



CAMOSUN COLLEGE
School of Arts & Science
Humanities

REL 102, World Religions of the East
Fall, 2011

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor	Dr. Justine Noel		
Office Hours	Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30 pm -2:30 pm Wednesday, 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm		
Office	Young 312		
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Course Schedule:

Lectures: Mondays, 2:30 pm – 4:20 pm, Y 316

Seminars: Wednesdays, Group A: 2:30 pm – 3:20 pm, WT 201

Group B: 3:30 pm - 4:20 pm , WT 201

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, Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Chinese religions (Confucianism, Taoism), 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 various elements in Eastern religions.
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): 30% (date tba, final exam period)
- seminar participation/groupwork: 10%
- compare and contrast paper: 10% (due Dec.5)
- discussion leader/facilitator: 5%

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

09/07 Introduction, The Religious Response, p.12-39

Week 2: Hinduism, Chapter 2

09/12 Vedic Religion, Karma, Castes, Spiritual Disciplines, p.41-64

09/14 Major Theistic Cults p.64-71

Week 3: Hinduism, Chapter 2 cont.

09/19 Major Philosophical Systems, Popular Forms of Worship, p.71-81

09/21 Hinduism in the Modern World, p.81-89, Review

Week 4: Jainism, Chapter 3

09/26 **TEST #1** on Hinduism

09/28 Tirthankaras, Spiritual Practices, World Jainism, p.90-102

Week 5: Buddhism, Chapter 4

10/03 The Life of the Buddha, The Dharma, Eightfold Path, p.103-116

10/05 Buddhism South and North, p.117-125

Week 6: Buddhism, Chapter 4 cont.

10/10 No class - Thanksgiving

10/12 Mahayana, Zen, p.125-136, Buddhism in the West, Socially Engaged Buddhism, p.136-149, Review

Week 7: Sikhism, Chapter 5

10/17 **TEST #2** on Jainism and Buddhism

10/19 The Sant Tradition, Guru Nanak, The Succession of Gurus, p.150-158

Week 8: Sikhism, Chapter 5

10/24 Central Beliefs, Sacred Practices, 159-166

10/26 Sikhism Today, p.166-170

Week 9: Taoism, Chapter 6

10/31 Ancient Traditions, Taoism – The Way of Nature and Immortality, p.171-178

11/02 Organized Taoism, p.179-183

Week 10: Taoism, Chapter 6 cont.

11/07 Taoism Today, p.184-185

11/09 Review for test #3

Week 11: Confucianism, Chapter 6 cont.

11/14 **TEST #3** on Sikhism and Taoism

11/16 Confucianism – The Practice of Virtue, p.186-193

Week 12: Confucianism, Chapter 6 cont.

11/21 Confucianism Under Communism, p.193-196

11/23 Living Confucianism, p.197-199

Week 13: Shinto, Chapter 7

11/28 The Essence of Shinto, Buddhist and Confucian Influences, p.200-211

11/30 Shinto Today, p.211-214

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

12/05 Religious Pluralism, New Religious Movements, Hardening of Religious Boundaries, Interfaith Movement, p.215-222

12/07 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.

Cell phones: cell phones must be turned off and put away during class time.

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

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>

ACADEMIC CONDUCT POLICY

There is an Academic Conduct Policy. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, Registration, and on the College web site in the Policy Section.