

University of Calgary  
Faculty of Humanities  
Department of Religious Studies

05/07/05 - **Revised**

Summer 2005 - RELS 203 L60 - World Religions – Eastern

Instructor: Yumi Onozawa  
Class Time: M/W 14:00-16:45 p.m.  
Office: SS 1323  
Office Hours: M/W, 13:00-14:00 p.m.  
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(N.B. E-mails will be read and answered only during Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00am-12:00pm)

**Required Textbook:** Theodore M. Ludwig, *The Sacred Paths of the East*, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 (Shinto). 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 by 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 variety 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. One should try to avoid claims or views that are based on one's beliefs when interpreting the material of this course.

**Course Requirements:**

- |            |  |   |
|------------|--|---|
| 1. Quiz 1: | 5 % (Hinduism)                                   | July 13 <sup>th</sup> , 14:00- (20 min)         |
| 2. Exam 1: | 25% (Hinduism)                                   | July 18 <sup>th</sup> , 14:00- (1 hour)         |
| 3. Exam 2: | 40% (Buddhism in India, Tibet, China, and Japan) | July 27 <sup>th</sup> , 14:00- (1 hour 20 mins) |
| 4. Exam 3: | 20% (Chinese religious traditions)               | August 8 <sup>th</sup> , 14:00- (1 hour)        |
| 5. Exam 4: | 10% (Japanese religious traditions)              | August 15 <sup>th</sup> , 14:00- (40 min)       |

Format:

**Quiz.**

The quiz consists of 20 fill-in-the-blanks. This small quiz will assess familiarity with the important religious terms and concepts of Eastern religions.

**Exams.**

- 1) Exam 1 consists of two sections: 6 short answers and a short essay.
- 2) Exam 2 consists of three sections: 20 fill-in-the-blanks, 6 short answers, and a short essay.
- 2) Exam 3 consists of three sections: 10 fill-in-the-blanks, 4 short answers, and a short essay.
- 3) Exam 4 consists of two sections: 10 fill-in-the-blanks and 4 short answers.

Contents:

Fill in the blanks and short answers are designed for testing knowledge and information on class materials including textbook, class notes, video and other visual aids (photos). The short essay question requires students to demonstrate both knowledge of class materials and critical analysis.

**Absence from Examinations:**

The request to re-schedule exam dates will not be considered except for the following reasons: 1) severe medical condition of students or their close relatives or 2) attendance at 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 examination other than the listed reasons, he/she will receive a 0 (zero) grade for the missed examination.

**Class Schedule:**

July

4 (M) Introduction to Eastern Religions (1<sup>st</sup> half of the class) and Hinduism (2<sup>nd</sup> half: Early development to Vedic teachings)

6 (W) Hinduism continued (Vedic teachings and Epic era)

11 (M) Hinduism continued (Hindu philosophy, rituals, and sectarian movements)

13 (W) Quiz 1 (20 min) and Buddhism (2<sup>nd</sup> half: Life of the Buddha and his teaching)

18 (M) Exam 1 (1 hour) and Buddhism continued (2<sup>nd</sup> half: Early Buddhism)

20 (W) Buddhism continued (Mahayana Buddhism and Buddhism in Tibet, China, and Japan)

27 (W) Exam 2 (1 hour 20 min) and Chinese religious traditions (2<sup>nd</sup> half: Early civilization to Confucianism)

August

3 (W) Chinese religious traditions continued (Taoism and popular beliefs)

8 (M) Exam 3 (1 hour) and Japanese religious traditions (2<sup>nd</sup> half: Shinto)

10 (W) Japanese religious traditions continued

15 (M) Exam 4 (40 min)

N.B.

1. Students are encouraged to discuss religious issues in class. Therefore, reading the textbook is regarded as an essential requirement prior to each class.
2. Class notes will not be distributed to students for any reason. Students must take responsibility to catch up on any classes if they are absent.
3. Students are encouraged to see the instructor during office hours if they have any questions. Phone conversation and/or e-mail response should be considered secondary alternatives.

## 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](mailto:gnosis@ucalgary.ca) or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.