

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Colorado State University, Academic Partner

Voyage:	Fall 2022
Discipline:	Philosophy
Course Number and Title:	PHIL 172 Religions of the East
Division:	Lower
Faculty Name:	Stephen Jenkins
Semester Credit Hours:	3

Prerequisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course the exploration of images, temples, myth, poetry, meditation, devotion, and philosophy are woven together in a multidimensional approach to the exquisite spiritual traditions of Asia. From the aesthetics of Japanese Zen gardens to the thunderous Hindu temple towers of India we will empower your ability to read and interpret the "visual scriptures" and cultural phenomena that you encounter. You will learn about the genesis of Hinduism and Buddhism in India and their transformations and expressions in China, Japan, Mauritius, and Southeast Asia. The course gives attention to mysticism, devotion, and philosophy, and offers general knowledge of five major worldviews: Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Shinto, and Confucianism. We begin by asking who we are as observers and interpreters and questioning the history of our culture's encounters and conceptions of Asia. The goals of the course are to acquire basic cultural and historical knowledge, philosophical understanding of Asian worldviews, and critical skills for engaging alternate cultural realities.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Acquire knowledge of the basic tenets of the major religious traditions of Asia.
2. Analyze textual traditions, "visual scriptures," ritual practices and constructions of sacred space, while learning about and applying some of the tools employed in religious studies to understand the nature and development of religious traditions.
3. Develop critical self-consciousness regarding the fundamental presuppositions of our own worldview and how those presuppositions condition our perception of, and historical interaction with, those who do not share them.
4. Explore the existential, ethical, and aesthetic implications of the contrasting, yet dynamically interrelated, worldviews found within Asian traditions.

TOPICAL COURSE OUTLINE

Embarkation Day – September 9

- 1:** **Starting from Where We Are:**
 A survey of course content, themes, goals, and methodological frame.
 The strange tale of the "West's" historical interaction with Asian religions and where we stand in it.
 The "pizza effect:" feedback loops of cultural misunderstanding.
 Reading: Jenkins, Stephen "Black Ships, Blavatsky and the Pizza Effect"
 Film: *Lost Horizon* brief excerpt.
Indian Jones: Temple of Doom, brief excerpt.
 Radio Show: *The Green Lama*
- 2:** **Basic Conceptions of Hinduism: Time, Cosmology and the Vedic**
 Reading: Zimmer, "Eternity and Time," 3-11.
- 3:** **Upaniṣads, Advaita, & Neo-Vedānta**
 Reading: Mahoney, *The Artful Universe*, 1-15.
 Olivelle, *Katha Upaniṣad*, 231-248.
- 4:** **Gaṇeśa: The Elephant Headed God Beloved in all Asian Religions**
Pūja as central Hindu Ritual practice
 [Brief treatment of the Saint Thomas Christians of India]
 Reading: "The Worship of Ganesha," Courtright, 160-176.
 Handout: Two Stories of Gaṇeśa
- 5:** **Śiva the Lord of the Dance, Smearred with the Ashes of the Dead**
 Reading: Kramrisch, "Siva's Dance," *The Presence of Shiva*, 439-42.
 Handout: Poetry to Śiva
- 6:** **Viṣṇu and Kṛṣṇa: Living in the Dream of the Blue Lord**
 Reading: Deepak Sarma, "The Purāṇas," *Hinduism: A Reader*, ed. pp. 180-188.
 "Narasimha the Man Lion," Cornelia Dimmit, 76-79.
 Handout: Poetry to Krishna
- 7:** **Viśiṣṭādvaita Vedānta: Love as the Ultimate Spiritual Experience**
 Reading: V. Narayan, "Rāmānuja: Theologian and Devotee," 79-87.
- 8:** **Mahādevī the Goddess Reigns Supreme**
 Reading: Coburn: *Consort of None, Śakti of All*, 153-65.
- 9:** **Hanumān the Monkey God**
 Reading: "Hanumāyana" from *Hanumān's Tale*, Lutgendorf:
 20- Life Restoring Herb; 25-Priceless Necklace; 26-Covered in Sindur.
- 10:** **Review and Consolidation**
- 11:** **Exam # 1 for sections A1-A7**

