



**Religion 211: Introduction to Religion in Asia**  
Spring 2018  
Scott Hall 135, Tues & Thurs, 1:10–2:30 p.m.

Professor D.C. Lammerts  
Office Hours: Thursdays 3:00–4:00 p.m., Loree 130  
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**Course Description**

This course presents an introduction to the study of religion(s) in various Asian historical contexts. Lectures and supporting readings explore the development, spread, and transformation of religious traditions, texts, and practices, as well as conjunctures of religion, culture, and power.

**Course Requirements**

i) Reading, Participation, and Workload

Please read closely and reflect on all readings assigned for the day before coming to class. It is recommended that you bring a hard copy (printout) of the day's readings with you to class.

Nearly all readings for this course constitute **primary sources**, composed at different times and in different places across Asia over an approximately 3000-year period. Readings have been kept brief, as you are advised to read them before lecture and preferably at least once again after lecture for full comprehension.

This course does not utilize a textbook. Therefore, close attention to the content of lectures is absolutely crucial to success in this course. It will not be possible to properly understand and

contextualize the readings, and therefore to pass the course, if you do not listen carefully and take detailed notes on each lecture.

It is expected that students will devote a minimum of two hours of study preparing for and reviewing each lecture and its associated readings (a total of four hours per week). A useful approach is to budget 1.5 hours for reading and reflection before lecture, and at least 30 minutes following lecture to review readings and lecture slides.

ii) Attendance

Due to the large size of this class, attendance will not be taken regularly, but may be monitored occasionally throughout the semester. However, your attendance will also be assessed in the following manner. Each exam or quiz will contain questions that are based on information presented in lecture but not represented on the lecture slides. Therefore, to do well on these assessments it is essential that students attend class and take detailed notes on each lecture.

**You do not need to email Prof. Lammerts about absences or "self-report" your absence on <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>.** Students are permitted two unexcused absences (though **not** on an exam/quiz day (see below)). Each additional unexcused absence will result in a ½ letter grade deduction from your final grade (e.g. if you were to receive a B, you will receive a C+). Students with five or more unexcused absences will receive a nonnegotiable F for the course.

If you are absent from class please ensure that you have completed the assigned readings and carefully reviewed the slides from lecture, which are typically posted on Sakai within one week following each class meeting. If you have any questions about material missed due to absence, please meet with Dr. Lammerts during his office hours on Thursdays, 3:00–4:00 p.m., in Loree 130.

**Attendance is mandatory on exam/quiz days. If you will be absent on an exam/quiz day your absence must be excused. All excused absences require an official note from Office of the Dean of Students (<http://deanofstudents.rutgers.edu/locations/>), which is only issued when a student presents appropriate documentation for the absence (e.g. a signed note from a physician). Make-up on the exams or quiz will not be permitted without such a note. There are no exceptions to this policy.**

iii) Exams and quiz (65%)

There will be two exams and one quiz throughout the semester. Exams 1 and 2 (70 minutes each) are each worth 25% of your final grade, whereas the quiz (30 minutes) is worth 15%. These will cover the full content of lectures and readings. Material from the readings not explicitly covered in lectures, and material from the lectures not included on the lecture slides, may appear on an exam/quiz, therefore it is essential to keep up with all readings and take notes during lectures.

Prior to each exam/quiz, Prof. Lammerts will distribute a study sheet to help orient your review.

Optional exam/quiz review sessions will be held the evening before each exam. Times and locations TBA.

iv) Final Exam (35%)

A final cumulative exam for this course will be held during the exam period at the end of the semester. The time, date, and location of the final will be announced when available.

## Course Policies

### i) Academic Integrity

Familiarize yourself with Rutgers policies and materials concerning academic integrity and plagiarism at the following sites:

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/resources>

**Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses. Any student found to have committed or aided the offence of plagiarism is subject to penalties in accordance with the policies of the University. Cheating on exams will result in failure of the exam and possible failure of the course.**

### ii) Use of digital/electronic equipment

**Please turn off and put away all phones, computers, and other electronic devices before lecture commences. You may not use any electronic or digital devices in the lecture hall between 1:10–2:30. Devices should not be on your desk or otherwise accessible during lecture. PUT THEM AWAY!** The use of electronic or digital equipment during lecture will result in expulsion from the day's lecture, and may carry further penalties. **Recording devices are not permitted.** Any student found recording lectures will fail the course. Bring paper and pen or pencil to lecture to take notes.

