

Religion 103 Course Syllabus
Religions of the Eastern World - In Person
Winter Term 2023 - 3 credits

Instructor Information

Ruth Chadd García-Jaramillo
B.A. Religious Studies
M.A. Comparative Religion
Ph.D. Candidate, Philosophy of Religion (Process Studies)

Class Meeting Information

Class/Lecture Meeting Location: North Santiam Hall (NSH), Room 206 (located on the second floor)

Office Hours & Location: South Santiam Hall (SSH), Room 212 (located on the second floor); Tues 12 pm - 2 pm, Thurs 12 pm - 2 pm

Virtual Office Hours Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/meeting/99653489100>

Zoom ID: 996 5348 9100

Contact: chaddr@linnbenton.edu

Course Description

Investigates religion in the Eastern World. Includes discussion of Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Shinto, Jainism, Sikhism and others. Focuses on how the outward forms of religion integrate with other cultural traditions.

Overview and Introduction

You are very welcome to R103 Intro to Eastern Religion! This course examines the history, beliefs, practices, and sacred writings of Eastern philosophical and religious movements within Eastern traditions.

It is my hope that this course will:

- 1) Engage your curiosity by inviting more questions than answers;
- 2) Deepen your understanding and appreciation of the Eastern Religions/Philosophies within the world's wisdom traditions;
- 3) Invite you to consider their vast relevance in relation to current events in our world today.

I'm so very glad you're here, and look forward to hearing your voices and wisdom in relation to the study and experience of Eastern Religions.

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Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate awareness and insight of other world religions.
- Recognize and articulate the diverse issues related to eastern religions.
- Draw relationships from eastern cultures and beliefs in a process of self exploration for greater personal understanding.
- Use analytical and critical thinking to draw reasonable conclusions.

Learning Activities

Mini-Lecture/Discussion/Group Work

Watching, Listening and Commenting on Film, Podcasts and Slides Presentations

Group-learning activities

Self-directed Reading (Text and Moodle), Writing, and Research

Prerequisite Course(s)

Reading 90 and Writing 115 or above are strongly recommended.

Required Text

- Ondich, Judy. *World Religions: The Spirit Searching*.
 - <https://mlpp.pressbooks.pub/worldreligionsthespiritsearching/front-matter/introduction/>

Recommended (but not required) Additional Texts:

- Novak, Philip. *The World's Wisdom: Sacred Texts of the World's Religions* (New York: HarperCollins, 1995).

Course Requirements

Your final grade will be determined by your performance on assignments and activities:

Reading/Writing/Participation: Each week you will write a short Reading Response on the assigned readings and the lecture commentaries. You will be answering questions on the material and adding your own reflections. You will also be required to post comments/responses to 2 of your classmates each week.

- Weekly learning modules will be posted by 11:55 pm the Sunday before each week. Example: If week 2 begins on Monday Apr 5, your Weekly Overview will be posted by Sunday 11:55 pm Apr 4.
- I allow 2 class skips per term without it affecting your grade. Just email or message me (Moodle) to let me know. For the class skip week, you are also allotted a Forum Discussion skip for that week. (Ex: You use your SKIP for Tuesday Class Week 5; Discussion Forum for week 5 is SKIP also.)

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Midterm Exam: There will be one (1) midterm exam, which will include a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay-type questions.

Reflection Essay (2): There will be two (2) reflection essays in which you will be asked to reflect on your learnings from the tradition(s) we have discussed up to this point in the term. Each essay is a 1-2 page, 12-pt Times New Roman font, discussion on the religious tradition(s).

Research Project: During the second half of the term, a 4-5 page research project will be due. The research paper is worth 80 points. Instructions are posted on the “Welcome & Introductions” sections in Moodle, under the “Course Syllabus”.

Extra credit: Up to 8 points available. Topics listed on the last page of the syllabus.

Grading

Final letter grades will be assigned based on the total number of points earned divided by the total possible points (see chart below). It is possible that the total number of points will change during the term (to include extra assignments, snow days etc.). I reserve the right to curve the grading scale positively if deemed necessary. Final grades will be determined based on the following scale: A 90-100% B 80-89% C 70-79% D 60-69% F 59% and below

The points for each area above will be granted according to the following criteria:

(A RANGE)= Excellent: shows excellent comprehension of the material and personal engagement and creative thinking on the student’s part.

