

Religions of Asia Winter 2025

RS 100

Published Jan 02, 2025

Class Schedule

Course	Meet Days	Meet Time	Location	Instructor(s)
RS 100 081 [LEC]	Online			J. Wilson jeff.wilson@uwaterloo.ca (mailto:jeff.wilson@uwaterloo.ca)

schedule data automatically refreshed daily

Instructor & TA (Teaching Assistant) Information

Use the LEARN Course Discussions forum to communicate with your instructor and classmates. Discussion topics can be accessed in LEARN by clicking **Connect** and then **Discussions** on the course navigation bar.

For questions of a personal nature, please email your instructor or your TA:

Instructor: Jeff Wilson
jeff.wilson@uwaterloo.ca (<mailto:jeff.wilson@uwaterloo.ca>)

Course Description

Calendar Description for RS 100:

An introduction to religious traditions of Asia, including Hinduism, Buddhism, and East Asian traditions. Further topics may include Sikhism, Jainism, and Shinto.

[View requirements for RS 100](https://acal.fast.uwaterloo.ca/course/1251/RS/100) (<https://acal.fast.uwaterloo.ca/course/1251/RS/100>).

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.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students should be able to:

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
Learn essential factors of Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, and Shinto
Perceive how these religions function in the lives of modern adherents
Differentiate between verified reporting and unsubstantiated opinion in media sources
Gain a sense for how religions are treated in media

Course Objectives

1. Understand basics of the Religious Studies perspective
2. Understand basics of various Asian religions
3. Strengthen religious and media literacy

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

Tentative Course Schedule

Please see the Course Schedule in LEARN for complete details.

Texts / Materials

Note: Any prices provided in course outlines are best estimates based on recent online prices and do not include shipping or taxes. Prices may vary between retailers.

Title / Name	Notes / Comments	Required	Price (CAD)
Jakobsh, Doris R. (2013). World Religions, Canadian Perspectives: Eastern Traditions. Nelson.	This textbook will be on reserve at the Renison library and is available as a pdf on Learn. Therefore, the cost for materials in this course is \$0. Students are also welcome to purchase new or used paper or electronic copies, if they wish	Yes	0

For textbook assistance, please email wstore@uwaterloo.ca (<mailto:wstore@uwaterloo.ca>).

Student Assessment

Component	Value
Introduce Yourself	Ungraded
Quizzes (12 total at 5% each)	60%
Reflection Assignments: 1. Jainism Reflection - 5%; 2. Buddhism Reflection - 10%	15%
Komagata Maru Assignment	15%
Hinduism News Media Article Analysis	10%

Quizzes are to be completed during the weekly access period.

Written Assignments are to be submitted to the appropriate drop box. If a small extension is required, the course director must be emailed prior to the due date. There is a 5% per day late penalty for late submissions. Assignments will not be accepted beyond three days after the drop box closes.

Assignment Screening

Text matching software (Turnitin) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about the arrangements for the use of Turnitin and alternatives in this course. See Administrative Policy below for more information and links.

Administrative Policy

Course Policies

Late or Incomplete Work

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 section below 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](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>).

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](https://uwaterloo.ca/copyright-at-waterloo/teaching/fair-dealing-advisory) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/copyright-at-waterloo/teaching/fair-dealing-advisory>).

. Violation of Canada's Copyright Act is a punishable academic offence under

[Policy 71 – Student Discipline](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>).

Generative AI

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: **AI may not be used in any way for this course.**

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](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/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](https://academicintegrity.org/images/pdfs/20019_ICAI-Fundamental-Values_R12.pdf) (https://academicintegrity.org/images/pdfs/20019_ICAI-Fundamental-Values_R12.pdf), 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 or TA 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> (<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](https://uwaterloo.ca/student-success/resources) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/student-success/resources>) for help with skills like notetaking and time management
- [Writing and Communication Centre](https://uwaterloo.ca/writing-and-communication-centre/services-0/services-undergraduate-students) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/writing-and-communication-centre/services-0/services-undergraduate-students>) for assignments with writing or presentations
- [AccessAbility Services](https://uwaterloo.ca/accessability-services/students) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/accessability-services/students>) for documented accommodations
- [Library](https://uwaterloo.ca/library/research-supports/quick-start-guide) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/library/research-supports/quick-start-guide>) 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, the textbook, AI programs, 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.

