

University of Calgary
Faculty of Humanities
Department of Religious Studies

05/05/04

RELS 203 L29 – Spring 2005 - World Religions – Eastern
Class Dates: Saturdays, May 7, 14, 21, 28, June 4, 11, 18, 1-5 pm,
and Monday, June 20, 5:30-9:30 pm
Final examination – June 25

Instructor: Yumiko Onozawa
Office: SS 1323
Office Hours: Saturdays 11 am to 12 pm, or by appointment
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Required Textbook: Theodore M. Ludwig, *The Sacred Paths of the East*, 2nd ed., Prince Hall, 2001

Course Description:

This course will introduce Eastern religious traditions that have been practiced in Asia, focusing on India, Tibet, China, and Japan. We will explore Hinduism, Buddhism with its development in India, Tibet, China, and Japan, and other religious traditions in China (Confucianism and Daoism) and Japan (Shintoism). By studying the historical developments of each tradition and its social, political, and cultural contexts, we will attempt to understand how philosophy and religious practices have been shaped and affected human life. The textbook will be the main source, but we will also make use of video and visual aids to explore the multiple dimensions of each tradition.

Core Competencies:

Students will learn about a diversity of religious phenomena and concerns, such as philosophy, worldviews, morality, rituals, festivals, and so on. When studying Eastern religious traditions, for the sake of critical analysis, it is important at times to consciously suspend preconceived ideas derived from Western religious thought. When approaching the material of this course, one should try to avoid claims or views that are based on one's beliefs when applied to the interpretation of these matters and related topics.

Course Requirements:

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| 1. Mid-term Exam 1: | 30% (Hinduism) | May 28 |
| 2. Mid-term Exam 2: | 30% (Buddhism in India, Tibet, China, and Japan) | June 11 |
| 3. Final Exam: | 40% (Chinese and Japanese religious traditions including Buddhism) | June 25 |

Each exam consists of three sections: fill in the blanks, short answers, and a short essay. The first two sections contain knowledge-based questions. The short essay question requires students to demonstrate both knowledge of class materials and critical analysis for the subjects.

N.B. Students are encouraged to discuss issues in class. Therefore, reading the textbook is regarded as an essential requirement prior to each class.

Absence from Examinations:

The request to re-schedule exam dates will not be accepted except for the following reasons: 1) severe medical condition of students or their close relatives and 2) attending funeral of family or relatives. In either case, the student must provide a doctor's note, a police document, a death certification, or

newspaper obituary. If the student is absent from any examinations without reason and permission, he/she will receive a grade of 0 (zero) for the missed examination(s).

Class Schedule:

May 7th Introduction to Religion and Hinduism
May 14th Hinduism
May 21st Hinduism (the first half) and Buddhism (the second half)
May 28th **Mid-term Exam #1 (1 hour 15 min) and Buddhism**
June 4th Buddhism
June 11th **Mid-term Exam #2 (1 hour 15 min) and Chinese religious traditions**
June 18th Chinese religious traditions
June 20th Japanese religious traditions
June 25th **Final Exam (2 hours)**

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 - 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.

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:

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 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.

Withdrawing from courses:

Please note the information regarding withdrawals and fee refunds in the Academic Schedule of the current University Calendar.

Recording of lectures:

Recording any part of any lectures in any form must be first approved by the instructor in writing and is for individual private study only. See current Calendar, Tape recording of Lectures.

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>.