- 12: The Buddha**
 Reading: "Legend of the Buddha," *Buddhist Scriptures*, Edward Conze, 34-66.
 Film: *Little Buddha* brief excerpts.
- 13: Early Buddhist Teachings**
 Reading: Williams, "Mainstream Buddhism: Basic Thought of Buddha." 41-87.
 Film: *Footprint of the Buddha*.
- 14: Mahāyāna and the Bodhisattva Ideal**
 Reading: Gomez, "From Extraordinary to Ordinary: Images of Bodhisattva in East Asia," 141-179. [Start on p.145 "The Supernatural and the Ideal"]
- 15: Daoism, Confucianism, Transmission of Buddhism to China**
 Reading: Livia Kohn, *The Taoist Experience*, "The Tao," 11-32.
 J.J. Clarke, *The Tao of the West*, "The Meaning is not the Meaning, 16-36.
 Film: "Tao of Steve," brief excerpt.
- 16: Review and Consolidation**
- 17: Exam 2 for sections A8-A15**
 NOTE: *Field Journals Due*
- 18: The Buddhist Doctrine of Emptiness**
 Reading: The Heart Sūtra
 Handout: Jenkins: Emptiness Passages from classical sources. PDF.
- 19: The Buddhist Doctrine of Mind Only**
 Reading: "Cittamātra," Williams, 77-95.
 Mind Only Passages from classical sources. PDF.
 Film: *Waking Life* [brief excerpt]
- 20: Shinto: Japanese Indigenous Religion**
 Reading: "Kami," *A Year in the Life of a Shinto Shrine*, 25-33.
 "Formation of Shinto," *Japanese Religion*, 29-37.
 "Buddhist Transformation" *On Understanding Japanese Religion*, 203-19.
- 21: Ch'an / Zen The Meditation School**
 Reading: Biography of Hui-Neng, *Zen Buddhism: A History*, v.1, 129-148.
 "Awakening Stories," *Buddhism in Practice*, 512-24.
- 22: Buddhist Heavens, Pure Lands, and Saviors**
 Reading: Jenkins, Stephen: "Heavenly Rebirth and Buddhist Soteriology"
 Film: *To the Land of Bliss*, Wen Jie Qin.

- 23:** **Shingon: Tantra in China & Japan**
Reading: *Shingon*, "Morning Star Meditation," 185-90.
"Attaining Enlightenment in This Very Existence," Hakeda, 225-34.
"Kūkai," *Buddhist Spirituality II*.
Film: *Shugendo Now*, Documentary Educational Resource, Jean-Marc Abela
- 24:** **Course Conclusions and Review**
- 25:** **Final Exam**

Disembarkation Day – Dec 22

FIELD WORK

Semester at Sea® field experiences allow for an unparalleled opportunity to compare, contrast, and synthesize the different cultures and countries encountered over the course of the voyage. In addition to the one field class, students will complete independent field assignments that span multiple countries.

Field Class & Assignment

STUDENTS: Field Class proposals listed below are not finalized. Confirmed ports, dates, and times will be posted to the [Fall 22 Courses and Field Class page](#) when available.

Field Class attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field class.

Field Classes constitute at least 20% of the contact hours for each course.

Field Class Title: Buddhist Temples, Shrines, and Gardens

Outcomes: To learn to read temples, monasteries, pagodas, shrines, sculpture and gardens as exquisite expressions of Buddhist aesthetic values informed by local cultural traditions. To understand how these express ideal worlds and function as "visual scriptures." To see the institutional expression of the symbiotic rapprochement that developed between Buddhist and indigenous traditions, and to consider their links to economic and political power. To see extraordinary examples of Buddhist art that are unavailable in any publication or online catalog.

Activities: Visit Buddhist temples, shrines, gardens, pilgrimage sites and museums.

Assessment: Please see the description of the comparative experiential project below.

Comparative Experiential Project

Students are required to visit three or more religious sites associated with Asian religions and keep a field journal of what you see. Each journal entry should be 2-3 pages in length. State where you went, the date of your visit, what port it was, and what religious tradition

with which the site is associated. You should make field notes either during or immediately after your visit. When you adapt your notes to a journal entry, try to describe everything that you saw and did. What did you learn? What did you observe? What were people doing? How were they dressed? Were there women? Children? Did you talk to anyone? You are also encouraged to be reflective of your experience. Finally, how did your experience of this tradition compare to the description in your textbook? What was similar and what was different? One of the three sites must be the required Field Class. For the other two, consult the list of suggested sites in each port.

