

**COLLEGE OF THE HUMANITIES
RELIGION PROGRAM: RELI 1711A
Introduction to Asian Religions**

Instructor:	Richard MacPhail	E-mail:	Richard_MacPhail@carleton.ca
Office:	2A57 Paterson Hall	Hours:	1:00-2:00 p.m. Wednesday
Lectures:	Wednesday and Friday, 11:35 AM – 12:55 PM		4499 Mackenzie Building

Course Description

Religion 1711 begins with an overview of the study of religion as a discipline, then introduces the historical development, basic beliefs, and practices of the major South and East Asian traditions. Religions of Indic origin comprise the greater part of the course. We will also examine Confucianism, Daoism and Shinto in East Asia, observing the impact of Buddhism in China and Japan.

Lectures and class discussion treat historical, conceptual, social and cultural topics within each tradition and regular attendance is expected. Multimedia resources provide some impressions of the geographic, demographic, aesthetic and ritual dimensions of these traditions.

Teaching and Learning Objectives

This course is designed so that you will:

- develop an understanding of the **methods and perspectives** proper to the academic study of religion;
- develop an **informed appreciation** for the beliefs, values and practices of a variety of religious traditions;
- improve your ability to analyze and interpret culturally unfamiliar materials, including a **wide range of terminology** native to seven different religious traditions;
- become more aware of your own **cultural and personal assumptions, beliefs, and biases**;
- develop skills to **think critically** about your own and others' worldviews;
- develop an ability to **communicate your understanding** to others.

Course Evaluation

The final grade of this course is based on the following:

Participation (10%)

In-class Midterm test (40%)

Final Exam (50%)

There is no major research paper.

Participation will include consistent attendance, responding to and asking questions, offering comments, and use of cuLearn resources, including online completion of five Discussion Questions.

Tests will be based on textbook readings, lecture material, and in-class discussions.

- 1) Midterm Test: 90 minutes. It will cover the sections on Hindu, Sikh, and Jain traditions and will assess your knowledge of both terminology and substantive material.

- 2) Final Examination: Two hours, scheduled by Scheduling and Exam Services. It will cover the sections on Buddhism, Chinese and Japanese religions, plus the Introductory and closing sections on religion as an academic discipline.

Students must write both the in-class Midterm Test and the Final Examination to receive credit for the course. Do not plan to travel on examination dates. There are no grade-raising exams or assignments in this course. If you miss a test unavoidably, you must provide adequate written documentation (e.g. a doctor's note, an obituary) for your incapacity. Alternative in-class tests will not be offered and a timely resolution will have to be negotiated with the instructor to meet the criteria of good standing should a student wish to be eligible to write a deferred final exam.

Please see "REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES" at the end of this Course Outline for policy on **plagiarism**, the grading system, academic accommodation and petitions to defer. The University's policies on Academic Integrity and Offences apply in the writing of all tests and assignments.

Text—Required Reading

Willard G. Oxtoby and Roy C. Amore. 2010.

World Religions: Eastern Traditions, Third Edition.

Don Mills ON: Oxford University Press.

The textbook will be available in the Carleton University Bookstore.

Course Calendar

This schedule may vary according to class comprehension and pace.

Each reading is intended to prepare you for the lecture and should be read in advance of the class.

Please prepare two or three questions from each reading for possible discussion in class.

Engagement with other students and the instructor will be a part of your Participation grade.

January 9 – Wednesday

- (1) Overview of the course.

Please make every reasonable effort to read ahead of the assigned readings for each week. The volume of reading will increase as the course accelerates toward its end.

January 11 – Friday

- (2) Religion as an Academic Discipline.

World Religions: Eastern Traditions, Chapter 1 - "About Religion" (pp. 4 – 26).

January 16 – Wednesday

- (3) India: Prehistory, Indus Valley-Saraswati Civilization.

World Religions: Eastern Traditions, Chapter 2 - "Hindu Traditions" (pp. 30-55).

January 18 – Friday

- (4) India: Aryan Advent, Vedic Literature.

Discussion Assignment 1 due at 23:55.

January 23 – Wednesday

- (5) Hinduism: Sacred Literature – *Upanishads*.

World Religions: Eastern Traditions, Chapter 2 - "Hindu Traditions" (pp. 55-77).

January 25 – Friday

(6) Hinduism: Sacred Literature – *Bhagavad Gita*.

Discussion Assignment 2 due at 23:55.

January 30 – Wednesday

(7) Hinduism: *Dharma Shastras, Puranas, Bhakti, Tantra*.

