



**FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION
COURSE OUTLINE
Fall 2022**

COURSE NUMBER: RELS 203

COURSE NAME: Asian Religions

PRE/CO-REQUISITES: None

CLASSROOM LOCATION: ICT 122

CLASS DAYS & TIMES : In-person, 11:00 11:50 am (M,W,F)

INSTRUCTOR NAME AND CONTACT: Durga Kale (durga.kale1@ucalgary.ca)

OFFICE HOURS and LOCATION: Wednesday 1-2pm or by appointment (Location TBA)

INSTRUCTOR EMAIL POLICY:

Please note that all course communications must occur through your @ucalgary.ca email, and I will respond to emails sent via student's @ucalgary.ca emails within 48 hours on weekdays. No emails on weekends.

I will not respond to emails received between 0-24 hours immediately after the grades are posted.

Please send all your queries/questions on grades 24hours (1 day) AFTER the grades are posted on D2L.

NAME & EMAIL CONTACT OF TEACHING ASSISTANTS: Qian Zhang (qian.zhang1@ucalgary.ca) and TBA

COURSE CALENDAR STATEMENT: Introduction to Eastern religions – Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course on Asian Religions (RELS 203) provides a brief overview of religious traditions from South and East Asia. The course covers broad topics on Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism; with a short module to introduce Shinto and Daoist (Tao) traditions in Japan and China respectively [time-permitting]. The course is geared towards presenting the core philosophies of Asian religions and their worldview adapted in the modern world.

RELS 203 adopts theoretical discussion and student-centered discussion through examples in class. Student should expect moderate to high engagement and reading tasks for this course. Students will engage in interactive class discussions, and critical reading in peer-groups.

Along with an introduction to Asian Religions, the course focuses on introducing research in the broader field of Religious Studies, to foster critical thinking skills, and writing practice.

***COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate ability to analyze and discuss central ideas on Asian Religions
2. Articulate the impact of Asian Religious traditions on the modern society
3. Use skills such as peer-group discussion, and exploratory writing
4. Demonstrate appropriate social behaviours and knowledge of cross-cultural differences

***LEARNING RESOURCES**

Required Readings, Textbooks, and Learning Materials (available at the UCalgary Bookstore)

Hawkins, Bradley (2004). Introduction to Asian Religions. London, UK: Pearson

Shraya, Vivek (2014). She of the Mountains (illustrated). Vancouver, Canada: Arsenal Pulp Press

Additional weekly readings, including peer-reviewed journal articles, and material from UofC library website will be posted on D2L

***LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS**

There is a D2L site for this course that contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2L.ucalgary.ca).

CLASS SCHEDULE

University of Calgary academic schedule: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>.

Dates	Topic	Reading material + assessments and class activities
September 7 - 16	Introduction to the course structure Hindu society in ancient South Asia Hinduism – core beliefs and philosophy	Hawkins, B. “Introduction to Asian Religion” pages 29-36 Additional material on D2L
September 19 – 28 No classes on Sept 30 (National Truth and Reconciliation Day)	Hindu Devotionalism Hindu performance and architecture Brief review of Hindu mythology – Shiva, Vishnu, Ganesha and Devi (goddess)	Hawkins, B. “Introduction to Asian Religion” pages 49-62 Shraya, V. “She of the Mountains” Class participation graded component (Sept 21 st , Sept 26 th) Selections form primary sources on D2L
October 3 – 7	Hinduism in modern world Introduction to Buddhism	Hawkins, B. “Introduction to Asian Religion” pages 88-99 Class participation graded component (Oct 3 rd) Hinduism Exam (Oct 7 th)

October 12- 21 No classes on October 10 (Thanksgiving holiday)	Buddhist philosophy and core teachings Buddhism in South Asia	Hawkins, B. "Introduction to Asian Religion" pages 109 – 133 Video and additional reading on Buddhist texts on D2L Class participation graded component (Oct 17 th)
October 24 - 28	Theoretical discussion on presentation through religion Asian identity and religion Examples from Canada Tentative guest lecture Review of upcoming assessments	Book chapter and readings to be uploaded on D2L Class participation component – peer- group discussions (Oct 22 nd and 24 th)
October 31 and November 2 – 4	Buddhism in China and Japan (Discussion on Shinto and Dao (Tao) philosophy, time permitting) Buddhism in the Modern World	Hawkins, B. "Introduction to Asian Religion" pages 137-142, 156-162, 190- 195, 288-304 Additional reading material and videos on D2L Class participation graded component (Oct 31 st) Buddhism exam (Nov 4 th)
November 8-12 TERM BREAK, No Classes		
November 14 - 18	Introduction to Jainism Jain philosophy and core beliefs	Hawkins, B. "Introduction to Asian Religion" pages 101 – 105 Reflection essay due (Nov 14 th) online on D2L Class participation graded component (Nov 16 th)
November 21- 30	Introduction to Sikhism Sikh philosophy and core beliefs	Hawkins, B. "Introduction to Asian Religion" pages 77 – 86 Additional reading material and videos on D2L Class discussion component (Nov 21 st , Nov 28 th)
December 2 – 7	Review of Sikhism and Jainism Discussion on reflection essay assignment	Jainism and Sikhism Exam (Dec 7 th)

***EXAMINATIONS**

In-class examinations (3 in number for this course) are “closed book”, ie. no study material or electronic devices will be permitted. Please review the following section for other assessment components

***ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS**

Group discussion/Class Participation (Ongoing) (40%): Students will participate in the class discussion in a group of 5-6 students. There will be 10 classes with graded participation component, as will be declared at the beginning of the course and timetable of activities will be posted on D2L. The activities include but are not limited to: critical analysis of selection from a primary text, analysis of a news article, and a discussion on video/movie presented in class.