### iii) Digital transmission of course-related content and work

You may not reproduce or transmit lecture notes, readings, audio, video, lecture slides, or any course-related content via the internet. Discussion of this class online (e.g., on Facebook) requires the prior approval of Prof. Lammerts. Failure to obtain prior approval may constitute a violation of academic integrity as well as copyright policies.

### iv) Grading System

A=100–90, B+=89–87, B=86–80, C+=79–77, C=76–70, D=69–60, F=59 and below. Incompletes will not be given under normal circumstances.

### v) Office hours and appointments

If you would like to speak about any aspect of the course, please attend Dr. Lammert's office hours, which are held each Thursday throughout the semester between 3:00–4:00 p.m. in Loree 130 on Douglass Campus.

### vi) Contacting Prof. Lammerts via Email

Prof. Lammerts will not discuss readings, lectures, grades, exams, attendance, student performance, or any other matters related to the course via email. All necessary information about the course will be communicated in the classroom or via Sakai. If you have questions about any aspect of the course, please visit Dr. Lammerts during office hours. **The only reason you should need to email Dr. Lammerts is to schedule an appointment for a meeting if you cannot attend regular office hours.**

### vii) Grades

All grades are final and will not be changed upon request, regardless of circumstances. All exam/quiz grades will be uploaded to Sakai > Gradebook as soon as they are available.

### **Student-Wellness Services on Campus:**

#### **Just In Case Web App / <http://codu.co/cee05e>**

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD. See also:  
<http://health.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/57/2015/01/concerned.html>

#### **Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)**

**(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ [rhscaps.rutgers.edu/](http://rhscaps.rutgers.edu/)**

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

#### **Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)**

**(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / [vpva.rutgers.edu/](http://vpva.rutgers.edu/)**

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

#### **Disability Services**

**(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>**

The Office of Disability Services works with students with a documented disability to determine the eligibility of reasonable accommodations, facilitates and coordinates those accommodations when applicable, and lastly engages with the Rutgers community at large to provide and connect students to appropriate resources.

#### **Scarlet Listeners**

**(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>**

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.

### **Texts and Syllabus**

All course readings are, or will shortly be, available in PDF format on Sakai > Resources > Readings. This syllabus will also be archived on Sakai > Resources > Syllabus. Please note that further supplementary texts may be assigned during the semester or presented in class for discussion. The syllabus may be modified or changed as the semester unfolds.

**Course Outline and Readings**

*PART ONE*  
*TRAJECTORIES OF BRĀHMAṆISM/HINDUISM*

Jan 16. Introduction to the Course

Jan 18. Veda and Early Brāhmaṇical Ritual

Stephanie W. Jamison and Joel P. Brereton, *The Rigveda: The Earliest Religious Poetry of India* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014): I.1 Agni, pp. 88–89; IV.29 Indra, pp. 603; VIII.48 Soma, pp. 1128–1130; VIII.79 Soma, pp. 1177–1178; X.90 Puruṣa, pp. 1537–1540; X.163 Against Disease, pp. 1644–1645; X.173 Royal consecration, pp. 1651–1652.

Jan 23. Film: *Altar of Fire*.

It is likely that we will not be able to screen the entire documentary (45 min) in class. Thus, please finish watching the film at home via:

<<https://rutgers.kanopystreaming.com/video/altar-fire-1976>> (you will need to log in with Rutgers credentials).

A lower resolution copy is also available on Youtube:

<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RyvYk7GvJ0>>.

Jan 25. Upaniṣadic Orientations

Selections from *Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad*, in Patrick Olivelle, *The Early Upaniṣads: Annotated Text and Translation* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998): 49–51; 121–127 [disregard the pages in Sanskrit].

Jan 30. Dharma, Society, and Legal Cosmology

Patrick Olivelle, *The Law Code of Manu* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004): "Prologue" and "Creation" (pp. 13–15), "Occupations of the Social Classes," "Excellence of the Brahmin," "Treatise of Manu" (pp. 19–20), "Grievous Sins Causing Loss of Caste" (pp. 172–173) "Rules of Action for Vaiśyas and Śūdras" (pp. 178–179), "The Four Classes," "Mixed Classes: First Discourse," "Cāṇḍālas and Śvapacas" (pp. 180–181, p. 183), "Sin and Rebirth" (pp. 214–216).

