



*School of Arts & Science
Humanities*

**REL 102, World Religions of the East
Winter, 2014**

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor	Dr. Justine Noel		
Office Hours	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30 pm -2:30 pm, Wednesdays, 10:30 am – 11:30 am, Fridays, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm		
Office	Young 312		
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Course Schedule:

Lectures: Tuesdays, 10:30 am – 12:20 pm, Y 325

Seminars: Thursdays, Group A: 10:30 am – 11:20 am, Y 325

Group B: 11:30 am - 12:20 pm , Y 325

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 Hal

Course Requirements:

- 3 tests: 45% (15% each)
- final exam (cumulative): 30% (date tba, final exam period)
- class and seminar participation/groupwork/fieldwork: 10%
- compare and contrast paper: 10% (due last class)
- presentation: 5%

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

- 1/7 Introduction, The Religious Response, p.12-39
- 1/9 Discussion of chapter 1

Week 2: Hinduism, Chapter 2

- 1/14 Vedic Religion, Karma, Castes, Spiritual Disciplines, p.41-64
- 1/16 Major Theistic Cults p.64-71

Week 3: Hinduism, Chapter 2 cont.

- 1/21 Major Philosophical Systems, Popular Forms of Worship, p.71-81
- 1/23 Hinduism in the Modern World, p.81-89, Review

Week 4: Jainism, Chapter 3

- 1/28 **TEST #1** on Hinduism (and chapter 1), After the test, overview of Jainism
- 1/30 Tirthankaras, Spiritual Practices, World Jainism, p.90-102

Week 5: Buddhism, Chapter 4

- 2/4 The Life of the Buddha, The Dharma, Eightfold Path, p.103-116
- 2/6 Buddhism South and North, p.117-125

Week 6: Buddhism, Chapter 4 cont.

- 2/11 Mahayana, Zen, p.125-136
- 2/13 no class, reading break

Week 7: Sikhism, Chapter 5

- 2/18 Buddhism in the West, Socially Engaged Buddhism, p.136-149, Review
- 2/20 **TEST #2** on Jainism and Buddhism, After the test, overview of Sikhism

Week 8: Sikhism, Chapter 5

- 2/25 Central Beliefs, Sacred Practices, 159-166
- 2/27 Sikhism Today, p.166-170

Week 9: Taoism, Chapter 6

- 3/4 Ancient Traditions, Taoism – The Way of Nature and Immortality, p.171-178
- 3/6 Organized Taoism, p.179-183

Week 10: Taoism, Chapter 6 cont.

3/11 Taoism Today, p.184-185

3/13 Review for test #3

Week 11: Confucianism, Chapter 6 cont.

3/18 **TEST #3** on Sikhism and Taoism

3/20 Confucianism – The Practice of Virtue, p.186-193

Week 12: Confucianism, Chapter 6 cont.

3/25 Confucianism Under Communism, p.193-196

3/27 Living Confucianism, p.197-199

Week 13: Shinto, Chapter 7

4/2 The Essence of Shinto, Buddhist and Confucian Influences, p.200-211

4/4 Shinto Today, p.211-214

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

4/8 Religious Pluralism, New Religious Movements, Hardening of Religious Boundaries, Interfaith Movement, p.215-222

4/10 Review for final exam, **essay due**

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.