



**FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION  
COURSE OUTLINE  
Winter 2023**

**COURSE NUMBER:** Religious Studies 203 L01

**COURSE NAME:** Asian Religions

**CLASSROOM LOCATION:** ENA 101

**CLASS DAYS & TIMES:** Tuesdays/Thursdays, 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.

**INSTRUCTOR NAME:** James B. Apple, Ph.D.

**UCALGARY EMAIL:** [jbapple@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jbapple@ucalgary.ca)

**UCALGARY PHONE:** 403-220-8267

**OFFICE HOURS:** Thursdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m., or by appointment

**INSTRUCTOR EMAIL POLICY:**

E-mails will be responded to within 24 hours during weekdays. I do not reply to email messages that are poorly written, unclear, or disrespectful. Emails must be sent from a University of Calgary (@ucalgary.ca) email address.

**COURSE CALENDAR STATEMENT:**

University of Calgary Policy about course outlines may be found in Academic Regulations, Section E, of the *University Calendar* : <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-1.html>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Asian Religions is a general introduction to the academic study of Asian religious traditions. The course familiarizes students with the major religious and philosophical traditions of select geographical areas in South, Central, and East Asia. While refining the skills of empathetic description and non-evaluative comparison, the course also examines religion as an area of academic study, examining the function of religion in relation to human beliefs, social practices, and culture in general. A primary goal of the course is for all students to learn to define, accurately describe, and compare in a non-evaluative manner, various religious traditions within Asia so as to discover significant similarities and differences in various forms of human thought and behavior.

**Course Organization and Requirements:**

The course is organized on a lecture/discussion basis following the topics and readings listed in the tentative schedule (see below). Students are expected to keep up with the reading schedule. Each student is required to write five examinations. The exams will be multiple choice, identification of terms and concepts, and/or short answer questions. Students should consult the list of Key Terms at the end of every chapter in the required text.

### **Core Competencies:**

Students should take seriously the fact that this is an introductory course. The examination of the various traditions will therefore be in the nature of an overview rather than an in-depth analysis. And, for the most part, the course will be descriptive in nature, introducing students to the salient characteristics and terminology of major traditions that have their historical beginnings in India, China, and Japan. The readings, lectures and discussions will be directed to this descriptive task. The tests are intended to encourage critical reflection on aspects of the religious traditions themselves.

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

Willard G. Oxtoby & Roy C. Amore, Editors. (2014) *World Religions: Eastern Traditions. 5th Edition*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Note: The textbook listed above is the required textbook edition. If a student wishes to use any earlier editions of the textbook, it is the student's responsibility to compare the older edition with the edition required for the course (i.e., the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition) to determine the material that may be different between the editions. If a student has access to an online version that is without page numbers, it is the responsibility of the student to synchronize the readings with the required textbook.

Additional weekly readings, including peer-reviewed journal articles, are posted on D2L.

### **\*LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS**

Principles and guidelines for supplementary fees that may be associated with additional technology requirements for courses can be found at: [www.ucalgary.ca/calendar-scheduling/supplementary-fees](http://www.ucalgary.ca/calendar-scheduling/supplementary-fees).

There is a **D2L** site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see [d2L.ucalgary.ca](http://d2L.ucalgary.ca)).

### **Tentative Lecture Material and Reading Schedule:**

The following lecture schedule is subject to change. It may be modified if it appears to the instructor that the material is not being adequately covered in the allotted time. The amount of time devoted to particular topics is contingent on the instructor's sense of what deserves greater emphasis as the course progresses. **Remember, to be aware of changes occurring in the schedule and to receive any crucial information regarding the course, attention to course announcements on D2L is necessary.** Keep in mind that all lectures constitute material that may appear on examinations. Remember, too, that it is not possible for the instructor to explain all the material contained in the readings—it is up to students to be familiar with the readings regardless of the extent to which the assigned texts are discussed in course lectures.

**Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule (Note D2L= Desire to Learn Link)**

January 10-20	Course description Introduction to academic study of world religions. Overview of Geography, History and Religions of Asia	Apple, What is the Academic Study of Religion? [Desire2Learn] McCutcheon-Definition of Religion, pp. 1-13 [Desire2Learn] Oxtoby: 4-26 (Introduction);
Jan. 24-26	Introduction to Hinduism. The Beginnings of Hinduism: The Indus Valley Civilization and the Vedas. Classical Hinduism <b>[Exam #1 Thursday, January 26]</b>	Oxtoby: 30-39; The Upanisads (Oxtoby: 39-43). The Epics and Deities of Hinduism (Oxtoby: 43-55). Hindu Philosophical Schools. Oxtoby: 55-72
Jan.31-Feb. 2	Major Sects and Philosophies of Hinduism Hindu Rituals. Women in Hinduism. Modern Hinduism	Hindu Rituals and Worship. Oxtoby: 72-88;  Oxtoby: 88-93.  Oxtoby: 93-96
Feb. 7-9	Hindu Rituals and Festivals Women in Hinduism. Modern Hinduism	Oxtoby: 96-107  <b>[Desire2Learn]: Link</b>
Feb.14-16	Jain Traditions  Jain Origins and Teachings <b>[Exam #2 Thursday, February 16]</b>	Oxtoby: 160-169 Oxtoby: 169-175 Oxtoby: 175-185 [Desire2Learn]: Link
Feb. 21-23 <b>Fall Term Break</b>	<b>[Fall Term Break, No lectures Feb. 21, 23]</b>	
Feb. 28-March 2	Jain Practices  Reverence of Images and Jains Today	Oxtoby: 185-197. <b>[Desire2Learn]: Link</b>
March 7-9	Introduction to Buddhism Life of Prince Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha <b>Exam #3 Thursday, March 9]</b>	The Buddha and his teachings. Oxtoby: 200-213. The Nobles' Four Truths. Oxtoby:213-218 Councils and Communities. Oxtoby:218-224
March 14-16	Theravada Buddhism Mahayana Buddhism	Theravada Buddhism. Oxtoby:224-232
March 21-23	Vajrayana Buddhism and Mahayana in East Asia	Mahayana Buddhism in India. Oxtoby: 232-248; Vajrayana Buddhism. Oxtoby: 232-248
March 28-30	<b>[Exam #4 Tuesday, March 28]</b>  Japanese Traditions	Japanese Religions overview. Oxtoby: 360-369; Origins and Differentiation. Oxtoby:369-382 Differentiation. Oxtoby:
April 4-6	Shinto in Japan	The Way of the Kami. Oxtoby:383-390; Shinto myth and ritual; Contemporary Shinto. Oxtoby:390-399
April 11	<b>[Exam #5 Tuesday, April 11]</b>	

**\*\*\*THIS COURSE WILL NOT HAVE A REGISTRAR-SCHEDULED FINAL EXAMINATION\*\*\***

**\*ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS**

Course Requirements and Weighting:

1. Preparation of reading assignments, regular, wakeful attendance, and attention to the **D2L course web site**.
2. Examination #1, 15 points (15%) = Study of Religion
3. Examination #2, 20 points (20%) = Hinduism
4. Examination #3, 20 points (20%) = Jainism
5. Examination #4, 30 points (30%) = Buddhism
6. Examination #5, 15 points (15%) = East Asian Buddhism, Japanese Traditions, Shinto

Schedule of Exams and Essays	Evaluation	Required pass/fail
1. Exam #1 in class on <b>Thursday, January 26</b>	Exam #1 (15%)	no
2. Exam #2 in class on <b>Thursday, February 16</b>	Exam #2 (20%)	no
3. Exam #3 in class on <b>Thursday, March 9</b>	Exam #3 (20%)	no
4. Exam #4 in class on <b>Tuesday, March 28</b>	Exam #4 (30%)	no
5. Exam #5 in class on <b>Tuesday, April 11</b>	Exam #5 (15%)	no

**Course Requirements explained:**

1. Attendance and participation: Regular attendance, preparation of reading assignments, and class participation are expected in a university-level class. These are not graded requirements, but obviously they will impact your performance in the course. If you must miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and to ask a fellow student to lend you their notes.

