

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2018

<b>Course</b>	Rels 203 Introduction to Asian Religions: Culture, Practices, and Beliefs
<b>Time</b>	Web-based Course
<b>Instructor</b>	Harjeet Grewal
<b>Office Hours</b>	Monday 1-2 or by appointment through Adobe Connect
<b>Office</b>	
<b>E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:harjeet.grewal@ucalgary.ca">harjeet.grewal@ucalgary.ca</a>

**Required Text(s):**

Nadeau, Randall L. *Asian Religions: A Cultural Perspective*. Wiley Blackwell, 2014.

Note: The textbook is available as a Kindle Edition from Amazon.

**Optional Text(s)/References:**

Lopez, Donald. *Asian Religions in Practice: An Introduction*. Princeton, 2008.

Hawkins, Bradley K. *Introduction to Asian Religions*. Pearson, 2003

Zeuschener, Robert. *Asian Thought Volume I*. Echo Point Books and Media, 2017 Edition

Zeuschener, Robert. *Asian Thought Volume II*. Echo Point Books and Media, 2017 Edition

**Course Description:**

This course introduces students to some of the major religious traditions of Asia that are continually evolving and adapting to new contexts beginning from ancient times to the present. Asia is home to majority of the world's population. Learning about Asian religions introduces students to cultures, beliefs, and traditions that are vital to a part of the world that is increasingly significant economically and politically. Asian religions, philosophies, and practices have also been an important point of contact or cross-fertilization between cultures.

We will draw upon religious beliefs from Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Islam, Sikhism, Taoism and Confucianism, Shinto. Readings will consist of primary materials translated into English. The main focus of the course will be to highlight central religious ideas and ask how these ideas contribute to their respective world-view and ethical outlook of these religious traditions. Major themes will include such as ritual, death, worship, violence, and the role of religion in modernity.

The course highlights culture, belief, and practices alongside textual readings so students learn how Asian ideas simultaneously adapt, are translated, and migrate into novel geographies and time. Students gain appreciation for how religious phenomenon resist or are absorbed into currents of colonialism, nationalism, globalization, and capitalism. This allows students to think critically about diverse religious traditions, ideas and practices that emanate from Asia. In this way students appreciate the nuances and complexities introduced into the study of religion from a global transregional perspective.

**Online elements for this course:**

This is a web-based course. Content will be delivered through readings, audio files, videos, and adobe connect software. Students will need to access online texts, websites, and use adobe connect through D2L. Assignments, discussions, essays, and quizzes will be delivered through D2L. Videos, if and when used, will be accessed through online databases at the library such as Films on Demand.

**Core Competencies:**

Students will be introduced to central beliefs, practices, and developments of religious and philosophical traditions of thinking through Asia. Emphasis will be placed on learning religion in Asia as an evolving and living cultural experience that is shared across geographies but also has unique aspects. Religion will be examined as a phenomenon that speaks to overlapping human needs and aspirations. However, students will also learn about how the application of the concept religion is applied in different ways across Asia.

**Course Requirements:**

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
October 5 <sup>th</sup>	Test 1: Religion & Hinduism	25%	
November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Test 2: Buddhism & Sikhism	25%	
November 30 <sup>th</sup>	Test 3: Confucianism & Daoism	20%	
December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Test 4: Japan & Shinto	10%	
Recurring	Discussion Forum Responses	10%	
Recurring	Reading Quizzes	10%	

There is no registrar-scheduled final examination for 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, usually used within the Department of Classics and Religion:

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

**Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments:**

Missing a test due to illness or an emergency requires notifying the instructor within 48 hours of the absence. Student must at time of notification provide supporting documentation (from doctor, counselor, accident report, etc.). If documentation is not provided within 48 hours, the student will not be able to sit the exam and will receive a grade of zero for that test.

**Expectations for student conduct in this course:**

Students will be expected to be respectful, courteous, and professional in their correspondences with the instructor and one another. This includes professional and thoughtful language, addressing one another by name, and providing a safe learning environment.

As this is a web-based course, students will be expected to communicate through email or D2L any difficulties or questions they may have regarding ideas, practices, beliefs, etc. that they are unfamiliar with.

**Syllabus:**

A complete syllabus will be made available the first week of class.

**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 (section K, which can be found here: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>). If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor, or librarian staff.

**Student Accommodations**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf).

**Desire 2 Learn (D2L) Help**

Go to <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students> for Student Help and FAQ's about D2L. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are also available on this website.

## **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

- For program planning and advice, students in the Faculty of Arts will contact The Arts Students' Centre (ASC). Drop in at SS102, call at 403-220-3580 or email at [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@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 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.

## **Freedom of Information and Privacy**

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP): <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act indicates that assignments given by you to your course instructor will remain confidential unless otherwise stated before submission. The assignment cannot be returned to anyone else without your express permission. Similarly, any information about yourself that you share with your course instructor will not be given to anyone else without your permission. As one consequence, students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number on each subsequent page.

## **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.

## **Health and Wellness**

There are services available to students to help with physical and mental health, including the SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>.

Learn more about the Campus Mental Health Strategy here: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>.