Feb 1. Kṛṣṇa (Krishna) and *Bhatki I*

Barbara Stoler Miller, trans. *The Bhagavad-gītā* (New York: Bantam, 2004): Selections 1 (from Chapters 1–6).

Feb 6. Kṛṣṇa and *Bhatki II*

Miller, *Bhagavad gītā*, Selections 2 (from Chapters 7–12).

Feb 8. Kṛṣṇa and *Bhatki* III

Miller, *Bhagavad gītā*, Selections 3 (from Chapters 13–18).

Feb 13. Film: *Loving Krishna*.

Feb 15. Śaivism, Hindu Tantra, and Śākta Traditions

Alexis Sanderson, "Śaivism and the Tantric Traditions," in *The World's Religions*, edited by S. Sutherland, L. Houlden, P. Clarke and F. Hardy, (selections marked:) 660–663. (London: Routledge, 1988).

Douglas Renfrew Brooks, "The Ocean of the Heart: Selections from the *Kulārṇava Tantra*," in *Tantra in Practice*, ed. D.G. White, (selections marked:) 347–360 (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000).

Gavin Flood, "The Tantric Polity," in *The Tantric Body: The Secret Tradition of Hindu Religion* (London: I.B. Tauris, 2006): 76–81.

\*Feb 19. Optional exam review session. Murray Hall Room 210. 6:10–7:30 p.m.

Feb 20. **EXAM #1 (25% of Final Grade)**

**Feb 22. No Class.**

*PART TWO*  
*BUDDHISMS*

Feb 27. Sumedha, Dīpaṅkara Buddha, and Gotama Buddha in Theravāda Buddhism

Kate Crosby, *Theravāda Buddhism: Continuity, Diversity, and Identity* (Chichester: Wiley Blackwell, 2014): 15–30.

Bhikkhu Bodhi, "Setting in Motion the Wheel of the Dhamma (*Dhammacakkappavattana sutta*)" in *The Connected Discourses of the Buddha: A Translation of the Saṃyutta Nikāya* (Boston: Wisdom Publications, 2000): 1843–1847.

Mar 1. Merit, Ritual, and Cosmology

Kate Crosby, *Theravāda Buddhism: Continuity, Diversity, and Identity* (Chichester: Wiley Blackwell, 2014): 112–137.

I.B. Horner, N.A. Jayawickrama, and H.S. Gehman, *The Minor Anthologies of the Pali Canon: IV* (Oxford: Pali Text Society, 2005):

from *Vimānavatthu* ("Stories of Heavenly Mansions")—

"The Chaste Wife Mansion" (pp. 20–21), "Slave Woman's Mansion" (pp. 41–43), "Frog-Deva's Mansion" (pp. 102–103), "Almsfood-Giver's Mansion" (pp. 130–131).

from *Petavatthu* ("Ghost Stories")—

"The Story of Nandā" (pp. 36–37), "The Story of Fraudulent Decisions" and "The Story of Contempt for Relics" (pp. 80–83).

Mar 6. Bodhisatt(v)a and Jātaka

Padmanabh S. Jaini, *Apocryphal Birth Stories (Paññāsa-Jātaka)* (Oxford: Pali Text Society, 2003): "Paḍīpadānajātaka" (Vol II, 85–91).

E.B. Cowell, *The Jātaka, or Stories of the Buddha's Former Births*, 6 Vols. (Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 2005 [1<sup>st</sup>. edition, Cambridge 1895]): "Sasa-jātaka" (Vol 3, 34–37); "Tuṇḍila-jātaka" (Vol 3, 180–183).

Mar 8. The Disappearance of the *Sāsana* and the Future Buddha Metteyya I

Bonnie Pacala Brereton, *Thai Tellings of Phra Malai: Texts and Rituals Concerning a Popular Buddhist Saint* (Tempe: Arizona State University, 1995): 187–203.

