar*, p. 40).

**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 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: [http://www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/Others/DRC/.](http://www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/Others/DRC/))

**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 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](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 (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Lecture and Reading 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 those with inexcusable 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. In addition, important materials are regularly handed out during class. The instructor is not responsible for providing handouts at a later date for those with an inexcusable absence from class. Keep in mind that all lectures in class constitute material that may appear on the final examination. Remember, too, that it is not possible for the instructor to explain all the material contained in the readings—it is up to students to be familiar with the readings regardless of the extent to which the assigned texts are discussed in class.

### Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule:

Sept. 12- 22	Course description Introduction to academic study of world religions. Overview of Geography, History and Religions of Asia. Introduction to Hinduism	Nye: Religion: Some Basics, pp.1-19 [Blackboard] McCutcheon-Definition of Religion, pp. 1-13 [Blackboard] Oxtoby: 4-26 (Introduction).
Sept. 27-29	Introduction to Hinduism. The Beginnings of Hinduism: The Indus Valley Civilization and the Vedas. Classical Hinduism	Oxtoby: 30-39; Religions of India in Practice: “A Brief History of Religion in India”, 3-31. [Blackboard] The Upanisads (Oxtoby: 39-43). The Epics and Deities of Hinduism (Oxtoby: 43-55). Hindu Philosophical Schools. Oxtoby: 55-72
Oct. 4-Oct 6	Major Sects and Philosophies of Hinduism Hindu Rituals. Women in Hinduism. Modern Hinduism  [Exam #1 Thursday, October 6]	Hindu Rituals and Worship. Oxtoby: 72-88;  Women’s Rituals. Oxtoby: 88-93.  The Hindu Experience Today. Oxtoby: 93-100
Oct. 11-Oct.13	The Sikh Tradition Sikh Origins Notions of Guruship, Rituals, and Identity Sikhs in the Modern World.	Oxtoby: 108-115; Religions of Indian in Practice, “The Life of Guru Nanak,” Chapter 30. [Blackboard]  Oxtoby: 115-127.; Oxtoby: 127-140.
Oct.18-Oct.20	The Jain Tradition Jain Origins and Teachings Jain Practices Reverence of Images and Jains Today	Oxtoby: 146-157.  Oxtoby: 157-167.  Oxtoby: 168-174. On reserve: Religions of India in Practice, “The Rite of Veneration of Jina Images,” Chapter 19 [Blackboard]
Oct.25-Oct. 27	Introduction to Buddhism Life of Prince Siddhartha Gautama,	The Buddha and his teachings. Oxtoby: 178-190.

	the Buddha	The Nobles' Four Truths. Oxtoby:191-194 Councils and Communities. Oxtoby:194-201
Nov. 1-Nov.3	Theravada Buddhism Mahayana Buddhism	Theravada Buddhism. Oxtoby:202-205;
Nov. 8-Nov.10	Vajrayana Buddhism and Mahayana in East Asia [Exam #2 Tuesday, November 8] [Remembrance Day, No class Thursday]	Mahayana Buddhism in India. Oxtoby: 205- 220; Vajrayana Buddhism. Oxtoby: 220-224
Nov. 15- Nov.17	Japanese Traditions	Japanese Religions overview. Oxtoby: 330- 338; Origins and Differentiation. Oxtoby:338-344 Differentiation. Oxtoby: 344-350.
Nov.22-24	Shinto in Japan	The Way of the Kami. Oxtoby:350-357; Shinto myth and ritual; Contemporary Shinto. Oxtoby:357-360
Nov.29-Dec.1	Chinese & Korean Traditions [Writing Assignment due December 1]	Confucian Beginnings. Oxtoby:256-266 The Analects and Heaven's Mandate. Oxtoby:266-274 Contributors and Customs. Oxtoby:274-294
Dec. 6-Dec.8	Introduction to Classical Daoism.	Introduction to Daoism. Oxtoby:294-304 The Daoist Religion. Oxtoby: 304-313
<b>TBA</b>	<b>Registrar Scheduled Final Exam</b>	