

University of Calgary  
Faculty of Arts  
Department of Religious Studies  
Course Outline Fall 2012  
RELS 359 L01: East Asian Religious Traditions

Instructor: Katrin Froese  
Class Time: TR 2:00-3:15pm  
Office: SS1328 Office hours: T 11:15am-12:15pm  
Telephone: 403-220-3282 or 403-220-5886 (Department office)  
Email: [froese@ucalgary.ca](mailto:froese@ucalgary.ca)

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Confucius: *The Analects*  
Mengzi : *Mengzi*  
Laozi: *Daodejing*  
Xunzi, *Basic Writings of Xunzi (Hsiün-tzu)*  
Sunzi: *The Art of Warfare*

Additional readings will be provided by the instructor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVE:

This course will focus on Chinese religious and philosophical traditions, particularly Confucianism and Daoism. We will be examining primary texts and interpreting their philosophical and religious meaning. In addition, we will be studying some Chinese folk mythology, as well as Daoist religious movements and practice.

Objective: The aim of this course is to provide an overview of the philosophical and religious traditions of Daoism and Confucianism and to develop critical thinking and writing skills.

ASSIGNMENTS:

MIDTERM EXAM (ESSAY FORMAT) 40% October 18

FINAL EXAM (IN CLASS) 10% November 29

(Note: You may choose to have the exam for which you receive the highest grade worth 40% and the other exam worth 10%. If your grade is higher for the final, it would then count for 40% and the midterm would count for 10%.

*\*There will be no Registrar scheduled final exam for this course.*

ESSAY 50% (Topics will be handed out in class) Due in class November 20.

In-class exams must be written on the dates specified except in cases of illness, for which you must provide a medical note. 3% a day will be deducted for late papers. Extensions will only be granted in case of illness for which a doctor's note must be provided. Having multiple assignments due during the same time will not be accepted as a reason for extensions. It is your responsibility to plan ahead. Please keep a copy of your term paper on file in addition to the one you hand in.

**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	95.9 - 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.

**ETIQUETTE:** Students are expected to attend class regularly. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to try to obtain lecture material from another student, provided someone is willing to lend out her/his notes. The instructor will not provide notes. The following activities are prohibited during lecture: talking, texting, internet activity (including facebook) and any behaviour which distracts you or fellow students. If you engage in these activities, you will be asked to leave the classroom.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:** (please note, the schedule may change depending on the nature of class discussion)

Sept. 11 Introduction

**Confucius:** September 11-20

Text: The Analects

Required Readings: Books 1, 2, 4, 7, 12, 13, 16, 17, 20

**Mengzi:** September 25-October 2 1A1, 1A7, 2A1, 2A2, 2A6, 3A3, 3A4, 3A15, 4A10, 4B26, 6A 3, 6A6, 6A7, 6A8, 6A10, 7A15, 7A24, 7B1, 7B31

**Daodejing:** (Whole book) October 4-October 16

**Xunzi** October 23-25

Chapters 1, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23

**Communal Daoism:** October 30-November 1

1. Taiping and Celestial Masters

Readings: Communal Organizations: Readings from Livia Kohn “Communal Organizations” (provided by instructor)

Xianger Commentary (excerpt) : (provided by instructor)

2. Shangqing Daoism: Readings from Livia Kohn: “The World of Shangqing”

Excerpt from : “The Upper Scripture of Purple Texts Inscribed by the Spirits” (provided by instructor)

**Immortals:** November 6-8

Laozi  
Queen Mother of the West  
Mother of the Dao  
Eight Immortals

Readings: Livia Kohn, "Laozi: Ancient Philosopher, Master of Longevity and Daoist God"  
Anne Birrell: "Queen Mother of the West" (provided by instructor)  
Kristofer Schipper: "The Immortals" (provided by instructor)  
"How Chang Kuo Lau Obtained a Donkey" (provided by instructor)  
"The Dream of Lu Tung Pin" (provided by instructor)

**Sunzi** November 15-27

Reading: The Art of Warfare Ch 1-4, 5, 7, 9

December 4-7 Movie: *Hero*

**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 Accommodation**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and 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. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than **fourteen (14) days** after the start of the course.

**Blackboard Help**

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/onlineservices/blackboard> for Student Help and FAQ's about Blackboard. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are available at <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students>. Instructions for using the Digital Drop Box are available here: [http://library.blackboard.com/docs/r6/6\\_1/student/bbbs\\_r6\\_1\\_student/digital\\_drop\\_box.htm](http://library.blackboard.com/docs/r6/6_1/student/bbbs_r6_1_student/digital_drop_box.htm).

**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 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 at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- 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 Student Ombuds Office 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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds) for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](http://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.