



CAMOSUN COLLEGE
School of Arts & Science
Humanities

REL 102, World Religions of the East
Winter, 2010
COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Justine Noel

Office hours: Mon., 1:30 pm -2:30 pm, Tues., 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm,
Wed., 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm, Thurs., 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm.

Office location: Young 312 Phone: 370-3951 Email: noelju@camosun.bc.ca

Course Schedule:

Lectures: Mondays, 10:30 am – 12:20 pm, Young 316

Seminars: Wednesdays, Group A: 10:30 am – 11:20 am, Y-316

Group B: 11:30 am – 12:20 pm, Y-316

Calendar description: An introductory survey of Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Chinese religions, and Shinto, this course explores the sources, beliefs (including representative texts), and practices of these religions. The traditions of each will be studied in their cultural and political contexts from both historical and contemporary perspectives.

Intended Learning Outcomes: by the end of this course the student should be able to

- 1) identify the major periods and thinkers in the history of Eastern philosophy
- 2) explain and analyze the basic problems of Eastern philosophy in the fields of metaphysics, ethics, aesthetics, and epistemology
- 3) summarize and compare the views of central philosophers in the Eastern tradition
- 4) apply critical thinking methods to evaluate the ways in which Eastern philosophers attempt to solve the problems of philosophy
- 5) state and support an individual point of view on the philosophical issues covered in the course

Text: Living Religions: Eastern Traditions, Mary Pat Fisher, Prentice Hall

Course Requirements:

3 tests: 45% (15% each)

final exam (cumulative): 25% (date tba, final exam period)

seminar participation/groupwork: 10%

compare and contrast paper: 10%

discussion leader/facilitator: 5%

commentaries on documentaries: 5%

Reading Assignments

Week 1: Why Are There Religions? Chapter 1

01/04 Introduction

01/06 The Religious Response, p.12-39

Week 2: Hinduism, Chapter 2

01/11 Vedic Religion, Karma, Castes, Spiritual Disciplines, p.41-64

01/13 Major Theistic Cults p.64-71

Week 3: Hinduism, Chapter 2 cont.

01/18 Major Philosophical Systems, Popular Forms of Worship, p.71-81

01/20 Hinduism in the Modern World, p.81-89, Review

Week 4: Jainism, Chapter 3

01/25 **TEST #1** on Hinduism

01/27 Tirthankaras, Spiritual Practices, World Jainism, p.90-102

Week 5: Buddhism, Chapter 4

02/01 The Life of the Buddha, The Dharma, Eightfold Path, p.103-116

02/03 Buddhism South and North, p.117-125

Week 6: Buddhism, Chapter 4 cont.

02/08 Mahayana, Zen, p.125-136

02/10 Pure Land, Buddhism in the West, Socially Engaged Buddhism, p.136-149,
Review

Week 7: Sikhism, Chapter 5

02/15 **TEST #2** on Jainism and Buddhism

02/17 The Sant Tradition, Guru Nanak, The Succession of Gurus, p.150-158

Week 8: Sikhism, Chapter 5

02/22 Central Beliefs, Sacred Practices, 159-166

02/24 Sikhism Today, p.166-170

Week 9: Taoism, Chapter 6

03/01 Ancient Traditions, Taoism – The Way of Nature and Immortality, p.171-178

03/03 Organized Taoism, p.179-183

Week 10: Taoism, Chapter 6 cont.

03/08 Taoism Today, p.184-185

03/10 Review

Week 11: Confucianism, Chapter 6 cont.

03/15 **TEST #3** on Sikhism and Taoism

03/17 Confucianism – The Practice of Virtue, p.186-193

Week 12: Confucianism, Chapter 6 cont.

03/22 Confucianism Under Communism, p.193-196

03/24 Living Confucianism, p.197-199

Week 13: Shinto, Chapter 7

03/29 The Essence of Shinto, Buddhist and Confucian Influences, p.200-211

03/31 Shinto Today, p.211-214, **PAPER DUE**

Week 14: Religion in the Twenty-First Century, Chapter 8

04/05 No Class- Easter Monday

04/07 Religious Pluralism, New Religious Movements, Hardening of Religious Boundaries, Interfaith Movement, p.215-222, Review for final exam

Policy on missed tests: Make-up tests are permitted in cases of illness or personal crisis only. A make-up test will not be scheduled until proper documentation is provided.

Grading System: the following percentage conversion to letter grade will be used:

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|----|---------|
| A+ | 90-100% |
| A | 85-89% |
| A- | 80-84% |
| B+ | 77-79% |
| B | 73-76% |
| B- | 70-72% |
| C+ | 65-69% |
| C | 60-64% |
| D | 50-59% |
| F | 0-49% |

Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course:

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College Calendar, Registrar's Office or the College web site at <http://www.camosun.bc.ca>