Classroom sessions will consist of lectures on the scheduled subject matter related to the overall theoretical objective of the course. Students must prepare the material before each meeting and be ready to comprehend the topics to be covered. As much as possible the lectures attempt to complement the required readings or address related issues not treated extensively in the assigned books. During such sessions, students must have knowledge of the required readings. Participation in class thus plays a significant role in conducting lectures. Given the nature of the lectures, and the fact that the examinations will test knowledge of material discussed in lectures as well as the readings, it cannot be overemphasized that attendance is necessary and to your advantage. Your attendance in class allows you to participate in and contribute to the class by raising questions and offering insights. More importantly, your attendance allows you to hear what specific points are being emphasized. Students are reminded that presence at lectures, participation in classroom discussion and projects, and the completion of assignments are important components of most courses, and students will serve their interests best by regular attendance. Those who choose not to attend must assume whatever risks are involved.

2. Examinations: Examinations may consist of multiple-choice, short identification, and/or essay questions, with the possibility of some objective questions, as well. Some time in the preceding class will be devoted to review.

**IMPORTANT: D2L Course content is NOT available on the day of an examination. Students need to ensure that they have completed preparation for the test before the day of the test.**

Weighting of Examinations:

Assessment weighting for the examinations identified above will not be changed to accommodate student requests. This policy is in accordance with University of Calgary Calendar Academic Regulations E.1 (e) Course Outlines, “Weighting may not be changed during the term or at the time of grade reporting.”

#### **MISSED OR LATE ASSIGNMENTS\***

If you cannot write a test on the scheduled date due to a sudden illness or emergency, you must contact the instructor in writing within 24 hours to discuss options to submit and/or make-up for that component. Transfer of weight from a missed test to another course requirement will not be allowed in this course. Students must complete all course components to complete the course.

#### **\*GRADING**

The following link provides information on the University of Calgary’s undergraduate grading system.  
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme (standardized 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

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. ***In this course there will be no rounding up of final grades.***

**Academic Honesty:** Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contributions of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarism on any assignments or examinations are regarded as extremely serious academic offenses. Students are advised to consult pp 48-51 of the University Calendar which provides a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with plagiarism, cheating, and other academic misconduct. If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor.

## **ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION**

### **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**

Scientific evidence demonstrates that use of cellphones lowers student achievement as well as damage the brain (see links below). Use of cellphones are not permitted while attending class. Cell phones must be turned off and not taken out in class for texting or any other purposes. The in-class wearing of earphones or similar devices is not permitted. Computers should not be used for watching videos or playing computer games.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/mental-wealth/201402/gray-matters-too-much-screen-time-damages-the-brain>

<https://blog.chron.com/sciguy/2013/12/study-students-who-use-cellphones-more-get-lower-grades/>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/ca/blog/memory-medic/201303/why-writing-hand-could-make-you-smarter>

No recordings are to be made of lectures or class sessions without written, advance permission. If recordings are made and published in any form, during or after the course, you may be charged with academic misconduct and/or be awarded an F in the course.

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/](http://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 (if applicable)**

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](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.

**\* FREE EXPRESSION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**

The University of Calgary is a public comprehensive academic and research university that supports free expression. Free expression means the freedom to investigate, comment, listen, gather, challenge and critique subject to the law and, on University of Calgary campuses, to University policies and procedures related to the functioning of the University. For more information on Free Expression at the University of Calgary see:

<https://ucalgary.ca/provost/strategic-initiatives/statement-free-expression>



**\*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