**Mar 13–15. No Class (Spring Recess)**

Mar 20. The Disappearance of the *Sāsana* and the Future Buddha Metteyya II

Bonnie Pacala Brereton, *Thai Tellings of Phra Malai: Texts and Rituals Concerning a Popular Buddhist Saint* (Tempe: Arizona State University, 1995): 203–226.

**Mar 22. No Class.**

Mar 27. Mahāyāna and Tantric/Mantranāya Buddhisms I

Tsugunari Kubo and Akriya Yuyama, *The Lotus Sūtra* (Berkeley: Numata Center for Buddhist Translation and Research, 2007): 56–62.

D.L. Snellgrove, *The Hevajra Tantra* (London: Oxford University Press, 1959): 51–52.

Rolf W. Giebel, *The Vairocanābhisambodhi Sūtra* (Berkeley: Numata Center for Buddhist Translation and Research, 2005): 58–68.

Charles D. Orzech and Heinrik H. Sørensen, "Mudrā, Mantra, Mandala," in *Esoteric Buddhism and the Tantras in East Asia*, edited by C. Orzech, H. Sørensen, and R. Payne (Leiden: Brill, 2011): 76–89.

Mar 29. Mahāyāna and Tantric/Mantranāya Buddhisms II: Miraculous Buddhism in China and Japan

Robert Ford Campany, *Signs from the Unseen Realm: Buddhist Miracle Tales from Early Medieval China* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2012). Selections.

Kyoko Motomochi Nakamura, *Miraculous Stories from the Japanese Buddhist Tradition: The Nihon ryōiki of the Monk Kyōkai*. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1973). Selections.

Apr 3. Film: *To The Land of Bliss*.

\*Apr 4: Optional exam review session. Murray Hall Room 210. 6:10–7:30 p.m.

Apr 5. **EXAM #2 (25% of Final Grade)**

*PART THREE*  
*CONFUCIAN, DAOIST, SHINTŌ, AND SHUGENDŌ DYNAMICS*

Apr 10. Early Chinese Religion and Confucianism

Bryan W. Van Norden, *The Essential Mengzi* (Indianapolis: Hackett, 2009). Selections.

Xinzhong Yao, "Confucianism," in *The Encyclopedia of Confucianism*, edited by Xinzhong Yao (London: Routledge: 2003): 1–11.

Keith Knapp, "Confucianism and Women," in *The Encyclopedia of Confucianism*, edited by Xinzhong Yao (London: Routledge: 2003): 161–162.

Apr 12. Heavenly Virtue, Society, and Politics in *Mengzi*

Bryan W. Van Norden, *The Essential Mengzi* (Indianapolis: Hackett, 2009): Selections.

Apr 17. Proto-Daoism, Alchemy, and Religious Diversity

James Robson, *Daoism* (New York: Norton, 2015): 77–82, 85–86, 87 (i, ii), 91 (xix), 94–95 (lvii), 96 (lxxv), 188–193.

Apr 19. Daoist Practice, Immortality, and Hagiography

Robert Ford Campany, *To Live as Long as Heaven and Earth: A Translation and Study of Ge Hong's Traditions of Divine Transcendents* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002): "The Holy Mother of Dongling" (p. 146), "Feng Gang" (p. 148), "Li Yiqi" (pp. 228–229), "Luan Ba" (pp. 252–254), "Shen Xi" (pp. 256–258).

Stephen R. Bokenkamp, "*fu*, 符, talisman, tally, charm," in *The Encyclopedia of Taoism, Vol. 1*, edited by Fabrizio Pregadio (London: Routledge, 2008): 35–38.

Apr 24. Shintō and Shugendō in Japan

Brian Bocking, "Shintō," in *The Encyclopedia of Religion*, Second Edition, Vol. 12, edited by Lindsay Jones (Detroit: Macmillan Reference, 2005): 8356–8371.

Byron Earhart, "Shugendō," in *The Encyclopedia of Religion*, Second Edition, Vol. 12, edited by Lindsay Jones (Detroit: Macmillan Reference, 2005): 8378–8381.

Apr 26. Film: *Shugendō Now* (selection).

\*Apr 30: Optional quiz review session. Murray Hall Room 210. 6:10–7:30 p.m.

May 1. **30 Minute Quiz on Chinese/Japanese Religions (15% of Final Grade)**

May ?. **FINAL EXAM, date/time/location TBA (35% of Final Grade)**