World Religions: Eastern Traditions, Chapter 2 - “Hindu Traditions” (pp. 77-105).

February 1 – Friday

(8) Hinduism: *Darshanas, Varna-Ashrama Dharma*.

Discussion Assignment 3 due at 23:55.

February 6 – Wednesday

(9) Sikhism: Introduction to *Sikhi*.

World Religions: Eastern Traditions, Chapter 3 - “Sikh Traditions” (pp. 108 – 143).

February 8 – Friday

(10) Jainism: Introduction to *Jaina Darshana*.

World Religions: Eastern Traditions, Chapter 4 - “Jaina Traditions” (pp. 146 – 175).

February 13 – Wednesday

(11) Buddhism: Approach to *Bauddha Dharma*;

(12) Buddhism: Sacred Biography of the Buddha.

World Religions: Eastern Traditions, Chapter 5 - “Buddhist Traditions” (pp. 178 – 194).

February 15 – Friday

MIDTERM EXAM – HINDUISM, SIKHISM, and JAINISM

February 18-22, 2013

Winter Break, classes suspended.

February 27 – Wednesday

(13) Buddhism: History and Sects - *Theravada, Mahayana*.

March 1 – Friday

(14) Buddhism: Schools – *Trikaya, Madyamika, Yogachara, Vajrayana*.

World Religions: Eastern Traditions, Chapter 5 - “Buddhist Traditions” (pp. 194 – 211; 220 - 224).

Discussion Assignment 4 due at 23:55.

March 6 – Wednesday

Be sure to download Lectures 15 and 16 from cuLearn and bring hard copies to class.

(15) Buddhism: Doctrines 1 – Four Noble Truths; Noble Eight-fold Path; Twelve *Nidanas*;
Five *Skandhas*.

March 8 – Friday

(16) Buddhism: Doctrines 2 – *Sunyata*; Nature of perception.

March 13 – Wednesday

(17) Buddhism: Social Practices.

World Religions: Eastern Traditions, Chapter 5 - “Buddhist Traditions” (pp. 224 – 235; 238 – 242; 247 – 252).

March 15 – Friday

(18) China: Kongzi and Confucianism.

World Religions: Eastern Traditions, Chapter 6 – “Chinese & Korean Traditions” (pp. 256 – 294;). Chapter 5 – “Buddhist Traditions” (pp. 211-216).

Discussion Assignment 5 due at 23:55.

March 20 – Wednesday

(19) China: Laozi and Daoism. The “Three Traditions” – Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist.

World Religions: Eastern Traditions, Chapter 6 – “Chinese & Korean Traditions” (pp. 294 – 313; 322 – 326).

March 22 – Friday

(20) Japan: Historical Context; Shinto; Arrival of Buddhism.

World Religions: Eastern Traditions, Chapter 5 – “Buddhist Traditions” (pp. 235 – 237; 242 – 246).

March 27 – Wednesday

(21) Japan: The *Kami*; Buddhist Pure Land, Zen;

Religious Leaders, New Movements.

World Religions: Eastern Traditions, Chapter 7 – “Japanese Traditions” (pp. 330 – 350).

Formal Instructor Evaluation.

March 29 – Friday

Good Friday (Holiday – no classes)

April 3 – Wednesday

(22) Japan: *Bushido*; Ritual and Society.

World Religions: Eastern Traditions, Chapter 7 – “Japanese Traditions” (pp. 351 – 362)

(23) Review of the course. Feedback on Course Evaluations.

April 5 – Friday

Should the above schedule require require adjustment for any reason, the course may extend beyond the scheduled dates.

April 10 – Wednesday

Official last day of classes for the Winter term.

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*”

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B = 73-76 (8)	C - = 60-62 (4)
A = 85-89 (11)	B- = 70-72 (7)	D+ = 57-59 (3)
A- = 80-84 (10)	C+ = 67-69 (6)	D = 53-56 (2)
B+ = 77-79 (9)	C = 63-66 (5)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F	Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points
ABS	Absent from final examination, equivalent to F
DEF	Official deferral (see "Petitions to Defer")
FND	Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from **FALL TERM** courses is **DEC. 3, 2012**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 10, 2013**.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by Nov. 9, 2012 for the Fall term and March 8, 2013 for the Winter term. For more details visit the PMC website: carleton.ca/pmc/accommodations/

PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please [contact](#) the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept. Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809	300 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100	2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500	300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125	4 th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 th Floor Library