



AFFILIATED WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

Renison University College
Affiliated with the University of Waterloo
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Renison University College Land Acknowledgement

With gratitude, we acknowledge that Renison University College is located on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Hodinohsyó:ni, and Attawandaran (Neutral) Peoples, which is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometres on each side of the Grand River from mouth to source. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place in all corners of our campus through research, learning, teaching, community building and outreach. We are guided by the work of our Reconciliation and Restoring Steering Committee and Anti-Racism and Decolonization Spokesouncil, as well as the [University of Waterloo's Office of Indigenous Relations](#).

Winter 2024

Course Code: RS 100

Course Title: Religions of Asia

Class Times/Location: Online, asynchronous

Office Hours: Tuesdays/Thursdays 1-2pm

Course Description

This course is an introduction to major religions that originated in South and East Asia. Beginning with an introduction to the study of religion, the course then turns to important terms, major developments, rituals, and central religious themes within Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Shinto. A Canadian and North American focus will also be included for each tradition.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes - (Upon completion of this course, students should be able to)

- A. Understand basics of the Religious Studies perspective
 - Be able to differentiate between confessional and academic approaches to studying religion
 - Draw upon various classic and contemporary forms of theory in the study of religion
- B. Understand basics of various Asian religions
 - Learn essential factors of Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, and Shinto
 - Perceive how these religions function in the lives of modern adherents
- C. Strengthen religious and media literacy
 - Differentiate between verified reporting and unsubstantiated opinion in media sources
 - Gain a sense for how religions are treated in media

A Note About Content: Religion engages with, and reflects, the full range of human experience, behaviour, and attitude, including both the best and the ugliest parts of human life. Films, texts, and other media that we will view or read for this course contain a wide range of content, including things that may make individual students uncomfortable or upset. This may include physical or sexual violence, discrimination and prejudice, sexuality or nudity, frightening images and events, self-harm, religious, political, or cultural views at variance with your own, and other potentially disturbing content. Please speak with the instructor if you wish to receive more information about particular types of content.

Required Text

- World Religions, Canadian Perspectives: Eastern Traditions, edited by Doris R. Jakobsh

Course Requirements and Assessment

<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Date of Evaluation</u>	<u>Weighting</u>
Self-Introduction	Preferred: January 12 Final: January 19	0%
Reflection: The Study of Religion	Preferred: January 12 Final: January 19	5%
Quiz 1	Preferred: January 14 Final: January 19	5%
Quiz 2	Preferred: January 21 Final: January 26	5%

Quiz 3	Preferred: January 28 Final: February 2	5%
Reflection: Hinduism	Preferred: February 2 Final: February 9	5%
Quiz 4	Preferred: February 4 Final: February 9	5%
Quiz 5	Preferred: February 11 Final: February 16	5%
Reflection: Jainism	Preferred: February 16 Final: February 26	5%
Quiz 6	Preferred: February 16 Final: February 26	5%
Komagata Maru paper	Preferred: March 1 Final: March 8	12%
Quiz 7	Preferred: March 3 Final: March 8	5%
Quiz 8	Preferred: March 10 Final: March 15	5%
Reflection: Buddhism	Preferred: March 15 Final: March 22	5%
Quiz 9	Preferred: March 17 Final: March 22	5%
Quiz 10	Preferred: March 24 Final: March 29	5%
News Media Article Analysis paper	Preferred: March 29 Final: April 5	8%
Quiz 11	Preferred: March 31 Final: April 5	5%
Quiz 12	Preferred: April 7 Final: April 12	5%
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Total		100%

Quizzes

There are 12 quizzes in this course. These weekly quizzes are designed to test your knowledge of key content, and aim to keep you on track in the course. Each quiz is worth 5% of your final

grade (overall, quizzes represent 60% of your final grade). You are expected to complete these quizzes independently (i.e., without collaboration). They are located on Learn.

Reflections

There are four reflections: 1) The Study of Religion; 2) Hinduism; 3) Jainism; 4) Buddhism. For each reflection topic, you will write a 1.5-2 page reflection paper (double-spaced, 12-point font). The reflection assignments are designed to give you the opportunity to reflect on central topics and issues surrounding the study of religion, and to go beyond the content itself to explore how these key issues relate to your own perspectives and experiences. Each reflection assignment will have its own set of instructions and reflection questions. You can find these questions on the corresponding content page on Learn.

Komagata Maru Paper

You will write a 7-8 page paper, double-spaced, 12-point font, focusing on this incident. For more information, consult Komagata Maru Assignment in the Activities and Assignments folder of the Table of Contents on Learn.

News Media Article Analysis

You will locate a suitable recent article on Hinduism or Buddhism and write a 3-4 pages, double-spaced, 12-point font paper (not including a title page or the copy of the article). For more information, consult New Media Article Analysis in the Activities and Assignments folder of the Table of Contents on Learn.

