

CARLETON UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF THE HUMANITIES

RELIGION PROGRAM: RELI 1711A WINTER 2010

INTRODUCTION TO ASIAN RELIGIONS

Mondays & Wednesdays - 1:05-2:25 pm - Mackenzie Building 4499

Instructor: Dr. Richard MacPhail
Office Hours: Mon./Wed. – 2:45-3:30 - Paterson Hall 2A40
Email: Richard_MacPhail@Carleton.ca
Voicemail: 613-520-2600 ext. 2930

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, 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 appreciation for writing as a way both to clarify for yourself the content of the course and to communicate your understanding to others.

REQUIRED TEXT:

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]

OR

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

Reading assignments in these two texts are identical. Some pagination differs.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Consistent attendance is expected.

There is no major research paper.

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

- 1) Test on Hindu and Jain sections (One hour, in class - 30%). Ten short descriptive answers and two essay questions.

- 2) Test on Buddhist and Sikh sections (One hour, in class - 30%). Ten short descriptive answers and two essay questions.
- 3) Final Examination (Two hours, scheduled by SES - 40%). Ten short descriptive answers and three essay questions. The final exam will cover the China and Japan sections, plus the Introductory and closing sections on religion as an academic discipline.

LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE:

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.

Jan. 4/6 - Week 1

1. Introduction to the course, Part 1; Survey.
The Sacred Paths Chapters 1, 2 (pp. 1-34) **OR**
Sacred Paths of the East Chapters 1, 2 (pp. 1-34)
2. Introduction to the course, Part 2.

Jan. 11/13 - Week 2

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

Jan. 18/19 - Week 3

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

Jan. 25/27 - Week 4

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

Feb.1/3 - Week 5

- Feb. 1 HINDUISM/JAINISM TEST**
9. Buddhism: Approach to *Bauddha Dharma*.
The Sacred Paths Chapter 7 (pp. 127-143) **OR**
Sacred Paths of the East Chapter 6 (pp. 93-109)
 10. Buddhism: Sacred Biography of the Buddha.

Feb 8/10 - Week 6

- The Sacred Paths* Chapter 8 (pp. 144-157) **OR**
Sacred Paths of the East Chapter 7 (pp. 110-123)
11. Buddhism: Mahayana.
12. Buddhism: Trikaya doctrine, Mahayana Schools, Vajrayana.

Feb 14-20 - Winter Break

Feb. 22/24 - Week 7

13. Buddhist Doctrines.

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

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

14. Buddhism: Social Practices.

Mar. 1/3 - Week 8

15. Buddhism: Social Practices.

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

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

16. Introduction to Sikhism.

Mar. 8/10 - Week 9

Mar 8 BUDDHISM/SIKHISM TEST

17. 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)

18. China: Confucianism, Daoism, Mahayana Buddhism.

Mar 14 – Daylight Saving Time Begins

Mar. 15/17 - Week 10

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

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

19. China: Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism. Worldview, practices.

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

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

20. China: Popular Religion, Religion in China today.

Mar. 22/24 - Week 11

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

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

21. Japan: Historical Context, Shinto, Arrival of Buddhism.

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

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

22. Japan: Pure Land, Zen, Religious Leaders.

Mar 29/31 - Week 12

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

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

23. Japan: Bushido, New Religions.

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)

24. Review of the course.

NOTES ON EVALUATION:

The in-class tests and final exam will consist of

- 1) Description of key technical terms, **in a sentence or two**, that identifies their meaning and context within their traditions.
- 2) Brief essays, **of one to three pages each**, on key themes showing how various concepts, themes and practices relate to one another within a religious system.
- 3) There will be NO multiple choice options.
- 4) Total written responses on the in-class tests should be 5 to 8 handwritten pages, and on the final exam, 8 to 12 pages.

Students must write both in-class tests and the final examination to receive credit for the course. Do not plan to travel on examination dates.

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 will influence grading. Vague intentions that must be guessed from confused writing cannot be graded effectively.

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" attached to the 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.

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.

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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 range from a mark of zero for the plagiarized work to a final grade of “F” for the course, and even suspension from all studies or expulsion from the University.

GRADING SYSTEM

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

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

F	Failure. No academic credit
WDN	Withdrawn from the course
ABS	Absent from the final examination
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 November 16, 2009. The last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter (full year) and Winter term courses is March 12, 2010.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: 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. For more details visit the Equity Services website: http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

Religious obligation: 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. For more details visit the Equity Services website: http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

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 are 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 I receive 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: http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/acad_accom.html

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>

PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to complete a **final** term paper or write a **final** examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control or whose performance on an examination has been impaired by such circumstances may apply in writing within five working days to the Registrar's Office for permission to extend a term paper deadline or to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully and specifically supported by a medical certificate or other relevant documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Classics and 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	500 Unicentre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-6632	4 th floor Library
Learning Commons 520-1125	4 th floor Library