At the end of the course, journal entries will be evaluated based on

- 1) apparent effort in conducting and recording field work,
- 2) effective writing,
- 3) your ability to apply appropriate terms and concepts from readings and lectures to your own observations of religious practices and places of worship or reverence.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Attendance and participation	10%
Comparative Experiential Project	10%
Exam #1	20%
Field Class	20%
Exam #2	20%
Final Exam	20%

GRADING SCALE

The following Grading Scale is utilized for student evaluation. Pass/Fail is not an option for Semester at Sea® coursework. Note that C-, D+ and D- grades are also not assigned on Semester at Sea® in accordance with the grading system at Colorado State University (the SAS partner institution).

Pluses and minuses are awarded as follows on a 100% scale:

<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Satisfactory/Poor</u>	<u>Failing</u>
97-100%: A+	87-89%: B+	77-79%: C+	Less than 60%: F
93-96%: A	83-86%: B	70-76%: C	
90-92%: A-	80-82%: B-	60-69%: D	

ATTENDANCE/ENGAGEMENT IN THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Attendance in all Semester at Sea® classes, including the Field Class, is mandatory. Students must inform their instructors prior to any unanticipated absence and take the initiative to make up missed work in a timely fashion. Instructors must make reasonable efforts to enable students to make up work which must be accomplished under the instructor's supervision (e.g., examinations, laboratories). In the event of a conflict in regard to this policy, individuals may appeal using established CSU procedures.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

I will take attendance every day. Attendance and class participation will be factors in the overall evaluation of your work. I will ask you to orally report on your experiences after each port. This is a good opportunity to raise your grade. Students should attend class everyday having done the reading and prepared for a meaningful discussion of the material. Students are also expected to maintain a respectful learning environment. This includes avoiding use of distracting electronic devices.

CLASSROOM CLIMATE

Semester at Sea is committed to the Voyage Community Values. Consequently, the classroom environment is founded on mutual respect, community, and an aim toward equity. The Voyage Community Values support the creation of a collaborative and vibrant community. Our community is the foundation of our learning, critical inquiry, and discovery. Each member of this course has a responsibility to uphold these values when engaging with one another.

With that, please review the following Voyage Community Values:

- Well-Being: We commit to the health, safety and well-being of ourselves, all members of our voyage community, *and* members of the communities we will visit.
- Interconnectedness: We understand our actions and attitudes have an impact locally and globally. We always seek to positively affect the planet and the people around us near and far.
- Respect: We honor the inherent dignity of *all people* with an abiding commitment to freedom of expression, scholarly discourse and the advancement of knowledge. We have the right to be treated, and the responsibility to treat others, with fairness and equity.
- Inclusion: We ensure inclusive environments that welcome, value, affirm and embrace *all people* within the shipboard community and in each country we visit.
- Integrity: We are honest and ethical in all of our interactions, including our academic work. We hold ourselves accountable for our actions.
- Excellence: We model the highest academic standards of preparation, inquiry and knowledge and consistently seek to understand complex issues and express informed opinions with courage and conviction.

LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS

Semester at Sea® provides academic accommodations for students with diagnosed learning disabilities, in accordance with ADA guidelines. Students who will need accommodations in a

class, should contact ISE to discuss their individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation.

A letter from students' home institutions verifying the accommodations received on their home campuses (dated within the last three years) is required before any accommodation is provided on the ship. Students must submit verification of accommodations to their Student Services advisor as soon as possible, but no later than two months prior to the voyage. More details can be found within the Course Registration Packet, as posted to student portal prior to registration.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

The foundation of a university is truth and knowledge, each of which relies in a fundamental manner upon academic integrity and is diminished significantly by academic misconduct. Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and taking credit for one's own work. A pervasive attitude promoting academic integrity enhances the sense of community and adds value to the educational process. All within the University are affected by the cooperative commitment to academic integrity. All Semester at Sea[®] courses adhere to this Academic Integrity Policy and Student Conduct Code.

Depending on the nature of the assignment or exam, the faculty member may require a written declaration of the following honor pledge: "I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance on this exam/assignment."

RESERVE BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY

None

FILMS

TITLE OF FILM: "To the Land of Bliss," Wen-jie Quin, 2014

DISTRIBUTOR: Documentary Educational Resources

TITLE OF FILM: The Long Search: Footprint of Buddha

DISTRIBUTOR: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9Hw71jXbCU>

TITLE OF FILM: *Shugendo Now*

DISTRIBUTOR: Documentary Educational Resources

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

AUTHOR: Donald Lopez Jr., ed.
CHAPTER TITLE: "Awakening Stories of Zen Buddhist Women"
BOOK TITLE: *Buddhism in Practice*
DATE: 2015
PAGES: 512-524

AUTHOR: Edward Conze
CHAPTER TITLE: "Legend of the Buddha,"
BOOK TITLE: *Buddhist Scriptures*
DATE: 1959
PAGES: 34-66.

