



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RELI 103 PATHS TO ENLIGHTENMENT: Introducing Asian Religions 20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 3 2015

Key dates

Trimester dates: 16 November 2015 to 21 February 2016

Teaching dates: 5 January to 12 February

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Lectures: Tuesdays and Wednesdays 17:30 – 19:20. All lectures are in HMLT 104

Tutorials: Thursdays; students should enrol in tutorials through myAllocator.

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Dr Michael Radich michael.radich@vuw.ac.nz KP 14 / 207

Tutor: Bruno Shirley bruno.shirley@vuw.ac.nz KP 14 / 103

You can meet with Dr Radich or Bruno Shirley by appointment.

Communication of additional information

Religious Studies is located at 14 Kelburn Parade. The programme administrator, Aliki Kalliabetsos, is in room 203 (463 5299), aliki.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz. Notices regarding the course or any information on changes will be posted on the notice board outside her office. Notices will also be communicated to students via emails sent from Blackboard. Students who do not use their assigned student.vuw.ac.nz email addresses should ensure that ITS has an up-to-date email address, and that they check this address regularly.

Prescription

This course focuses on current beliefs, practices and forms of religions of India, China, Tibet and Japan. The course examines basic doctrines of Buddhism (such as suffering); renunciation; pilgrimage; lamas; and Chinese spirituality. 100% internal assessment.

Course content (*optional*)

See separate Lecture Outline.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Demonstrate factual knowledge about historical and contemporary forms of religious practice in South and East Asia;
2. Demonstrate an awareness of key conceptual issues involved in the study of Asia religions, and critically engage with those issues;
3. Demonstrate an awareness of key conceptual issues in the study of religion as a critical discipline;
4. Demonstrate, to an appropriate level: mastery of reading, research and writing skills; ability to make and defend arguments, and critical awareness.

Teaching format

This course is designed as an integral combination of lectures, readings, tutorials, and assigned work. These components are complementary with one another, not redundant; and ALL components of the course are necessary for students to do well. It is thus recommended in the strongest possible terms that students do the reading, attend all lectures and tutorials, and keep up with the required work for the course. The Lecture Schedule, tutorial timetable, and details relating to assessments will be distributed in separate handouts via BlackBoard.

Tutorials deal with topics which complement the lecture programme. They provide an opportunity to discuss aspects of the course in a small group and develop the ability to contribute to discussions. This is an important part of the apparatus the course uses to develop students' skills in critical thinking and communication.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must complete all assessed work as follows, in order to demonstrate the achievement of all CLOs:

1. Three reading quizzes
2. Three reading assignments
3. Two review assignments
4. One essay
5. Final in-class test

and attend at least 4 out of 5 of tutorials.

Rationale: All these components of the course have been carefully designed to build the same overall set of knowledge, critical thinking skills, and expository writing skills. The course will only be effective in realising the CLOs when students engage with all components of the assessment structure as an integrated whole. Tutorial attendance is required because skills exercises and content discussion in tutorials is also an important means for developing these core competencies. Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

Workload

For 20 point courses run over the six-week summer term (T3), a student should spend on average 26 hours per week for preparation, reading and writing in addition to attendance at lectures and tutorials. The total workload for the course, including class time should be approximately 200 hours. Please note that the average weekly workload is therefore higher than for a “standard”, 12-week trimester.

Assessment

RELI 103 Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	1 essay of 1,500 words (recommended average time spent on this task: 40 hours)	30%	1, 2, 3, 4	Feb 4 2016
2	2 review assignments of 800-1,000 words (recommended average time spent on this task: 30 hours)	20%	1, 2, 3, 4	Jan 18 2015 Jan 25 2016
3	3 reading response assignments (350-500 words) (recommended average time spent on this task: 20 hours)	15%	1, 2, 3, 4	Jan 12 2016 Jan 19 2016 Jan 26 2016
4	4 reading quizzes (recommended average time spent on this task: 20 hours including reading)	10%	1, 4	Jan 7 2016 Jan 13 2016 Jan 20 2016 Jan 27 2016
4	1 in-class test (recommended average time spent on this task: 30 hours)	25%	1, 2, 3, 4	Feb 10 2016

Submission and return of work

Essays are to be submitted to the **assignment box** outside the Religious Studies office (KP 14 / 203). Please make sure you sign the sheet to document that you submitted your assignment, and when. Essays are **also** to be **submitted electronically, via Blackboard**, in part so that student work can be checked for plagiarism via TurnItIn. **DO NOT EMAIL YOUR ESSAYS TO THE LECTURER OR TUTOR. No responsibility will be taken for assignments for which there is no record.** Students should keep a copy of all their work until it is returned. Marked assignments may be collected from the Religious Studies office 2 weeks from the date of submission.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

If a student requires an extension for any serious or medical reason they must apply for one as soon as practicably possible, and if possible, before the due date of the assessment in question.

Penalties

- 2 per cent per 24 hours will be deducted for late essays (including Saturdays and Sundays).
- Essays submitted late due to medical reasons must be given to the programme administrator accompanied by a doctor's certificate.
- Late reading assignments and quizzes will have 30% deducted immediately. Late assignments must still be submitted in order to complete the course (see “Mandatory course requirements”).

Set texts

There is no set textbook. The *RELI 103 Course Reader* should be obtained from vicbooks at a cost of approximately \$60.

Recommended reading

Please see the Lecture Outline for a full reading list for this course.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course.

Student feedback

All student feedback from course evaluations is considered, improvements are regularly made on that basis. Students responded positively to course content and delivery.

This course will be evaluated by CAD.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz