

**Religions of South and East Asia
RELI 1712B**



Instructor: Prof. Jessica Ford

Class Time: Monday & Wednesday, 8:35 AM – 11:25 AM

Location: ONLINE. This course is taught synchronously via Zoom. The Zoom link will be provided on Brightspace.

Virtual Office Hours: Wednesday from 1:00 – 2:00PM through Zoom (<https://carleton-ca.zoom.us/j/93157884660>) or by appointment. At all other times, if you have questions about course material or assignments please post them in our general discussion forum titled “Ask Your Instructor” as this opens a dialogue with your classmates as well as myself. If your question is unrelated to the course material, something that you do not wish to post, or if you are unsure if you should post it or not please send me an email.

Email: jessica.ford@carleton.ca

Brightspace Link: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/181574>

Course Description: This course is a survey of the major religious traditions that emerged in South and East Asia, including Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism (collectively known as the Dharma traditions), Daoism, Confucianism, and Shinto. As this is an introductory course, we begin with a brief introduction to the study of religion. Following this, we will explore the history, beliefs, rituals, practices, and conceptualizations of the divine/sacred of each religious tradition individually. However, as our exploration progresses, we will also examine some ideas and concepts that may be shared amongst some or all of these traditions.

Preclusions: Precludes additional credit for RELI 1715, RELI 1716. Note, these courses are no longer offered.

Learning Objectives: By the completion of this course, you should:

- Understand the basic history, beliefs, and practices of the religions explored in this course
- Be familiar with the academic study of religion, including some of the methods and perspectives utilized within the discipline
- Be able to write with skills appropriate for a first-year humanities course, which includes writing clearly, concisely and without personal bias
- Be able to distinguish between and analyze primary and secondary sources
- Be more aware of your personal perspective and biases in confronting religious phenomena (an inevitable side-effect of being introduced to a variety of religious beliefs and practices that differ from your own)

Course Teaching Method: This course is an online course. All lecture material (apart from dates listed in the “Calendar of Activities and Evaluations” listed below) will be delivered synchronously. This means that you are expected to be present at the Zoom meetings held during class time and responsible for all material disseminated during these online lectures. Lectures will not be recorded.

List of Required Readings

Amore, Roy C., Amir Hussain, and Willard Oxtoby eds. *World Religions: Eastern Traditions* (5th Edition). Don Mills, ON, Canada: Oxford University Press, 2018.

This textbook is available to rent or buy at the campus bookstore. Please go to the following link to order a physical or digital copy: <https://www.bkstr.com/carletonstore/course-materials-results?shopBy=course&divisionDisplayName=&departmentDisplayName=RELI&courseDisplay Name=1712§ionDisplayName=A&programId=950&termId=100078024>

Amar Chitra Katha. *The Gita: The Song of Eternal Wisdom*. Mumbai: India Book House Pvt, 1977. ([Link to comic](#))

Amar Chitra Katha. *Mahavira*. Mumbai: India Book House Pvt, 1975. ([Link to comic](#))

Amar Chitra Katha. *Buddha*. Mumbai: India Book House Pvt, 1971. ([Link to comic](#))

Amar Chitra Katha. *Guru Nanak*. Mumbai: India Book House Pvt, 1973. ([Link to comic](#))

You are also responsible for all other readings and films that will be posted on Brightspace. These are brief passages from sacred scriptures, online articles, and comic book adaptations of sacred scriptures or the life stories of foundational figures. These will be posted in the relevant weeks.

While I do attempt to follow the textbook closely in my lectures/slides, there will be material in the textbook/readings/films that I won't mention directly in lectures. However, students are still responsible for this content even if it is not discussed directly in lectures. In addition, lectures may explore topics not discussed in the text or go into some topics in more detail than the text: students are also responsible for all material covered in my lectures.

Assignments and Evaluation:

| Assignment | Date | Value |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------|
| 5 Short Quizzes | Throughout (see “Calendar of Activities and Evaluations” below for details) | 20% |
| 5 Discussion Forum Posts/Activities | Throughout (see “Calendar of Activities and Evaluations” below for details) | 20% |
| Midterm Assignment | Due Monday, July 31 st by 11:59PM | 20% |
| Final Exam | TBD | 40 % |

Assessment Methods and Weighting of Grades

Evaluation will be based on the following:

- **Weekly Quizzes (20% of course grade).**

Each quiz should be attempted **only after all material for that week has been completed**. This means you will be better able to answer these questions after completing all assigned readings, attending all lectures, and watching assigned films, and/or short video clips (if applicable). Each quiz will be based on the content of the relevant module and will test your knowledge of what you have learned from the textbook, other required materials (films, readings, etc.), as well as my lectures.

