

**RELS 7 Course Outline as of Fall 2017****CATALOG INFORMATION**

Dept and Nbr: RELS 7 Title: WISDOM RELIGIONS OF ASIA

Full Title: Wisdom Religions of Asia

Last Reviewed: 4/12/2021

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	3.00	Lecture Scheduled	3.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	52.50
Minimum	3.00	Lab Scheduled	0	6	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	3.00		Contact Total	52.50
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 105.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 157.50

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable

Grading: Grade or P/NP

Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

Also Listed As:

Formerly:

**Catalog Description:**

An introductory survey of the religious wisdom traditions, beliefs, and practices of ancient and modern India, ancient and medieval China, and medieval and modern Japan.

**Prerequisites/Corequisites:****Recommended Preparation:**

Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

**Limits on Enrollment:****Schedule of Classes Information:**

Description: An introductory survey of the religious traditions, beliefs, and practices of ancient and modern India, ancient and medieval China, and medieval and modern Japan. (Grade or P/NP)

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

Limits on Enrollment:

Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.

Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

## **ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:**

<b>AS Degree:</b>	<b>Area</b>			<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>
	E	Humanities		Fall 2016	
	H	Global Perspective and Environmental Literacy			
<b>CSU GE:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>			<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>
	C2	Humanities		Fall 2016	
<b>IGETC:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>			<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>
	3B	Humanities		Fall 2016	
<b>CSU Transfer:</b>	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 2016	Inactive:	
<b>UC Transfer:</b>	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 2016	Inactive:	

**CID:**

**Certificate/Major Applicable:**

Major Applicable Course

## **COURSE CONTENT**

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Describe several religious practices, beliefs, and major tenets of religions originating from South Asia: Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, and Buddhism.
2. Describe several religious practices, beliefs, and major tenets of religions originating from East Asia: Chinese folk traditions, Taoism, and Shinto.

### **Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Articulate several differences between the Sramana vs. Brahmanical traditions of India.
2. Identify several rituals and practices of Jain, Hindu, and Sikh religions in India and articulate their intended purpose.
3. Distinguish between the holy sites of Jain, Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist religions in India.
4. Analyze commonalities and differences among Buddhist, Hindu, and Jain doctrines.
5. Identify elements of ancient Chinese cosmology and analyze these in relation to ancient Chinese folk religious practices.
6. Articulate purposes of Taoist religious rituals and religious texts in relation to Taoist ideals.
7. Articulate major differences between what the Buddha taught and Chinese Buddhism, with reference to Mahayana and Theravada doctrinal differences.
8. Distinguish features of Shinto worship in comparison to Buddhist worship in Japan.

### **Topics and Scope:**

Required Topics:

#### **I. HINDUISM: Doctrine & Practice**

- A. Scripture: Vedas, Upanishads, Epics, Sutras, Puranas
- B. Brahmanical practices prior to 500 bce