Course Outline

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due
1	Jan 8 – 12	The Study of Religion	Introduction (pages vi-x) Chapter 1 (pages 1-29)
2	Jan 15 – 19	Hinduism	Chapter 2 (pages 30-49)
3	Jan 22 – 26	Hinduism	Chapter 2 (pages 49-66)
4	Jan 29 – Feb 2	Hinduism	Chapter 2 (pages 66-85)
5	Feb 5 – 9	Jainism	Chapter 3 (pages 86-117)

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due
6	Feb 12 – 16	Sikhism	Chapter 4 (pages 118-155)
	Feb 19	Family Day	
	Feb 17 – 25	Reading Week	
7	Feb 26 – Mar 1	Buddhism	Chapter 5 (pages 156-169)
8	Mar 4 – 8	Buddhism	Chapter 5 (pages 169-181)
9	Mar 11 – 15	Buddhism	Chapter 5 (pages 181-203)
10	Mar 18 – 22	Confucianism	Chapter 6 (pages 204-214)
11	Mar 25 – 28	Daoism	Chapter 6 (pages 214-244)
	Mar 29	Good Friday	
12	Apr 1 – 5	Shinto	Chapter 7 (pages 246-262)
	Apr 8	Shinto continued	Chapter 7 (pages 246-262) continued

Late or Incomplete Work

Accommodation is already automatically built into this course, as all assessments have preferred due dates and final deadlines. There are no make-up assignments for late or missed assignments in this course. Students who require a further extension must speak to the instructor before an assignment is due and provide a rationale for the extension. The instructor reserves the right to grant or not grant the extension. Please see the University Policies page for more information on Submission Times and Accommodation Due to Illness.

Coursework Submission Policy

Students are expected to do all of the work assigned for this course, and to submit assignments using Learn. Students must do their own work, without help from others or artificial intelligence tools.

It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor, in the first week of term or at the time assignment details are provided if they wish to submit an alternate assignment.

Policy on Plagiarism

“Policy 71’s glossary defines plagiarism, in part, as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others (whether attributed or anonymous) as one’s own in any work submitted whether or not for grading purposes” ...

The Vice-President Academic and Dean has the authority to assess instances of plagiarism and the resultant penalties that are raised by an instructor. An instructor can propose a grade penalty to the Vice-President Academic and Dean, who will decide whether to accept the penalty or initiate a formal inquiry.”

For additional information on how plagiarism is dealt with at Renison, review the policy from where the above text is copied: [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#).

Students should also be aware that copyright laws in Canada prohibit reproducing more than 10% of any work without permission from its author, publisher, or other copyright holder. See Waterloo’s policy on [Fair Dealing](#). Violation of Canada’s Copyright Act is a punishable academic offence under [Policy 71 – Student Discipline](#).

Turnitin.com: Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin in this course. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor, in the first week of term or at the time assignment details are provided if they wish to submit an alternate assignment.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)

This course includes the independent development and practice of specific skills, such as reading comprehension, imaginative engagement, clear expression, and textual analysis. Therefore, the use of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) trained using large language models (LLM) or other methods to produce text, images, music, or code, like Chat GPT, DALL-E, or GitHub CoPilot, is not permitted in this class. Unauthorized use in this course, such as running course materials through GenAI or using GenAI to complete a course assessment is considered a violation of Policy 71 (plagiarism or unauthorized aids or assistance). Work produced with the assistance of AI tools does not represent the author’s original work and is therefore in violation of the fundamental values of academic integrity including honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and courage (ICAI, n.d.).

You should be prepared to show your work. To demonstrate your learning, you should keep your rough notes, including research notes, brainstorming, and drafting notes. You may be

asked to submit these notes along with earlier drafts of their work, either through saved drafts or saved versions of a document. If the use of GenAI is suspected where not permitted, you may be asked to meet with your instructor to provide explanations to support the submitted material as being your original work. Through this process, if you have not sufficiently supported your work, academic misconduct allegations may be brought to the Associate Dean.

In addition, you should be aware that the legal/copyright status of generative AI inputs and outputs is unclear. More information is available from the Copyright Advisory Committee: <https://uwaterloo.ca/copyright-at-waterloo/teaching/generative-artificial-intelligence>

Students are encouraged to reach out to campus supports if they need help with their coursework including:

- Student Success Office for help with skills like notetaking and time management
- Writing and Communication Centre for assignments with writing or presentations
- AccessAbility Services for documented accommodations
- Library for research-based assignments

Electronic Device Policy

Students may use whichever electronic device they prefer to access the course material. During quizzes, students may not use other browser windows or otherwise access information other than the quiz itself.

Attendance Policy

This source is delivered asynchronously, and therefore there is no attendance policy.