Each quiz will consist of 15 multiple choice and true/false questions (each worth 1 point) selected randomly from a question bank. The quiz will open at the beginning of each week and will be available until the end of the week. Students will be allowed 30 minutes to complete this quiz. Keep in mind that once you open the quiz the clock starts – Brightspace will prevent any answers from being submitted after the 30-minute mark. There will be 7 quizzes in total (one per week), however **you are only responsible for 5**, thus you **may miss 2** without it affecting your mark. If you choose to complete all 7 quizzes, the lowest two marks will be dropped.

Each weekly quiz must be completed by Sunday at 11:59 PM (see the “Calendar of Activities and Evaluations” section below for specific dates).

- **5 Discussion Forum Posts (20% of course grade).**

The class will be divided into smaller groups for online discussion. These groupings are not made with the expectation of group work in any way: **everyone is required to post their own response to the discussion prompts and/or questions.** This division is simply to keep things streamlined for you – instead of seeing/reading the posts for all your classmates, you will be reading the posts of, and engaging with approximately 10-15 people. Discussion posts will be required weekly (please see the “Calendar of Activities and Evaluations” below for dates).

There will be a total of 6 discussion prompts throughout the semester (see “Calendar of Activities and Evaluations” below for details). The first is an introductory post that will require that you introduce yourself and state what attracted you to this course (the full prompt will be available on Brightspace on the first day of classes). Of course, here you will not be expected to reference course materials, rather it is a way for us to get to know each other better, foster a sense of community, and commence the online dialogue that will be continuing throughout the semester. Please note – the introductory post **does not** count towards this grade; however, posting an introduction will get you **2% bonus marks**, this is a very easy first 2% toward your course grade! To obtain these bonus marks, you must have completed your introductory post by **July 16th, at 11:59PM.**

This grade is based upon the content, depth and quality of your contributions to these forum discussions using the standards found within the grading rubric posted on Brightspace. Participating consistently with thoughtful answers and engaging with your classmates will have positive effects on your grade. Your individual posts are graded according to how well you integrate relevant course material when responding to the discussion prompts. As quality is essential, your discussion posts should demonstrate thought and effort. Your engagement with your peers should also be thoughtful and promote further discussion, for example by asking questions. Simply posting “I agree” (or something to this effect) does not achieve this and will not be counted towards your grade.

To receive full marks for discussion posts you must do the following:

- 1) Write **all 5 posts**. Each post must be no more than a **paragraph or two in length (200 – 400 words)**.
- 2) Compose well written, thoughtful responses that draw upon and refer to course material. **Each post should include at least one properly formatted in-text citation of one piece of course material (no additional bibliographic information is required). This citation must be properly formatted using Chicago Style.**
- 3) Respond to **at least 2 of your peers in each discussion topic**. This does not include the introductory post – please feel free to engage with one another on these, however this will not count towards the response requirement.
- 4) Complete all requirements by the deadlines given (please see the “Calendar of Activities and Evaluations” below).

Please see the posted rubric for further details and guidelines.

- **Midterm Assignment (20% of course grade).**

This assignment will ask questions about the first three (3) traditions explored in the course (Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism). You will be asked to draw from all relevant course materials (lectures, films, readings) to respond to these questions. Your responses should be submitted in essay format. This essay should explicitly refer to material taught in lectures and assigned in readings. **Essays that do not do so will be returned ungraded and receive a zero.** A **bibliography** and proper **citation in Chicago Style** ([Link to Guide for Chicago Style](#)) **are required**. Further guidelines for this assignment (which include the word limit and the questions being posed of you) will be posted on Brightspace by the end of the first week of the semester.

Due Monday, July 31st by 11:59PM.

Late submissions that do not have proper documentation and/or a valid reason which would have been discussed with me prior to submission date, will not be marked.