Pronouns and chosen or preferred first name

Students can verify their chosen or preferred first name and pronouns by logging into [WatIAM](https://idm.uwaterloo.ca/watiam/) (<https://idm.uwaterloo.ca/watiam/>). Your chosen or preferred first name and pronouns listed in WatIAM will be used across campus (e.g., in LEARN, Quest, WaterlooWorks, WatCard, etc). Your legal first name will always be

used on certain official documents, such as diplomas and transcripts.

Students can add their pronouns in [Quest](https://uwaterloo.ca/quest/help/students/how-do-i/view-or-update-my-personal-information) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/quest/help/students/how-do-i/view-or-update-my-personal-information>). Should you choose to include your pronouns in Quest, your pronouns will be accessible by instructors, advisors, and employees with access to Quest. If no pronoun is added, the field in Quest will remain blank.

Territorial Acknowledgement

The University of Waterloo acknowledges that much of our work takes place on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples. Our main campus is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place across our campuses through research, learning, teaching, and community building, and is centralized within the [Office of Indigenous Relations](https://uwaterloo.ca/indigenous) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/indigenous>).

Accommodating religious and spiritual observances

[Applies only to students taking undergraduate courses]

The University of Waterloo has a duty to [accommodate religious, spiritual, and other creed-based beliefs and practices](https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-calendar/undergraduate-studies/catalog#/policy/SkiPsB9Vp?bc=true&bcCurrent=Assessments%3A%20Academic%20Considerations%20and%20Accommodations&bcGroup=Academic%20Regulations&bclItem=policies) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-calendar/undergraduate-studies/catalog#/policy/SkiPsB9Vp?bc=true&bcCurrent=Assessments%3A%20Academic%20Considerations%20and%20Accommodations&bcGroup=Academic%20Regulations&bclItem=policies>) under the Ontario Human Rights Commission (2015) [Policy on preventing discrimination based on creed](https://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/policy-preventing-discrimination-based-creed) (<https://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/policy-preventing-discrimination-based-creed>). Students may seek accommodations for missed course components on religious, spiritual, or other creed grounds. In such cases the students should please consult the instructor within two weeks of the announcement of the due date for which the accommodation is being sought. Students also may request accommodations for temporary absences from classes or other course-related activities to engage in prayer or other daily spiritual practices. Instructors are expected to make reasonable arrangements to respectfully accommodate such requests. The University of Waterloo has a number of [multi-faith spaces](https://uwaterloo.ca/multi-faith-spirituality-resource-team/multi-faith-spaces-campus) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/multi-faith-spirituality-resource-team/multi-faith-spaces-campus>) that students can use for faith-based practices.

Declaring absences

[Applies only to students taking undergraduate courses]

Please see the [Academic Regulations](https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-calendar/undergraduate-studies/catalog#/policy/SkiPsB9Vp?bc=true&bcCurrent=Assessments%3A%20Academic%20Considerations%20and%20Accommodations&bcGroup=Academic%20Regulations&bclItem=policies) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-calendar/undergraduate-studies/catalog#/policy/SkiPsB9Vp?bc=true&bcCurrent=Assessments%3A%20Academic%20Considerations%20and%20Accommodations&bcGroup=Academic%20Regulations&bclItem=policies>) section of the Undergraduate Calendar for more details. Regardless of the process used to declare an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact their instructor so that the instructor can determine how to accommodate the missed work.

Absences due to religious, creed, and spiritual observances

Beginning Fall 2024, students can submit a [Religious Observance Self-Declaration Form in Quest](#). This form allows the student to register dates of potential conflicts with coursework. Students are expected to record their absence within two weeks of announcement of the due date or scheduled examination date for which academic accommodation is being sought. Submission through Quest will notify your instructors of your absence.