AUTHOR: Diana L. Eck
CHAPTER TITLE: Seeing the Sacred (Chapter One)
BOOK TITLE: *Darśan: Seeing the Divine Image in India*
DATE: 1998 many editions, any will do
PAGES: 3-31

AUTHOR: Paul Williams
CHAPTER TITLE: "Mainstream Buddhism: Basic Thought of a Buddha."
BOOK TITLE: *Buddhist Thought*,
DATE: 2000
PAGES: 41-87.

AUTHOR: Luis Gomez,
CHAPTER TITLE: "From Extraordinary to Ordinary: Images of Bodhisattva in East Asia"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *The Christ and the Bodhisattva*,
DATE: 1987
PAGES: 141-179.

AUTHOR: Heinrich DuMoulin
CHAPTER TITLE: Biography of Hui-Neng
BOOK TITLE: *Zen Buddhism: A History*,
VOLUME: 1
DATE: 1988
PAGES: 129-148

AUTHOR: J.J. Clarke,
CHAPTER TITLE: "The Meaning is not the Meaning"
BOOK TITLE: *The Tao of the West*,
DATE: 2000
PAGES: 16-36

AUTHOR: Livia Kohn
CHAPTER TITLE: "The Tao"
BOOK TITLE: *The Taoist Experience*
DATE: 1993
PAGES: 11-32

AUTHOR: Heinrich Zimmer
CHAPTER TITLE: Eternity and Time
BOOK TITLE: *Myth and Symbols in Indian Art and Civilization*
DATE: 1972 5th edition [any will do]
PAGES: 3-11

AUTHOR: Paul Courtright
CHAPTER TITLE: The Worship of Gaṇeśa
BOOK TITLE: *Gaṇeśa: Lord of Obstacles, Lord of Beginnings*
DATE: 1985
PAGES: 160-76

AUTHOR: Deepak Sarma
CHAPTER TITLE: The Purāṇas
BOOK TITLE: *Hinduism: A Reader,*
DATE: 2008
PAGES: 180-188

AUTHOR: Cornelia Dimmit
CHAPTER TITLE: "Narasimha the Man Lion,"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Classical Hindu Mythology*
DATE: 1978
PAGES: 76-79

AUTHOR: Stella Kramrisch
CHAPTER TITLE: "Siva's Dance,"
BOOK TITLE: *The Presence of Shiva*
DATE: 1981
PAGES: 439-42

AUTHOR: John Stratton-Hawley
CHAPTER TITLE: "Consort of None, Śakti of All"
BOOK TITLE: *The Divine Consort*
DATE: 1982
PAGES: 153-65.

AUTHOR: Patrick Olivelle
BOOK TITLE: *Upaniṣads*
Chapter
Katha Upaniṣad
DATE: 2008
PAGES: 231-248

AUTHOR: Vasudha Narayanan,
BOOK TITLE: *The Way and the Goal*
Chapter: "Rāmānuja: Theologian and Devotee,"
DATE: 1987
PAGES: 79-87.

AUTHOR: Buddha
BOOK TITLE: Heart Sutra
DATE: 1980
PAGES: <https://www.nalandatranslation.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/heart-sutra.pdf>

AUTHOR: Paul Williams
BOOK TITLE: *Mahāyāna Buddhism*, first edition.
Chapter: "Cittamātra,"
DATE: 1989
PAGES: 77-95

AUTHOR: Taiko Yamasaki
BOOK TITLE: *Shingon*,
DATE: 1988
PAGES: 185-90

AUTHOR: Takeuchi Yoshinori
BOOK TITLE: *Buddhist Spirituality: Later China, Korea, Japan*
DATE: 1999
PAGES: 174-185

AUTHOR: Hakeda
BOOK TITLE: *Major Works of Kūkai*
DATE: 1972
PAGES: 225-34

AUTHOR: John Nelson
BOOK TITLE: *A Year in the Life of a Shinto Shrine*
DATE: 2015
PAGES: 25-33

AUTHOR: Joseph Kitagawa
BOOK TITLE: *On Understanding Japanese Religion*
DATE: 1987
PAGES: 203-19