- **Final Exam (40% of course grade).**

This exam will be held during the formal exam period (August 19th – 25th). The exact date and time of the exam will be determined and released later. The format will be multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blanks and/or matching, and short answer questions. *Please note that this examination may use a remote proctoring service provided by Scheduling and Examination Services. You can find more information at <https://carleton.ca/ses/e-proctoring/>.*

General Assignment Guidelines

Your written assignment will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- 1) Understanding of the material/how effectively it answers the assigned questions – your response should clearly and concisely answer the question posed of you. Further, you should demonstrate that you have read the required readings and watched assigned films (if relevant) by referencing them specifically, in some detail, in your answers.
- 2) Staying on topic – it is important that you maintain focus in your writing and avoid introducing material that is irrelevant to the topic being discussed. This is an important skill to develop in your writing, which contributes to presenting your thoughts in a clear and concise manner.
- 3) Presenting without bias – it is important that you treat the religions that we are studying in an unbiased manner to cultivate a greater understanding of them. As such, you should aim to maintain an unbiased tone in your written assignments.
- 4) Correctly organizing, structuring, and formatting your work – present your discussion in a manner that has a logical flow. For example, if in your introduction, you state that you will be discussing A, B and C, then you should discuss these items in the order that you

have initially stated them. In addition, you should use properly formatted citations when required to do so.

- 5) Producing mechanically correct prose– proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

*****GENERAL NOTES ON EVALUATION*****

1. Late assignments will only be accepted with valid reasons and proper documentation.
2. **Plagiarism:** The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This includes 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. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.
Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:
 - any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
 - using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
 - using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
 - submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own; and
 - failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts 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.

3. Students **MUST** explicitly reference course materials in their essays. Failure to do so will result in the essay being returned **ungraded** and a mark of **zero** will be assigned. This means essays that rely on outside sources will not be accepted. Further, AI-catching software will be utilized in the grading of all essays. Any suspicious essays will be sent to the Dean’s office for further investigation and the assignment of appropriate penalties.
4. Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Expectations and Communication Guidelines:

YOURS: This is a summer course which means that the material for a typical 12-week course is now compressed into 6 weeks. As such you should be prepared for double the weekly workload of a regular 12-week course. Each week we will be moving through a large amount of material and it is essential that you move through the course material (readings, films, etc.) in a timely fashion to avoid being overwhelmed towards the end of the course and possibly falling irreparably behind.

What does this mean for study time? It is strongly suggested that for each course that a university student is enrolled in they should dedicated 2-3 hours of study time per hour spent in class. Thus, you should be prepared for 6 hours of class time each week in addition to 12-18 hours of study/assignment time. All lectures, apart from Monday, August 14th, will be delivered synchronously. This means that you are expected to be present at the Zoom meetings held during class time and responsible for all material disseminated during these online lectures. Lectures will not be recorded. Lecture material will be given via **pre-recorded lecture** on **Monday, August 14th only!**

As students in a 1000-level summer course you should expect approximately 45 pages of reading per week and approximately 10 pages of writing throughout the entire semester. You are expected to have covered all relevant material prior to posting in discussion forums and completing the weekly quizzes.

When asking general questions about content, deadlines, or the syllabus itself I encourage you to post them in the “Ask your Instructor” forum as this may help a fellow classmate. For all other subjects (or if you are not comfortable posting in a public form) please feel free to email me – I am teaching 3 courses this semester so I do ask that you please include your name and student number in the body of the email, as well as the course code (RELI1712) and subject matter in the email subject box.

MINE: I will be sending out weekly announcements every Friday. These are just friendly reminders about what readings you should be working through, when upcoming tasks/assignments are due, and any other relevant information. You may also hear from me at other times during the week if needed – however you will hear from me every Friday!

I will respond to all email enquiries and discussion forum postings in a timely manner (within 48 hours). However, in the unlikely event that you have not heard back from me within this time frame I encourage you to send me a reminder/follow up email. I also encourage you to revisit your syllabus frequently, especially regarding due dates, as that information will be found here.

I will hold office hours via Zoom (link provided above will also be provided on Brightspace) on Wednesdays from 1:00 – 2:00PM unless otherwise announced, however, if you are unable to be online during this period, please email to schedule an appointment.

