FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION
COURSE OUTLINE
Winter 2021

COURSE NUMBER: Religious Studies 703 L01

COURSE NAME: Studies in Eastern Religions: Lives of Buddhist Masters

CLASSROOM LOCATION: Online

CLASS DAYS & TIMES: Asynchronous lectures will be recorded and uploaded to the Desire2Learn (**D2L**) course website.

INSTRUCTOR NAME: James B. Apple
UCALGARY EMAIL: 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:

Religious Studies 703	Studies in Eastern Religions
Course Hours: *3 units; (3-0)* **MAY BE REPEATED FOR CREDIT**	

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the lives of Indian and Tibetan Buddhist masters within their social historical context of India and Tibet. The course will examine the lives of the following four individuals: Atiśa Dīpaṃkaraśrījñāna (982-1054), Sönam Peldren (1328-1372), Tsongkhapa (1357-1419), and Gendun Chopel (1903-1951).

COURSE DELIVERY:

The course online content will be delivered in an ***asynchronous context*** (i.e., students complete on their own time such as discussion boards, watching videos, etc.). This course will take place **online** via Desire2Learn (**D2L**). To best succeed in the course, students are encouraged to participate in the ***asynchronous*** learning tasks using the **D2L** learning environment.

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. Each student is required to write four critical response essays. Students should consult the posted lecture notes and required textbooks to become familiar with concepts utilized in the course. The instructions and parameters for the critical response essays 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 religion and culture with specific attention to the portrayal and representation of Buddhist holy persons in the cultures of India and Tibet. Students will become familiar with how the lives of Buddhist masters, along with their portrayal and representation, grew out of, and reflects, unique historical, geographical, and cultural conditions.

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

Apple, James B. 2019. *Atiśa Dīpaṃkara: Illuminator of the Awakened Mind*. Boulder: Shambhala.

Bessenger, Suzanne M. 2016. *Echoes of Enlightenment: The Life and Legacy of the Tibetan Saint Sönam Peldren*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Jinpa, Thupten. 2019. *Tsongkhapa: A Buddha in the Land of Snows*. Boulder: Shambhala.

Lopez, Donald. 2018. *Gendun Chopel: Tibet's Modern Visionary*. Boulder: Shambhala.

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.

There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see 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. Preparation of reading assignments, and regular, wakeful attention to the **D2L course web site**.

2. Critical Response Essay #1, 25 points (25%)

3. Critical Response Essay #2, 25 points (25%)

4. Critical Response Essay #3, 25 points (25%)

5. Critical Response Essay #4, 25 points (25%)

Due Date	Assessment	Weight
Thursday, February 4, 2021, submit via Dropbox (**D2L**).	Critical Response Essay #1 on Atiśa: 750-1000 words.	25%
Thursday, March 4, 2021, submit via Dropbox (**D2L**).	Critical Response Essay #2 on Sönam Peldren: 750-1000 words.	25%
Monday, March 30, 2021, submit via Dropbox (**D2L**).	Critical Response Essay #3 on Tsongkhapa: 750-1000 words.	25%

Thursday, April 15, 2021, submit via Dropbox (**D2L**).	Critical Response Essay #4 on Gendun Chopel: 750-1000 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 graded with regard to 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

Please submit 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 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/ .

*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

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