Communication Policy

Email, using the uWaterloo provided email address, is the approved method of communication for Renison. The Office 365 email that you use to login using your WatIAM login and password is secure and confidential. Take caution when forwarding your WatIAM email to an external email service as confidential information forwarded to a third-party provider could be a data security breach and violation of FIPPA (Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act) under which all students, staff, and faculty are bound by law.

Final Examination Policy

There is no final exam for this course.

Accommodation for Illness or Unforeseen Circumstances

The instructor follows the practices of the University of Waterloo in accommodating students who have documented reasons for missing quizzes or exams. See [Accommodation due to illness](#).

Accommodation Due to Religious Observances

The University acknowledges that, due to the pluralistic nature of the University community, some students may seek accommodations on religious grounds. Accordingly, students must consult with their instructor(s) within two weeks of the announcement of the due date for which accommodation is being sought. Failure to provide a timely request will decrease the likelihood of providing an accommodation. [See Request for accommodation on religious grounds](#).

Academic Integrity, Grievance, Discipline, Appeals and Note for Students with Disabilities

Academic Integrity: To maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity](#) and the [Arts Academic Integrity](#) websites for more information.

Renison University College is committed to the view that when a problem or disagreement arises between a faculty member and a student every effort should be made to resolve the problem through mutual and respectful negotiation. Most issues are resolved by a student/faculty meeting to discuss differences of opinion. It is only after this stage, when a common understanding or agreement is not obtained that further actions listed below could be taken.

Discipline: Every student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their own actions. [Check the [Office of Academic Integrity](#) website for more information.] A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration, should seek guidance from the course professor or academic advisor. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties are imposed under the University of Waterloo [Policy 71 – Student Discipline](#). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should

refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties check the [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4](#). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the Department's administrative assistant, or Academic Advisor, who will provide further assistance.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances](#) (other than a petition) or [Policy 71, Student Discipline](#) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72, Student Appeals](#).

Academic Integrity Office (UWaterloo): The website can be found at uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

[AccessAbility Services](#) is located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, and collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

Students are encouraged to register with AccessAbility Services (AAS) at the start of each term if they require accommodations due to a disability. However, some students not connected to AAS may require accommodations later in the term. In that case, you should immediately consult with your instructor and/or your Academic Advisor.

Intellectual Property

Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of the instructor, which can include:

- lecture handouts and presentations (e.g., PowerPoint slides)
- lecture content, both spoken and written (and any audio or video recording thereof)
- questions from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams)

- work protected by copyright (i.e., any work authored by the instructor)

Making available the intellectual property of instructors without their express written consent (e.g., uploading lecture notes or assignments to an online repository) is considered theft of intellectual property and subject to disciplinary sanctions as described in [Policy 71 – Student Discipline](#). Students who become aware of the availability of what may be their instructor’s intellectual property in online repositories are encouraged to alert the instructor.

Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health supports if they are needed.

On Campus

- [Counselling Services](#): counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4096
- [MATES](#): one-to-one peer support program offered by the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA) and Counselling Services
- [Health Services](#) – Student Medical Clinic: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

Off Campus, 24/7

- [Good2Talk](#): Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- [Empower Me](#): Confidential, multilingual, culturally sensitive, faith inclusive mental health and wellness service.
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 844-437-3247
- [Here 24/7](#): Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- [OK2BME](#): set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning teens in Waterloo. Email: ok2bme@caminowellbeing.ca Phone: 519-884-0000

Full details can be found online at the [Faculty of ARTS](#) website.

Download [UWaterloo and regional mental health resources \(PDF\)](#)

Download the [WatSafe](#) app to your phone to quickly access mental health support information.

A Respectful Living and Learning Environment for All

Everyone living, learning, and working at Renison University College is expected to contribute to creating a respectful environment free from harassment and discrimination.

Harassment is unwanted attention in the form of disrespectful comments, unwanted text messages or images, degrading jokes, rude gestures, unwanted touching, or other behaviours meant to intimidate.

According to the Ontario Human Rights Code, discrimination means unequal or different treatment causing harm, whether intentional or not, because of race, disability, citizenship, ethnic origin, colour, age, creed, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, or other personal characteristic.

If you feel that you are experiencing the above from any member of the Renison community (students, staff, or faculty), you may contact Melissa Knox, Renison's external anti-harassment and anti-discrimination officer, by email (mnknox@uwaterloo.ca) or by phone or text (226-753-5669). Melissa is an employment and human rights lawyer and part-time Assistant Crown Attorney for the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General. Melissa is experienced in case management, discipline and complaints processes, and works with organizations across Canada to foster safe, respectful, and inclusive work and learning environments through policy development, educational workshops, conflict mediation and dispute resolution, and organizational culture audits.

For additional information see Renison's [Harassment, Discrimination, and Abuse](#) policy.