B range) = Good: shows an accurate comprehension of the material together with some personal engagement and creative thinking on the student’s part.

(C range) = Adequate: the student has misunderstood some parts of the materials and shows little personal engagement.

(D range) = Inadequate: the student’s understanding of the materials is deficient and the submission lacks personal engagement and creativity.

(F) -- Assignment not posted by the deadline, or the post violates the course guidelines.

Work	Points Available	Your Work
Forum Discussions	150	
Reflection Essay #1	100	
Reflection Essay #2	100	
Midterm Exam	50	
Extra Credit	(+8)	
Final Research Project/Paper	100	
TOTAL POINTS	508	

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Tentative Course Schedule

Week/Class	Readings	Material to be Covered	Assignments/Homework Due Dates/Exams
Week 1: Jan 9-15	Ondich, "Introduction"; "About Religion" Sections 1-3	Course Introductions; Syllabus; Why Religion?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Class Introductions 2) Concepts to consider when studying religions 3) Global perspectives 4) Defining the "East"
Week 2: Jan 16-22	Ondich, Section 10: Hinduism/Section 11: Hinduism Resources	Hinduism Sacred Texts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bhagavad-Gita • Expansion of Hinduism • Philosophical Systems • Indian Yoga vs. American Yoga • Women in Hinduism 	<u>Forum/Discussion</u>
Week 3: Jan 23-29	Ondich, Section 14/15	Jainism; • <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginnings • Belief systems • Kevala • Digambaras vs. Svetambaras • Sacred Texts 	<u>Forum/Discussion</u>
Week 4: Jan 30-Feb 5	Ondich, Section 8/9	Buddhism; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Four Noble Truths • The Eight Fold Path • Defining Buddhism • Mahayana vs. Theravada 	Submit Research Project Topic Ideas Due Sun <u>Special Guest Lecture</u>
Week 5: Feb 6-12	Ondich, Section 8/9	Buddhism Cont'd <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sacred Texts 	Reflection Essay #1: DUE Sun Feb 12 @

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lotus Sutra • The Burning Mansion • From Chan to Zen to Tibetan • Eastern Buddhism vs. Western Buddhism • The Buddhist Hell Garden 	11:55 pm
Week 6: Feb 13-19	Ondich, Section 6/7	Confucianism; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophy vs. Religion • The Five Virtues • The Chinese Classics 	Midterm Study Guide Handout <u>Forum/Discussion</u>
Week 7: Feb 20-26	Midterm Prep; Ondich, Sections 4/5	Taoism; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flow with the Tao • The Tao te Ching • Wu Wei • Three Natural Paths 	Midterm DUE SUN Feb 26 @ 11:59 pm
Week 8: Feb 27-March 5	Ondich, Sections 12/13	Sikhism; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hybrid/Universalist Religions • Strife in Northern India • The Eternal Guru 	<u>Forum Discussion</u>
Week 9: Mar 6-12	Reflection Essay #2 Prep; Ondich Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memory Lane • Take-Aways • Myths • Religious Models • Life Application 	Reflection Essay #2 DUE Sun Mar 12 @11:55pm NO CLASS THURS
Week 10: Mar	Final Paper	New Religions,	ALL EXTRA CREDIT

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13-19	Reviews	Alternative Paths & Movements	DUE by Sun Mar 19 @11:55pm <u>Final Project Presentations</u>
Week 11: Mar 20-24	Ondich Section; Final Presentations	Current Issues in Eastern Traditions Wrap-Up	FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE Fri Mar 24 @ 11:55pm <u>Final Project Presentations</u>

Class Policies:

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is using or offering the words or ideas of another as if they were your own, with no acknowledgment of the source. Whenever the ideas or words used are taken from a source, this source must be given credit. This applies not only to direct quotations, but also to indirect quotations (in which the original statement is paraphrased). Sources that must be given credit include not only published books, journals, magazines, newspapers, etc., but also other types of media, such as electronic resources (CDROM, Internet, etc.), film, television, radio, and cassette recordings, as well as lectures and the work of other students. I assume and expect that you will write in your own words unless you are directly quoting someone.