Absences due to verified illness

For absences due to illness that are not pandemic-related, students need to obtain a [Verification of Illness or Extenuating Circumstances Process](https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/undergraduate/student-support/accommodations-illness-or-extenuating-circumstances#submit-other) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/undergraduate/student-support/accommodations-illness-or-extenuating-circumstances#submit-other>). Submission through the [Absence Verification System](https://vif.uwaterloo.ca/) (<https://vif.uwaterloo.ca/>), once registered, will notify your instructors of your absence. Students should not submit their VIF or any other medical documentation to your instructors, teaching assistants, or other course personnel. To request and arrange accommodations, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor within 48 hours of the date of any missed course component, or as soon as the student is able to given their health condition.

Absences due to extenuating circumstances (e.g., bereavement)

For absences due to extenuating circumstances (e.g., bereavement, serious family illness), students submit [a request for absence due to extenuating circumstances](https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/undergraduate/student-support/accommodations-illness-or-extenuating-circumstances#submit-other) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/undergraduate/student-support/accommodations-illness-or-extenuating-circumstances#submit-other>) to the [Absence Verification System](https://vif.uwaterloo.ca/) (<https://vif.uwaterloo.ca/>) for processing. Students use the form to submit supporting documentation, which will be considered in a comparable manner to a VIF. Official documentation is necessary before any action can be taken. Examples are plane/train/bus tickets, court documents, police reports, death certificates/obituaries/letters from funeral directors. To request and arrange accommodations, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor within 48 hours of the date of any missed course component, or as soon as the student is able to given their circumstances.

Self-declared absences due to COVID-related illness

Students can [self-declare](https://uwaterloo.ca/quest/help/students/how-do-i/self-declare-absence-undergraduate-students) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/quest/help/students/how-do-i/self-declare-absence-undergraduate-students>) an absence on Quest due to COVID-related illness or a requirement to self-isolate. A self-declared COVID absence covers up to 10 days and no documentation is required. No in-person course activity is permitted during the period of a self-declared COVID absence. Participation in on-line components is permitted but should not be required if the student notifies the instructor that they are too ill to participate in the online work. Submitting the self-declaration through Quest will notify your instructors of your absence. It is the student's responsibility to contact their instructors within the first 48 hours after submitting their COVID-related absence, or as soon as they are well enough, to discuss arrangements for missed course components.

Self-declared short-term absences for any reason

Students can [self-declare](https://uwaterloo.ca/quest/help/students/how-do-i/self-declare-absence-undergraduate-students) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/quest/help/students/how-do-i/self-declare-absence-undergraduate-students>) one short-term absence per term on Quest for any reason. A short-term absence covers two calendar days, and no documentation is required. The student has only one self-declared short-term absence per term and this absence can only be used during the formal lecture period. Self-declared absences cannot be applied to Laboratory (LAB), Clinic (CLN), or Studio (STU) course components. Submitting the self-declaration through Quest will notify your instructors of your absence. It is the student's

responsibility to contact their instructors within the first 24 hours after submitting their self-declaration to discuss accommodations for missed course components.

Recording lecture

Use of recording devices during lectures is only allowed with explicit permission of the instructor of the course. If allowed, video recordings may only include images of the instructor and not fellow classmates. Posting of videos or links to the video to any website, including but not limited to social media sites such as: Facebook, Twitter, etc., is strictly prohibited.

University Policy

Academic integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [Check [the Office of Academic Integrity](https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>) for more information.]

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](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for their actions. [Check [the Office of Academic Integrity](https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>) 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 instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate associate dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71, Student Discipline](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>). For typical penalties, check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties>).

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>) (other than a petition) or [Policy 71, Student Discipline](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>) 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](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72>).

Note for students with disabilities: [AccessAbility Services](https://uwaterloo.ca/accessability-services/) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/accessability-services/>), located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, 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.

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 if they, in the first week of term or at the time assignment details are provided, wish to submit alternate assignment.