

**The College of the Humanities
Religion Program**

RELI 1711A—Introduction to Asian Religions (Summer)

Prof. Richard MacPhail
Office: 2A35 PA
Email: richard_macphail@carleton.ca
Lectures: Tuesday / Thursday—6:05-8:55 pm
210 TB (Tory Building)
Office Hours: ... Tuesday 4:00 to 5:30

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 discuss 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:

- (1) develop an understanding of the methods and perspectives proper to the academic study of religion;
- (2) develop an informed appreciation for the beliefs, values and practices of a variety of religious traditions;
- (3) improve your ability to analyze and interpret culturally unfamiliar materials;
- (4) become more aware of your own cultural and personal assumptions, beliefs, and biases;
- (5) develop skills to think critically about your own and others' worldviews;
- (6) develop an ability to communicate your understanding to others.

Course Evaluation

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

Class participation (10%)

Two online tests (5% each)

Two in-class tests (20% each)

Final Exam (40%)

There is no major research paper.

Participation will include consistent attendance, responding to and asking questions, offering comments, and use of WebCT resources, including online completion of discussion questions.

Tests will be based on textbook readings **and** lecture material.

- 1) Tests on Hindu and Jain sections: One online test of terminology (ten short descriptive answers) and one 60-minute, in-class test with two essay questions.
- 2) Tests on Buddhist and Sikh sections: One online test of terminology (ten short descriptive answers) and one 60-minute, in-class test with two essay questions.

- 3) Final Examination: Two hours, scheduled by Scheduling and Exam Services. Ten short descriptive answers and three essay questions. The final exam will cover the sections on China and Japan, plus the Introductory and closing sections on religion as an academic discipline.

Notes on Writing the Tests & Exam

The online and in-class tests and final exam will each consist of

- 1) Online tests: Description of ten key technical terms, **in a sentence or two** (no point-form answers), that identifies a term's meaning and its context within its tradition. This is **not** to be thought of as a "definition" but as an exploration of the terminology in the widest sense.
- 2) In-class tests: Brief essays, **of one and a half to three pages each** (handwritten, double-spaced), on key themes showing how various concepts, themes and practices relate to one another within a religious system.
- 3) Total written responses on the in-class essay tests should be 3 to 6 pages, and on the final exam, 8 to 12 pages (handwritten, double-spaced).

Important: Because it is the student's responsibility to ensure comprehensibility for purposes of grading, all test answers are expected to be written in full sentence form, not in phrases of a few words nor in point form. Correct spelling and grammar are expected and deficiencies will influence grading. Vague intentions that must be conjectured from confused writing cannot be graded. Get into the practice of using a good dictionary.

Students must write both online and both in-class tests 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 research assignments.

Text(s)

There are two versions of a textbook that contain the readings for this course. Reading assignments in these two texts are identical. Some pagination differs and directions are given in the Course Calendar below to the readings in both books.

Theodore M. Ludwig, *The Sacred Paths: Understanding the Religions of the World*, 4th Edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2006. [ISBN 0-13-153903-5]

Theodore M. Ludwig, *Sacred Paths of the East*, 3rd edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 2001. [ISBN 0-13-153905-1]

See the course WebCT page regarding purchase of the textbook.

There is a list of "**Key Terms**" at the end of each chapter and a **Glossary** of terms in *The Sacred Paths* (pp. 523-538) or *Sacred Paths of the East* (pp. 295-303) that will be very useful as you read the text and prepare for tests.

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.

