This course surveys the central beliefs and patterns of life of living religious traditions of Asia. It will focus particularly on the basic texts or narratives of these traditions, on their essential histories, and on the concepts of humanity, the world, and the divine that are distinctive of each. In addition, the course will explore not only what people believe religiously but also what they do religiously. Part of the course, therefore, will consider the ways of life, forms of social action, and rituals practiced by different communities. Not all Asian traditions can be included in a one-semester survey. The traditions chosen have large numbers of adherents, possess particular historical significance, and represent different cultural areas. By the end of the course, students will have a understanding of the basic histories and orientations of these religious traditions originating in Asia.

Written Assignments and Attendance:
Written assignments comprise three interpretive essays on primary texts assigned in the course, a midterm exam, and a final exam. The final exam will be an interpretive essay on a fourth primary text. This final essay may be written in class during the scheduled time of the final exam or submitted by the beginning of that time, which is Wednesday, May 11, 9:00-12:00 noon. Please be aware that we are not able to change the time of the final.

The final grade for written work will be determined as follows:

- First exam (midterm) 15%
- Second exam (end of term) 15%
- Three essays 45%
- Final essay 15%
- Attendance 10%

We allow up to three unexcused absences. Beyond that number, one point for each unexcused absence may be deducted from the ten points for attendance. Vigorous and informed participation in class discussions can help a grade, especially a marginal one, as can other factors, such as a student’s progress or demonstrated effort in the course.
Grading:
This class uses the standard UT grading scale of 94-100 A, 90-93 A-, 87-89 B+, 84-86 B, 80-83 B-, 77-79 C+, 74-76 C, 70-73 C-, etc.

Posted Materials:
Assignments, handouts, and additional materials will be posted on Canvas. You can access the Canvas website for this course from http://canvas.utexas.edu/

Special Needs:
At the beginning of the semester, students with disabilities who need special accommodations should notify the instructor by presenting a letter prepared by the Service for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Office. Students may contact the SSD Office at 471-6259 or 471-4641 TTY, http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability

Academic Integrity:
Be careful not to copy the work of peers or to use material without proper attribution. Whether you are quoting or paraphrasing, you need to indicate the source on which you draw. Nothing can be more disastrous for your grade or for your college record than to be found to have violated the University rules on academic honesty. Students who violate these rules are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course or dismissal from the University or both. If you have any questions about properly utilizing sources, check with the TA or instructor.

Global Cultures Flag:
This course carries the Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. All the assignments in this course will concern the practices, beliefs, and histories of Asian cultural groups, both past and present.

Certificate Program in Core Texts and Ideas:
This course counts towards the Certificate Program in Core Texts and Ideas, a 6-course sequence in the great books, ideas, and controversies. The program is open to students in all majors and colleges. For more information, visit http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/coretexts/ or email the academic director, Professor Lorraine Pangle, at lorrainepangle@austin.utexas.edu.

Religious Holy Days:
According to UT policy, you must notify the instructor of your pending absence at least two weeks prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you miss an examination or an assignment in order to observe a religious holy day and you have given timely notification, we will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable period after the absence.
Required Texts:


Patrick Olivelle, tr., *The Buddhacarita: Life of the Buddha* (on Canvas)

Burton Watson, tr., *Zhuangzi: Basic Writings*. Columbia University Press. [B. Watson, *Chuang Tzu: Basic Writings* is the same book with a different system of transcription and can replace *Zhuangzi: Basic Writings*]

Hiroaki Sato, tr., *Basho’s Narrow Road: Spring and Autumn Passages*. Stone Bridge Press.

With the exception of Olivelle, *The Buddhacarita*, all the above books will be available on reserve at the PCL. Note that there are electronic versions of *Zhuangzi* and *Basho’s Narrow Road* available through the library. Additional assigned readings will be available on the Canvas site.

The following schedule is subject to change according to the unfolding dictates of *karma* and the shifting course of the *Dao*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READING ASSIGNMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>HINDUISM</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>January</strong></td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Introduction &amp; the Traditional Hindu World</td>
<td>“Indra and the Ants”</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>The Story of Rāma</td>
<td><em>The Rāmāyāṇa</em>, “Rāmāyaṇa Who’s Who”</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>The Story of Rāma</td>
<td><em>The Ramayana</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>The Story of Rāma</td>
<td><em>The Ramayana</em></td>
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February

1 Images of Beauty: Kṛṣṇa “Baby Kṛṣṇa,” “Kṛṣṇa and Kāliya,” “Stolen Clothes,” “Rāsalīlā”

3 Images of Power: Śiva and Devī “Brahmā, Vishnu, and the Linga of Śiva,” “Śiva and the Pine Forest Sages,” “Durgā and the Buffalo Demon”

5 Images of Power: Śiva and Devī Essay on The Ramayana.

ISLAM IN SOUTH ASIA

8 The Unity and Diversity of Islam “Foundations”

10 Islam in South Asia

BUDDHISM


15 The Buddha’s Life “Mahākapi (Great Monkey) Jātaka,” Buddhacarita (The Life of the Buddha)

17 The Buddha’s Life Buddhacarita (The Life of the Buddha), “Buddhacarita Parinirvāṇa (Death of the Buddha)”

19 The Four Noble Truths “The Questions of King Milinda”

22 The Four Noble Truths “Path”

24 The Four Noble Truths

26 The Four Noble Truths “Meditation”


March

2 Mahāyāna: Buddhas Essay on The Life of the Buddha

4 Mahāyāna: Emptiness “Heart Sūtra”
7 Mahāyāna: Mind Only

9 Vajrayāṇa

11 Vajrayāṇa

CHINESE TRADITIONS

21 First Exam (Midterm)

23 Three Schools / Four Traditions  Oxtoby 3ed. pp. 256–294, 4ed. 264–304

25 Chinese Popular Religion

28 The Confucian Tradition  “The Metal-Bound Coffer” “Filial Exemplars”

30 The Confucian Tradition  “Mencius”

April


Zhuangzi

4 The Daoist Tradition  Zhuangzi

6 The Daoist Tradition  Laozi Daodejing Book I, pp. 157-177

8 Religious Daoism

11 Buddhism in China  “Mulian”

13 Buddhism in China

15 Buddhism in China  Essay on Zhuangzi

JAPANESE TRADITIONS

18 Shintō  Film: “Man, Gods, and Nature in Japan”

22 Shintō

25 History & Religion in Japan

Oxtoby 3ed. pp. 338–362, 4ed. 351–379

27 History & Religion in Japan

29 Zen

Basho’s Narrow Road

May

2 Zen

Basho’s Narrow Road

4 Zen

Basho’s Narrow Road

6 Second Exam (End of Term)