Calendar of Activities and Evaluations

| Week | Date | Topic Theme | Requirements |
|---------------|--|--|--|
| Week 1 | July 4 th – 9 th | <p><u>Module 1:</u> What is Religion?</p> <p><u>Module 2:</u> Intro to Hindu Traditions; Indus Valley; Vedas and Vedic Religion; the <i>Upanishads</i>.</p> | <p><u>Attend:</u> Lecture on Wednesday (July 5th) from 8:35–11:25AM.</p> <p><u>Read:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Pages 23–27 & 30–42. •Selection from the <i>Upanishads</i> (Brightspace). •<i>Gita</i> comic (Brightspace). <p><u>Complete:</u> Week 1 quiz by July 9th at 11:59PM.</p> |
| Week 2 | July 10 th – 16 th | <p>Classical Hinduism, and the Epics (including the <i>Bhagavad Gita</i>).</p> <p>Gods and Goddesses and Sectarian Hinduism.</p> <p><i>Bhakti</i>.</p> <p>Modern Hinduism.</p> | <p><u>Attend:</u> Lectures on Monday (July 10th) & Wednesday (July 12th) from 8:35–11:25AM.</p> <p><u>Read:</u> Pages 42–60, 62–79, 83–94 (omit “Ayurvedic Medicine” section), and 96-102.</p> <p><u>Complete:</u> Week 2 quiz and “Intro” discussion post by July 16th at 11:59 PM.</p> |
| Week 3 | July 17 th – 23 rd | <p><u>Module 3:</u> Intro to Jaina Traditions.</p> <p>History, sacred literature, and cosmology.</p> <p>Practice and expressive dimensions.</p> | <p><u>Attend:</u> Lectures on Monday (July 17th) & Wednesday (July 19th) from 8:35–11:25 AM.</p> <p><u>Read:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Pages 160–195. •<i>Mahavira</i> comic. •Bhagwan Parshvanath passage (Brightspace). |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “<u>The incredibly strict diet of a Jain monk</u>” (Brightspace). • <i>Acaranga Sutra</i> (Brightspace). <p><u>Complete:</u> Week 3 <u>quiz</u> and <u>discussion post</u> by July 23rd at 11:59 PM.</p> |
| Week 4 | July 24 th – 30 th | <p><u>Module 4:</u> Intro to Buddhist Traditions.</p> <p>The First, Second and Third Gems and Early Buddhism.</p> <p>Theravada, Mahayana, and Vajrayana.</p> | <p><u>Attend:</u> Lectures on Monday (July 24th) & Wednesday (July 26th) from 8:35–11:25 AM.</p> <p><u>Read:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pages 200–278. • <i>Buddha</i> comic. • <i>Parable of the Turtle and the Fish</i> (Brightspace). • “The Image of Nirvana” (Brightspace). • The <i>Dhammapada</i>, Chapter 1 (Brightspace). <p><u>Complete:</u> Week 4 <u>quiz</u> and <u>discussion post</u> by July 30th at 11:59 PM.</p> |
| Week 5 | July 31 st – August 6 th | <p><u>Module 5:</u> Intro to Sikhism</p> <p>History and practice.</p> <p>Differentiation & cultural expressions.</p> | <p><u>Attend:</u> Lectures on Monday (July 31st) & Wednesday (Aug. 2nd) from 8:35–11:25 AM.</p> <p><u>Read:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pages 114–155. • <i>Guru Nanak</i> comic. • Sikh sacred texts (Brightspace). • Watch <i>Roots of Love</i> (Brightspace) <p><u>Complete:</u> Midterm Assignment by Monday, July 31st at 11:59PM. Week 5 <u>quiz</u> and <u>discussion</u></p> |

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| | | | post by August 6th at 11:59PM. |
| Week 6 | August 7 th – 13 th | Module 6: Intro to Confucianism and Daoism | Attend: Lecture Wednesday (Aug. 9 th) from 8:35–11:25 AM. Read: • Pages 282–356 (omit 341–352). Complete: Week 6 quiz and discussion post by August 13th at 11:59PM. |
| Week 7 | August 14 th – 16 th | Module 7: Intro to Shinto Final Exam Discussion | Attend: Lecture on Wednesday (Aug. 16 th) from 8:35–11:25AM. Pre-recorded lectures will be in place for Monday, August 14th. Read: • Pages 360–397. Complete: Week 7 quiz and discussion post by August 18th at 11:59 PM. |
| | August 19 th – 25 th | Final Exam Period | <u>Date of exam TBD.</u> |

Course Notes:

1. Posting lecture notes to sharing sites – **do not do this!** Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussion, presentations, etc., by both instructor and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).
Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).
2. I always want my students to be successful in my courses so, above all, remember that I am here to help! However, I cannot be of any assistance if you do not ask – please feel free to communicate with me (on the discussion forum or via email) at any point during the semester.

Statement on Student Mental Health:

As a University student, you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

Emergency Resources (on and off campus): <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

Carleton Resources:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources:

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

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

Informal accommodation due to short-term incapacitation: if extensions are required for course work, please discuss this with me as soon as you are able. An extension for the midterm assignment requires supporting documentation in the form of the Self-Declaration for Academic Considerations form (<https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/self-declaration.pdf>).

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 accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here](#)).

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 [click here](#).

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).

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>