July 5 – Tuesday

- (1) Introduction to the course.
- (2) Religion as an Academic Discipline.
The Sacred Paths Chapters 1, 2 (pp. 1-34) **OR**
Sacred Paths of the East Chapters 1, 2 (pp. 1-34)

July 7 – Thursday

- (3) India: Prehistory, Indus Valley-Saraswati Civilization.
- (4) India: Aryan Advent, Vedic Literature.
The Sacred Paths Chapter 4 (pp. 69-90) **OR**
Sacred Paths of the East Chapter 3 (pp. 35-56)

July 12 – Tuesday

- (5) Hinduism: Sacred Literature – Upanishads.
- (6) Hinduism: Sacred Literature – *Bhagavad Gita*.
The Sacred Paths Chapter 5 (pp. 91-107) **OR**
Sacred Paths of the East Chapter 4 (pp. 57-73)

July 14 – Thursday

- (7) Hinduism: Dharma Shastras, Puranas, Bhakti, Tantra.
- (8) Hinduism: Darshanas, Varna-Ashrama Dharma.
The Sacred Paths Chapter 6 (pp. 108-126) **OR**
Sacred Paths of the East Chapter 5 (pp. 74-92)
- (9) Jainism: Introduction to *Jaina Darshana*.
The Sacred Paths Chapter 10 (pp.176-187) **OR**
Sacred Paths of the East Chapter 9 (pp. 142-153)

July 19 – Tuesday

HINDUISM / JAINISM TEST

- (10) Buddhism: Approach to *Bauddha Dharma*;
- (11) Buddhism: Sacred Biography of the Buddha.
The Sacred Paths Chapter 7 (pp. 127-143) **OR**
Sacred Paths of the East Chapter 6 (pp. 93-109)

July 21 – Thursday

- (12) Buddhism: History and Sects - *Theravada, Mahayana*.
- (13) Buddhism: Schools – *Trikaya, Madyamika, Yogachara, Vajrayana*.
The Sacred Paths Chapter 8 (pp. 144-157) **OR**
Sacred Paths of the East Chapter 7 (pp. 110-123)

July 26 – Tuesday

- (14) Buddhism: Doctrines 1 – Four Noble Truths; Noble Eight-fold Path.
Twelve *Nidanas*, Five *Skandhas*.
- (15) Buddhism: Doctrines 2 – *Sunyata*; Nature of perception.

Be sure to download these two lectures from WebCT and bring hard copies to class.

July 28 – Thursday

(16) Buddhism: Social Practices.

The Sacred Paths Chapter 9 (pp. 158-175) **OR**

Sacred Paths of the East Chapter 8 (pp. 124-141)

(17) Sikhism: Introduction to *Sikkhi*.

The Sacred Paths Chapter 11 (pp. 188-203) **OR**

Sacred Paths of the East Chapter 10 (pp. 154-169)

August 2 – Tuesday

BUDDHISM / SIKHISM TEST

(18) China: Early History, Kongzi, Laozi, Li, Ren.

The Sacred Paths Chapter 12 (pp. 204-231) **OR**

Sacred Paths of the East Chapter 11 (pp. 170-197)

(19) China: Confucianism, Daoism, Mahayana Buddhism.

The Sacred Paths Chapter 13 (pp. 232-252) **OR**

Sacred Paths of the East Chapter 12 (pp. 198-218)

August 4 – Thursday

(20) China: Worldview, practices.

(21) China: Popular Religion, Religion in China today.

The Sacred Paths Chapter 14 (pp. 253-277) **OR**

Sacred Paths of the East Chapter 13 (pp. 219-243)

August 9 – Tuesday

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

The Sacred Paths Chapter 15 (pp. 278-292) **OR**

Sacred Paths of the East Chapter 14 (pp. 244-258)

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

Religious Leaders, New Movements.

The Sacred Paths Chapter 16 (pp.293-303). **OR**

Sacred Paths of the East Chapter 15 (pp.259-269)

August 12 – Thursday (Last day of classes)

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

The Sacred Paths Chapter 17 (pp. 304-321) **OR**

Sacred Paths of the East Chapter 16 (pp. 270-288)

(25) Review of the course.

The Sacred Paths Chapter 30 – “Guideposts and

Crossings on the Paths” (pp. 517-522) **OR**

Sacred Paths of the East Chapter 17 – “Epilogue” (pp. 289-294)

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 21, 2011**. The last day to withdraw from **FULL SUMMER and LATE SUMMER** courses is **AUGUST 16, 2011**.

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 the last official day to withdraw from classes in each 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