Out of 10 instances of group/class participation modules, best 8 will be calculated for the final grade (5% each x 8 = 40% of the final grade)

Aligned course outcomes: 1,2,3,4

Written tests (Hinduism and Buddhism) (20% each): Written exams with multiple choice questions and short answers based on each tradition. These exams will be held in class, during the class time.

Written test (Jainism and Sikhism) (15%): Written text on the last day of the class, follows the same format as above.

Aligned course outcomes: 1,2

Short reflection essay (5%): Short essay on pre-discussed topic due on November 14th, 2022 after the reading break.

Aligned course outcomes: 1,2,3

The marking sheet and criteria for each assessment will be posted on the course’s D2L shell.

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
Ongoing (10 graded instances in class declared beforehand)	Group discussion/Class Participation (Ongoing) (5% each for 8 (best out of 10) attempts calculated for the final grade)	40
October 7 th , 2022	Written exam (Hinduism)	20
November 4 th , 2022	Written exam (Buddhism)	20
November 14 th , 2022	Short reflection essay	5
December 5 th , 2022	Written Exam (Jainism and Sikhism)	15

MISSED OR LATE ASSIGNMENTS*

If students miss a required component of the course, they must contact the instructor in writing within 24 hours to discuss options to submit and/or make-up for that component. Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

***GRADING**

See the University's undergraduate system:

96-100 = A+	80-84.9 = B+	65-69.9 = C+	53-54.9 = D+
90-95.9 = A	75-79.9 = B	60-64.9 = C	50-52.9 = D
85-89.9 = A-	70-74.9 = B-	55-59.9 = C-	< 50 = F

Notes:

- A grade of "C-" or below may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation, see specific faculty regulations.
- The number of "D" and "D+" grades acceptable for credit is subject to specific undergraduate faculty promotional policy.

A student's final grade for the course is the sum of the separate assignments. It is not necessary to pass each assignment separately in order to pass the course.

EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITING

All written assignments (including, to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Sources used in research papers must be properly documented. If you need help with your writing, you may use the writing support services in the Learning Commons. The students could seek advice of the Teaching Assistant (TA) to locate requisite services on campus.

For further information, please refer to the official online University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, E. Course Information, E.2: Writing Across the Curriculum:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be fully present and engaged in class activities and discussions (10 instances of graded participation). These are part of the participation grade, as outlined in the assessment components section above. If students miss a class session that is included as a component of participation, they must contact the instructor within 24 hours to discuss options to make-up for that component.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

Please submit the Reflection Essay assignment electronically to the Dropbox in D2L. Assignments may be submitted in Word or PDF format. Assignments should have a file name as follows: "First Name_Last Name" (e.g. Natalie_Timbo). Assignments must be submitted by 11:59pm on their due date. It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted.

CONDUCT

Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. As members of the University community, students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

USE OF INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES IN CLASS

The use of laptop and mobile devices is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. Please refrain from accessing websites and resources that may be distracting to you or for other learners during class time. Students are responsible for being aware of the University's Internet and email use policy, which can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/electronic-communications-policy.pdf>

COURSE EVALUATIONS AND STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the standard University Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) and Faculty course evaluation forms. A midterm evaluation may also be included to provide students an opportunity to provide feedback, for the instructor to adjust their approaches to teaching and learning, and to continuously improve the course. Students are welcome to discuss the process and content of the course at any time with the instructor.

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY POLICIES AND SUPPORTS

***ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

***ACADEMIC ACCOMODATION**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>). 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.

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/.

***INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

***FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY**

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

***COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.

***MEDIA RECORDING**

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf

****Media recording for lesson capture***

The instructor may use media recordings to capture the delivery of a lecture. These recordings are intended to be used for lecture capture only and will not be used for any other purpose. Although the recording device will be fixed on the Instructor, in the event that incidental student participation is recorded, the instructor will ensure that any identifiable content (video or audio) is masked, or will seek consent to include the identifiable student content to making the content available on University approved platforms.

****Media recording for self-assessment of teaching practices***

The instructor may use media recordings as a tool for self-assessment of their teaching practices. Although the recording device will be fixed on the instructor, it is possible that student participation in the course may be inadvertently captured. These recordings will be used for instructor self-assessment only and will not be used for any other purpose.

***Media recording for the assessment of student learning**

The instructor may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

***OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk