



## COURSE OUTLINE

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Instructor	Dr. Justine Noel		
Office Hours	Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 11:30-12:30, Tuesday and Thursday, 1:30-2:30		
Office	Young 312		
Phone	(250) 370-3951		
Email	<a href="mailto:noelju@camosun.bc.ca">noelju@camosun.bc.ca</a>		

### Course Schedule:

Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30 pm – 1:20 pm, Y 303

Seminars: Mondays, Group B: 1:30 pm – 2:20 pm, Y 303

Wednesdays, Group A: 1:30 pm - 2:20 pm, Y 303

**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)

class and seminar participation/group work/fieldwork: 10%

compare and contrast paper: 10% (due on day of final exam)

seminar facilitator: 5%

## Reading Assignments

### **Week 1: Introduction**

9/03 Introduction, read chapter 1

### **Week 2: Hinduism, Chapter 2**

9/08 Vedic Religion, Karma, Castes, Spiritual Disciplines, p.41-64

9/10 Major Theistic Cults p.64-71

Seminar: Discussion of Hinduism

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

9/15 Group work on Hinduism

9/17 Major Philosophical Systems, Popular Forms of Worship, p.71-89, Review

Seminar: Discussion of Hinduism

### **Week 4: Jainism, Chapter 3**

9/22 **TEST #1** on Hinduism (and chapter 1)

9/24 Tirthankaras, Spiritual Practices, World Jainism, p.90-102

Seminar: Discussion of Jainism

### **Week 5: Jainism, Chapter 3 cont.**

9/29 Group work on Jainism

10/01 Jainism, cont.

Seminar: Discussion of Jainism

### **Week 6: Buddhism, Chapter 4**

10/06 The Life of the Buddha, The Dharma, Eightfold Path..., p.103-132

10/08 Zen, p.132-136, p.142-143

Seminar: Discussion of Buddhism

### **Week 7: Buddhism, Chapter 4 cont.**

10/13 no class, Thanksgiving

10/15 Buddhism in the West, Socially Engaged Buddhism, p.136-149, Review

### **Week 8: Sikhism, Chapter 5**

10/20 **TEST #2** on Jainism and Buddhism

10/22 Central Beliefs, Sacred Practices, 159-166

Seminar: Discussion of Sikhism

### **Week 9: Sikhism, Chapter 5 cont.**

10/27 Group work on Sikhism

10/29 Sikhism Today, p.166-170

Seminar: Discussion of Sikhism

### **Week 10: Taoism, Chapter 6**

11/03 Ancient Traditions, Taoism – The Way of Nature and Immortality, p.171-178,  
Organized Taoism, p.179-183

11/05 Group work on Taoism

Seminar: Discussion of Taoism

**Week 11: Taoism, Chapter 6 cont.**

11/10 Taoism Today, p.184-185, Review

11/12 **TEST #3** on Sikhism and Taoism

Seminar: Discussion of Confucianism

**Week 12: Confucianism, Chapter 6 cont.**

11/17 Confucianism – The Practice of Virtue, p.186-193

11/19 Confucianism Under Communism, p.193-199

Seminar: Discussion of Confucianism

**Week 13: Shinto, Chapter 7**

11/24 The Essence of Shinto, Buddhist and Confucian Influences, p.200-211

11/26 Shinto Today, p.211-214

Seminar: Discussion of Shinto

**Week 14: Shinto, Chapter 7 cont.**

12/01 Group work on Shinto

12/03 Review for final exam

Seminar: Optional - questions, extra help

**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**

*(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
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
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<b>I</b>	<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.
<b>IP</b>	<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>d</sup> course attempt or at the point of course completion.)</i>
<b>CW</b>	<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