

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

Instructor: Richard MacPhail
Office: Paterson Hall 2A52
Office Hours: Thursday, 5:00 – 6:00 PM
E-mail: Richard.MacPhail@carleton.ca
Classroom: Tory Building 208
Class Times: Tuesday and Thursday, 6:05 – 8:55 PM

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.

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 and three copies will be available on two-hour reserve in the library.

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.

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. 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.

July 4 – Thursday

- (1) Overview of the course & Religion as an Academic Discipline.

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

July 9 – Tuesday

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

(3) India: Aryan Advent, Vedic Literature.

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

Discussion Assignment 1 due at 23:55.

July 11 – Thursday

(4) Hinduism: Sacred Literature – *Upanishads*.

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

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

July 16 – Tuesday

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

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

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

Discussion Assignment 2 due at 23:55.

July 18 – Thursday

(8) Sikhism: Introduction to *Sikkhi*.

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

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

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

July 23 – Tuesday

***** MIDTERM EXAM – HINDUISM, SIKHISM, and JAINISM *****

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

July 25 – Thursday

(11) Buddhism: Sacred Biography of the Buddha.

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

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

July 30 – Tuesday

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

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

(14) Buddhism: Doctrines 1 – Four Noble Truths; Noble Eight-fold Path; Twelve *Nidanas*;

Five *Skandhas*.

Be sure to download Lectures 14 and 15 from cuLearn and bring hard copies to class.

Discussion Assignment 3 due at 23:55.

August 1 – Thursday

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

(16) Buddhism: Social Practices.

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

August 6 – Tuesday

(17) China: Kongzi and Confucianism.

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

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

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

Discussion Assignment 4 due at 23:55.

August 8 – Thursday

(19) China: Popular Religion

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

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

Informal Instructor Evaluation.

August 13 – Tuesday

(21) Japan: The *Kami*; Buddhist Pure Land, Zen; Religious Leaders, New Movements.

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

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

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

Students’ questions. Review of the course.

Discussion Assignment 5 due at 23:55.

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 **EARLY SUMMER** courses is **JUNE 18, 2013**. The last day to withdraw from **FULL SUMMER** and **LATE SUMMER** courses is **AUGUST 15, 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/

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

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