

University of Calgary
Faculty of Humanities
Department of Religious Studies
[May 5, 2005]

Religious Studies 203 L20 - Spring 2005

Introduction to Eastern Religions

Time: TR 2:00-4:45
Instructor: Dr. Michael Hawley
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Office Hours: by appointment
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Textbook

Oxtoby, Willard G. (ed.) World Religions: Eastern Traditions. (2nd Edition) Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2002.

Course Description

This course is a survey of the major religious traditions of India, China, and Japan. The course will introduce students to the Hindu, Buddhist, Confucian, Daoist, and Shinto traditions. We will focus primarily on the historical development of these religious traditions. Particular attention will be given to the historical context from which these traditions arose, the worldviews and goals they articulate, the development and content of their authoritative literature, and to their religious practices. By the end of the course students should have an understanding of the important concepts, ideas, and historical developments within each of these religious traditions.

Films will be shown to supplement the lecture and reading material. The films offer "insider" perspectives and provide students with the opportunity to experience visually the religious traditions as they are expressed by some of their adherents today.

Core Competencies

This course provides students the opportunity to develop a wide range of critical and practical skills necessary for reflective thinking and the communication of ideas. Over and above gaining an introductory knowledge of the major eastern religious traditions, this course challenges students to reflect upon and assess how we and those we study organize, live in, and relate to the world. It challenges students to identify and to call into question the presuppositions, central concepts, agendas, and cultural biases of both the scholar and the subjects of our inquiry. The analytical and self-reflective skills emphasized in this course will find application in the bulk of courses offered at the university as well as in life outside the academic setting.

Course Requirements

This is a Spring session course and classes are held twice per week. The amount of material to be covered in each session is significant. A missed class has the potential to compromise the student's understanding of the material, and ultimately the student's grade. Therefore, students are strongly encouraged not only to attend class regularly but to be self-motivated and proactive in their reading and study habits.

Quizzes

There will be five short (15 minutes) quizzes each worth 5% of the final grade. The quizzes will be held at the beginning of class (2:00 - 2:15pm) on May 24, May 26, June 7, June 9, and June 23.

Tests

There will be two in-class tests each worth 25% of the final grade. The first test will be held on May 31. The second test will be on June 16. The second test will **not** be cumulative. The second test will cover only the material from the lectures, readings and films since the first test.

Final Exam

There will be one registrar-scheduled final exam worth 25% of the final grade. The final exam will **not** be cumulative. The final exam will deal only with the material covered in the lectures, readings, and films since the previous test.

Summary of Requirements

<u>Requirement</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Date</u>
Quiz #1	5%	May 24
Quiz #2	5%	May 26
Test #1	25%	May 31
Quiz #3	5%	June 7
Quiz #4	5%	June 9
Test #2	25%	June 16
Quiz #5	5%	June 23
Final Exam	25%	To Be Scheduled by the Registrar

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.

Policy Regarding Missed Requirements

Quiz and test dates are firm. Without acceptable documentation (i.e. a medical certificate, police report, bereavement notice, confirmation of religious observance, or court summons) or without PRIOR arrangement with the instructor, missed requirements will be awarded an "F". This policy is intended to encourage diligence and integrity on the part of each student as well as to uphold the principles of fairness and equality with respect to other students in the class.

Academic Accommodation: If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and 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.

Intellectual Honesty: Students should be familiar with University regulations regarding academic integrity (University Calendar, p. 48-52).

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an **F** on the assignment and possibly also an **F** on the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that "*plagiarism exists when:*

- a) *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),*
- b) *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,*
- c) *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or*
- d) *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted."

Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

Safewalk Program: "You don't have to walk alone...." Call 220-5333 and a member of the Safewalk Team will walk you to your car, the LRT, or any destination on campus. Safewalk is available to all students, staff and faculty any time of the day or night. Look for the Campus Security Help Phones located throughout the University. Please don't hesitate to call!

Withdrawing from courses: Please note the information regarding withdrawals and fee refunds in the Academic Schedule of the 2002/03 University Calendar.

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>.

Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule

May	12	Introduction Religion? Religious Studies? (pp. 449-467, 1-9) Indus Valley Civilization (pp. 13-23)	
	17	The Vedas: Sāṁhitās, Brāhmaṁas, Upaniṁads (pp. 23-31)	
	19	Philosophy: Vedānta, Sāṁkhya and Yoga (pp. 50-55)	
	24	Quiz #1 Law: Laws of Manu (pp. 46-50, 86-94) Devotion: Bhakti (pp. 32-46, 63-65)	
	26	Quiz #2 Devotion: Bhakti (pp. 32-46, 63-65) [Film] <i>Hinduism: 330 Million Gods</i>	
	31	TEST #1 Introduction to Buddhist Traditions (pp. 199-223)	
June	2	Theravāda (pp. 227-229, 232-238, 242-243) [Film] <i>Footprint of the Buddha</i>	
	7	Quiz #3 Mahāyāna (pp. 243-250) Vajrayāna (pp. 55-56, 252-258)	
	9	Quiz #4 Introduction to Chinese and Japanese Buddhist Traditions (pp. 258-264) Tiantai/Tendai (pp. 266-267, 281)	
	14	Chan/Zen (pp. 268-273, 283-284) Pure Land (pp. 250-251, 273-274, 284-285) [Film] <i>Land of the Disappearing Buddha</i>	
	16	TEST #2 Introduction to Religion in China (pp. 317-332, 336-338)	
	21	Confucianism (pp. 352-365) Philosophical Daoism: Laozi and Zhuangzi (pp. 382-389)	
	23	Quiz #5 [Film] <i>A Question of Balance</i> Shinto (pp. 282-283, 341-349)	

Final Exam Period: June 27-29, 2005