

**REL 102, World Religions of the East**  
**Winter, 2011**

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**COURSE OUTLINE**

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**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: Tuesdays, 10:30 am – 12:20 pm, Young 316

Seminars: Thursdays, Group B: 10:30 am – 11:20 am, Y-316

Group A: 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. Explain the contexts/historical settings in which Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Chinese religions, and Shintoism arose.
2. List major dates, events, and places central to each.
3. Describe the historical linkage/relationships among them.
4. Summarize their major beliefs, teachings, ideals, and practices.
5. Explain variations/splits/divisions in each tradition.
6. Analyze their similarities/differences.
7. Compare/contrast each religion's view of the others.
8. Evaluate their relationship to and impact on the world today.

**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%, discussion leader/facilitator: 5%

compare and contrast paper: 15%

**Reading Assignments**

**Week 1: Why Are There Religions? Chapter 1**

01/11 Introduction

01/13 The Religious Response, p.12-39

**Week 2: Hinduism, Chapter 2**

01/18 Vedic Religion, Karma, Castes, Spiritual Disciplines, p.41-64

01/20 Major Theistic Cults p.64-71

**Week 3: Hinduism, Chapter 2 cont.**

01/25 Major Philosophical Systems, Popular Forms of Worship, p.71-81  
01/27 Hinduism in the Modern World, p.81-89, Review

**Week 4: Jainism, Chapter 3**

02/01 **TEST #1** on Hinduism  
02/03 Tirthankaras, Spiritual Practices, World Jainism, p.90-102

**Week 5: Buddhism, Chapter 4**

02/08 The Life of the Buddha, The Dharma, Eightfold Path, p.103-116  
02/10 Buddhism South and North, p.117-125

**Week 6: Buddhism, Chapter 4 cont.**

02/15 Mahayana, Zen, p.125-136  
02/17 Pure Land, Buddhism in the West, Socially Engaged Buddhism, p.136-149, Review

**Week 7: Sikhism, Chapter 5**

02/22 **TEST #2** on Jainism and Buddhism  
02/24 The Sant Tradition, Guru Nanak, The Succession of Gurus, p.150-158

**Week 8: Sikhism, Chapter 5**

03/01 Central Beliefs, Sacred Practices, 159-166  
03/03 Sikhism Today, p.166-170

**Week 9: Taoism, Chapter 6**

03/08 Ancient Traditions, Taoism – The Way of Nature and Immortality, p.171-178  
03/10 Organized Taoism, p.179-183

**Week 10: Taoism, Chapter 6 cont.**

03/15 Taoism Today, p.184-185  
03/17 Review

**Week 11: Test week**

03/22 **TEST #3** on Sikhism and Taoism  
03/24 no class – reading break

**Week 12: Confucianism, Chapter 6**

03/29 Confucianism – The Practice of Virtue, p.186-193, Confucianism Under Communism, p.193-196  
03/31 Living Confucianism, p.197-199

**Week 13: Shinto, Chapter 7**

04/05 The Essence of Shinto, Buddhist and Confucian Influences, p.200-211  
04/07 Shinto Today, p.211-214, **PAPER DUE**

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

**04/12 Religious Pluralism, New Religious Movements, Hardening of Religious Boundaries, Interfaith Movement, p.215-222**

04/14 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.

**6. Grading System**

*(No changes are to be made to this section unless the Approved Course Description has been forwarded through the Education Council of Camosun College for approval.)*

**Standard Grading System (GPA)**

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
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90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.	1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

### Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at [camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca) for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	<i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrollment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. <i>(For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3<sup>rd</sup> course attempt or at the point of course completion.)</i>
CW	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

## 7. 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, at Student Services, or the College web site at [camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca).

### STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services, and the College web site in the Policy Section.

### ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AS APPROPRIATE OR AS REQUIRED