- C. Later Hindu rituals & traditions (Ganga pilgrimage, cremation, Kumbh Mela, Char Dam, daily puja, temple-based worship)
- D. Vedic deities vs. later Hindu deities
- E. The principal yogas (Raja, Jñana, Bhakti, Karma, Kundalini, Ashtanga, Kriya) & disciplines of spiritual-development
- F. Current gurus: their teachings, lineages, followers, practice
- II. JAINISM: Doctrine & Practice
  - A. Sramana vs. Brahmanical traditions of ancient India (c. 2000 bce)
  - B. Mahavira & the jina lineage
  - C. Principle edicts & codes of conduct
  - D. Modern Jain societal influence
- III. SIKHISM: Doctrine & Practice
  - A. Guru Nanak & the 10 gurus
  - B. Guru Granth Sahib (scripture)
  - C. Five K's and behavioral directives
  - D. Sikhs in Punjab in modern history
- IV. BUDDHISM: Doctrine & Practice
  - A. Life of the Buddha
  - B. The Pali Canon
  - C. Theravada vs. Mahayana traditions
  - D. Vajrayana Buddhism in Tibet, China & Japan
  - E. Buddhist lineages of medieval China & Japan: Pure Land/Jodoshu, T'ienTai/Tendai, Ch'an/Zen
  - F. Buddhist lineages unique to Japan: Shingon, Jodo Shinshu, Nichiren, and further developments in Zen
  - G. Buddhist lineages in Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam
  - H. Buddhist lineages in the U.S. & Western Europe
- V. FOLK TRADITIONS of ancient China: Doctrine & Practice
  - A. Variety of supernatural beings & their functions
  - B. Hell & hungry ghost realms: beliefs re. death & afterlife
  - C. Shamanism, exorcism, related rituals
- VI. TAOISM of medieval China: Doctrine & Practice
  - A. History & origin of initial lineage
  - B. Deities, immortals, the celestial universe
  - C. Major lineages and texts
  - D. Rituals and immortality practices
  - E. Influence of Buddhism on the rise of religious Taoism
- VII. SHINTO of Japan: Doctrine & Practice
  - A. Cosmology
  - B. Role of Kami
  - C. Nature of rituals performed by priests
  - D. Interplay with Buddhism; Shinto shrines coexisting with Buddhist temples
  - E. Relation to Japanese nationalism

#### OPTIONAL TOPICS MAY INCLUDE

1. Sufism and its relation to Sikhism
2. Tibetan Buddhism currently in exile in Himachal Pradesh, India
3. Christianity in Sri Lanka, India, China, & Japan
4. Zoroastrianism in India
5. Baha'i in India

#### Assignment:

1. Weekly readings from various textual materials (approximately 10 pages per week).
2. Five to twelve reading quizzes (short answer) covering assigned readings.
3. In-class discussion and group work covering assigned readings and lecture topics.
4. One to three midterm examinations, including multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.
5. Final examination including, multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.

Other assignments may include:

6. Visitation to the Santa Rosa Sikh Gurudwara, followed by a written report.
7. Visitation to a local Buddhist center of meditation instruction, followed by a written report.
8. Summary-response reports on films recommended by instructor.
9. Research project on a specific aspect of either ritual or doctrine of one of the major religions or an auxiliary religion, such as Zoroastrians, Naths, Aghoras, or other.
10. Field trip to Asian Art Museum when its current exhibit is relevant to religious studies.

### Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

**Writing:** Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Essays required on reading quizzes and on mid-term and final exams; essays required on visitation, field trip, or film reports.

Writing  
20 - 30%

**Problem Solving:** Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

None

Problem solving  
0 - 0%

**Skill Demonstrations:** All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

None

Skill Demonstrations  
0 - 0%

**Exams:** All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Multiple choice, true/false, short answer, completion, essay, quizzes, final

Exams  
50 - 70%

**Other:** Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Attendance, off-campus field trips, class participation

Other Category  
10 - 20%

### Representative Textbooks and Materials:

Dhammapada (any translation, esp. online)

Guru Granth Sahib (selections, online)

Lotus Sutra (any translation, esp. online)

Purana (selections, online)

Religions of China: the World as a Living System. Overmyer, Daniel L. Waveland Press: 1986. Kindle: 2013

Religions of Japan: Unity & Diversity. Earhart, H. Byron. Cengage Learning: 2013

Sinto, the Kami Way. Ono, Sokyo. Tuttle Publishing: 2004 (classic) or Understanding Shinto.

Littleton, Scott. Watkins Publishing: 1999 (classic)

Vedanta Sutra of Shankara (any translation, esp. online)

What the Buddha Taught. Walpola, Rahula. Grove Press: 1974 (classic)

World Religions: Eastern Traditions, 4th edition. Oxtoby, Willard G., Amore, Roy C., and Hussain, Amir. OUP: 2014

Yoga Sutra of Patanjali (any translation, esp. online)