Unsure about anything? I will be hosting a “Citing Sources” mini lecture during the course of the term to clarify how to properly cite sources in your papers. Contact the writing center at LBCC for advice.

I also recognize that plagiarism is highly culturally defined. Consequently, students not experienced in the U.S. educational system, or speakers of English as a second language, may be asked to rewrite plagiarized work without the assumption of dishonest intent on the student’s part. Blatant plagiarism in your research papers/projects will result in a “0” on your paper. All students are expected to adhere to basic standards of academic honesty and integrity. All work submitted is expected to be the student’s own thought and expression unless another source is acknowledged and appropriately footnoted.

READ ALL Inclusive community / constructive discussions Student Conduct: This material is inherently interesting, but it can also be a sensitive subject to discuss. As a class we must welcome participation, open discussion, and insight from all. Please remember to keep an open mind, and be respectful to me as your instructor and to your peers. The field of religious studies is incredibly vast and we simply do not have time to delve deeply into each topic. You are expected to engage positively, and even critically, with the material presented. However, using online class forums to complain or to be

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consistently negative towards another's traditions or culture will not be tolerated. I reserve the right to delete posts if necessary.

Late work: I do not accept late work (research papers, exams, weekly assignments etc). I do not allow students to retake exams, or to re-write research papers. Please talk to me in the case of severe emergencies.

Email: Read the email etiquette guidelines posted at the top of the course. I will respond to your emails within 2 business days. Please plan accordingly.

College Policies:

Disability Services: Students who may need accommodations due to documented disabilities, who have medical information which the instructor should know, or who need special arrangements in an emergency, should speak with the instructor during the first week of class. If you have not accessed services and think you may need them, please contact Disability Services, 917-4789.

Basic Needs Statement: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Roadrunner Resource Center for support (resources@linnbenton.edu , or visit us on the web www.linnbenton.edu/RRC under Student Support for Current Students). This office help students get connected to resources.

Institutional Withdrawal / Waitlist Policy: There is no waitlist for this course. Students who do not participate in week 1's discussion boards will be dropped from the course.

Drop Policy: Students are responsible for knowing the last day to drop the course for a full refund. Also, be aware of the last day to officially withdraw from this course for transcripts to show a 'W.'

Incomplete Grades: You may be eligible for an 'Incomplete' grade if you have finished 90% of the class work. Should you receive an 'Incomplete,' all course work must be finished by the end of the next term. Please contact the instructor prior to term's end with appropriate documentation for requesting an 'Incomplete.'

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Extra Credit: (You may complete one of each activity) If you are struggling in the class, and are worried about your final grade, there will be up to 8 points available for extra credit. If you have questions about your choice of activity / program you will use (or, if you have an idea of your own), please do not hesitate to ask me. I hope you take advantage of the extra credit opportunities offered for this course. This is your chance to experience religion and the ongoing dialogue about religion happening presently in our community -- which can be easily accessed by the curious-minded with a little direction!

- 1) Attend an online lecture / event (5 points):** If you would prefer to attend a lecture or event about religion, I will accept a 2-page, double-spaced paper outlining the main points of discussion and your thoughts on the subject. Please get approval for your choice of event before turning in an extra credit report.
- 2) Listen to a podcast / watch video (3 points):** You may enjoy streaming a radio program or watching a documentary while earning extra credit. I will accept a full 1-page, double-spaced, paper outlining the main points of discussion and your thoughts on the subject.
 - **“On Being”**, hosted by Krista Tippett <https://onbeing.org/series/podcast/> - Pick a program that interests you personally. Please choose a program that coincides with the course material.
 - **“Entitled Opinions (about Life and Literature)”** hosted by Robert Harrison
 - **The Religious Studies Project** <https://www.religiousstudiesproject.com/> - The Religious Studies Project (RSP) is an international collaborative enterprise producing weekly podcasts with leading scholars on the social-scientific study of religion. Pick a program that interests you personally.