



**FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION  
COURSE OUTLINE  
Fall 2021**

**COURSE NUMBER: Religious Studies 703.16**

**COURSE NAME: Studies in Eastern Religions (Advanced Studies in Asian Thought): History of Buddhist Thought in India**

**CLASSROOM LOCATION: Online.**

**CLASS DAYS & TIMES:** Asynchronous elements will be recorded for this seminar and uploaded on to **Desire2Learn (D2L)**. Synchronous elements of the seminar will be delivered via Zoom and run on Mondays, 2:00-3:15 p.m.

**INSTRUCTOR NAME: James B. Apple**  
**UCALGARY EMAIL: [jbapple@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jbapple@ucalgary.ca)**  
**UCALGARY PHONE: 403-220-8267**

**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:**

This seminar examines the history of Buddhist Thought in India. Buddhists like to place emphasis not on belief as such but on practicing, following a path, and knowing, directly seeing. This direct 'seeing things the way they really are' is held to free a person from the depths of suffering through cognitive transformation. By 'Buddhist thought' we mean, in this general context, the discussions, speculations, and arguments concerning 'how things really are.' In this seminar we will try to understand this issue through the works of various Buddhist philosophers beginning with Śākyamuni Buddha (480-400 BCE) through to Candrakīrti (ca. 570-650 CE). In examining the primary sources (via translations), we will question the notion of "schools" of Buddhism as historical realities while accepting the importance of "schools" for subsequent traditions. The goal is to perceive continuities between the works of philosophers while recognizing their unique attempts to solve some persistent philosophical problems.

## **COURSE DELIVERY:**

This course will take place online via D2L and Zoom. Asynchronous elements will be periodically recorded for this unit and uploaded on to D2L. The synchronous part of this seminar will be dedicated to addressing questions that may arise from discussions or course readings.

To best succeed in the course, students should read the seminar readings, listen to the asynchronous elements using the D2L learning environment and attend the synchronous Zoom sessions. When unable to participate live due to a time difference or unforeseen circumstances, inform me in advance, then listen to the relevant recordings that you missed and read the scheduled course readings.

Synchronous Classes during the Fall Term run on Mondays, 2:00–3:15 on the following dates:

13 September, 2021  
20 September, 2021  
27 September, 2021  
4 October, 2021  
18 October, 2021  
25 October, 2021  
1 November, 2021  
15 November, 2021  
22 November, 2021  
29 November, 2021  
6 December, 2021

**Course Organization and Requirements:** The course is organized on a lecture/discussion basis following the topics and readings listed in the tentative schedule (separately posted on the course **D2L** website). Students are expected to keep up with the reading schedule and participate in the synchronous class meetings. Each student is required to write three critical response essays and a term paper. Students should consult the posted readings and required textbooks to become familiar with concepts utilized in the course. The instructions and parameters for the critical response essays and term paper will be posted and distributed on the course **D2L** website.

**Core Competencies:** Students will gain university level skills in the study and understanding of Asian thought and religious philosophy. Students will become familiar with the works of Buddhist philosophers while recognizing their unique attempts to solve some persistent philosophical problems.

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

Gethin, Rupert. (1998) *The Foundations of Buddhism*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Williams, Paul. (2013) *Buddhist Thought: A Complete Introduction to the Indian Tradition*. 2nd Edition. Routledge.

**D2L posted readings and links to specific readings.**

The **D2L** course web site will list important announcements, electronic readings, important links to web pages, and downloadable documents.

**\*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)).

***\* For online, remote or blended courses:***

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

**Class Schedule**

A detailed class schedule will be posted separately on the course D2L site.

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

**\*ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS**

Course Requirements and Weighting:

1. Regular participation in synchronous course meetings, preparation of reading assignments, and regular, wakeful attention to the **D2L course web site**, 15 points (15%)
2. Critical Response Essay #1, 20 points (20%) [RELS 703 students: 750-1000 words]
3. Critical Response Essay #2, 20 points (20%) [RELS 703 students: 750-1000 words]
4. Critical Response Essay #3, 25 points (20%) [RELS 703 students: 750-1000 words]
5. Term Paper, 25 points (25%) [RELS 703 students: 4500-5000 words]

Due Date	Assessment	Weight
Ongoing throughout course	Participation/Attendance	15%
Monday, October 4, 2021, submit via Dropbox ( <b>D2L</b> ).	Critical Response Essay #1, 750-1000 words:	20%
Monday, November 1, 2021,		20%

submit via Dropbox ( <b>D2L</b> ).	Critical Response Essay #2, 750-1000 words:	
Monday, November 22, 2021, submit via Dropbox ( <b>D2L</b> ).	Critical Response Essay #3, 750-1000 words	20%
Thursday, December 9, 2021, submit via Dropbox ( <b>D2L</b> ).	Research Paper Requirements: Students enrolled in 703 – 4500-5000 words	25%

**\*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 graduate grading system.  
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-2.html>

A letter grade will be assigned to each component of the course according to the University’s Graduate Studies Calendar 2019-2020:

A+	4.0	Outstanding
A	4.0	Excellent – superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.7	Very good performance
B+	3.3	Good performance
B	3.0	Satisfactory performance Note: The grade point value (3.0) associated with this grade is the minimum acceptable average that a graduate student must maintain throughout the program as computed at the end of each registration anniversary year of the program.
B-	2.7	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies Note: A student who receives a B- or lower in two or more courses will be required to withdraw regardless of their grade point average unless the program recommends otherwise.

		Individual programs may require a higher minimum passing grade.
C+	2.3	All grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. A student who receives a grade of F will normally be required to withdraw unless the program recommends otherwise.
C	2.0	
C-	1.7	
D+	1.3	
D	1.0	
F	0.0	

N.B. All written assignments will be assessed in terms of both form and content.

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 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. Four topics recur as criteria for the assessment of written assignments: thesis, use of evidence, design (organization), and basic writing skills (grammar, mechanics, spelling). Sources used in writing assignments must be properly documented. The suggested manual of style for this course is *The Chicago Manual of Style*. The Chicago author-date system is the preferred style of citation in documenting sources.

If you need help with your writing, you may use the writing support services in the Learning Commons. 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**

#### **GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING WRITING ASSIGNMENTS and TERM Paper**

Please submit the term paper and writing assignments electronically via the dropbox in D2L. Critical response essays may be submitted in Word or PDF format. Assignments should have a file name as follows: "First Name Last Name RELS 703 Critical Response" (e.g., Jonathan Smith RELS 703 Critical Response). Assignments must be submitted by 11:59pm on their due date. It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of the 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>

## **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**

Include information related to relevant policies and supports for teaching and learning as indicated below.

### **\*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 ACCOMMODATION**

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/) .

**\*RESEARCH ETHICS (if applicable)**

If a student is interested in undertaking an assignment that will involve collecting information from members of the public, they should speak with the course instructor and consult the CFREB Ethics (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/researchers/ethics-compliance/cfreb>) before beginning the assignment.

**\*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