

## SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

### Colorado State University, Academic Partner

<b>Voyage:</b>	Spring 2020
<b>Discipline:</b>	Philosophy and Religion
<b>Course Number and Title:</b>	PHIL 172 Religions of the East
<b>Division:</b>	Lower
<b>Faculty Name:</b>	Brian Victoria
<b>Semester Credit Hours:</b>	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 to the thunderous Hindu temple towers of South India we will empower your ability to read and interpret the "visual scriptures" and cultural phenomena that you encounter from Hawaii to Mauritius. You will learn about the genesis of Hinduism and Buddhism in India and their transformations and expressions in China, Japan, Hawaii, 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.

### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

None



\* **Field Class: Friday, 24 January, in Kobe**

**A8—January 29: 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.

**Shanghai, China — January 31 – February 5**

**A9—February 6: Review and Consolidation** \***Field Class journal entry due.**

**A10—February 8: Exam # 1**

**Ho Chi Minh City — February 10-15**

**A11—February 16: Basic Conceptions of Hinduism; Temples; Idols as Visual Scriptures**  
Reading: Zimmer, "Eternity and Time," 3-11.  
Eck, "Seeing the Sacred," 3-31.

**Community Programming — February 17 (No Class)**

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia — February 19-24**

**A12—February 25: 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," Courtwright, 160-176.  
Handout: Two Stories of Gaṇeśa

**A13—February 27: 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

**Cochin, India — February 29 – March 5**

**A14—March 6: 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

**Community Programming — March 8 (No Class)**

**A15—March 9: Mahādevī the Feminine Reigns Supreme**  
Issues of Gender  
Reading: Coburn: *Consort of None, Śakti of All*, 153-65.

**Port Louis, Mauritius — March 11**

**A16—March 12: Review and Consolidation**

**A17—March 14: Exam 2**

**A18—March 16: Upaniṣads, Advaita, and Neo-Vedānta: Idealizing Supreme Consciousness**

Reading: Mahoney, *The Artful Universe*, 1-15.  
Olivelle, *Katha Upaniṣad*, 231-248.

**NOTE:** *Field Journals Due*

**Cape Town, South Africa — March 18-23**

**A19—March 24: Viśiṣṭādvaita Vedānta: Love as the Ultimate Spiritual Experience**

Reading: V. Narayan, “Rāmānuja: Theologian and Devotee,” 79-87.

**Study Day — March 15 (No Class)**

**A20—March 27: The Buddhist Doctrine of Emptiness**

Reading: *The Heart Sūtra*  
Handout: Jenkins: *Emptiness Passages*.

**A21—March 29: The Buddhist Doctrine of Mind Only**

Reading: "Cittamātra," Williams, 77-95.  
Mind Only Passages Handout.  
Film: *Waking Life* [brief excerpt]

**Takoradi, Ghana — March 30- April 1**

**Tema, Ghana — April 2-3**

**A22—April 5: Buddhist Heavens, Pure Lands, and Saviors**

Reading: Jenkins, Stephen: "Heavenly Rebirth and Buddhist Soteriology"  
Film: *To the Land of Bliss*, Wen Jie Qin, 47"

**A23—April 7: The Ethics of Violence in Jainism, Hinduism and Buddhism**

Reading: Jenkins: "Making Merit through Warfare"

**A24—April 9: Course Conclusions and Review**

**Casablanca, Morocco — April 11-14**

**Study Day — April 15 (No Class)**

**A25—April 16: Final Exam**

## Arrive Amsterdam, The Netherlands – April 20

### 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:

The field class for this course is on **Friday, 24 January, in Kobe, Japan.**

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, and are developed and led by the instructor.

**Title:** Buddhist Temples, Shinto Shrines, and Zen Gardens of Nara

#### Description:

Nara is one of the great temple complexes of Japan, laid out like a beautiful park full of free roaming deer. We will visit some of the oldest, grandest, and most historically important Buddhist and Shinto temples in Japan, the finest museum of Buddhist sculpture in the world, and several exquisite Japanese gardens. These include monasteries famous for their warrior monks, enormous sculptures, and some of the largest wooden structures in the world.

#### Objectives:

1. Learn to read temples, monasteries, pagodas, shrines and gardens as exquisite expressions of Japanese aesthetic values informed by Shinto and Buddhist values.
2. See institutional expression of the symbiotic rapprochement between Buddhist and Shinto traditions, and consider their links to Samurai clans and political power.
3. See extraordinary Buddhist art unavailable in any publication or online catalogue.

#### Field Class Assignment

Students will be required to submit a 2-3-page field journal entry about this trip, comparing how the sites express the values and ideals we have encountered through textual study. These short essays should show serious reflection on the interpretive issues stated in the "objectives" above. Please see the Independent Field assignment description for more guidance.

This first field class entry is due on **February 6.**

#### Independent Field Assignments

Students are required to visit three or more religious sites associated with Asian religions and keep a field journal of what you see. You will need to finish your fieldwork before we leave Port Louis in Mauritius. 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.

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, and
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.

The completed field journal for the course is due on: **March 16.**

## METHODS OF EVALUATION

Class attendance and participation	20%
Exam #1	20%
Field Assignment Journal	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

### 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.

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.

## **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 [academic@isevoyages.org](mailto:academic@isevoyages.org) 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 the [Courses and Field Classes page](#) no later than one month 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."

## **RESERVED BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY**

None

## FILM REQUESTS

TITLE OF FILM: "To the Land of Bliss"  
DISTRIBUTOR: Documentary Educational Resources

TITLE OF FILM: The Long Search: Footprint of Buddha  
DISTRIBUTOR: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9Hw71jXbCU>

TITLE OF FILM: Shinto Shrine, BEGIN Japanology, YouTube  
DISTRIBUTOR: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nccRTm6hnug>  
\*Note: some uploads of this film are not in focus

TITLE OF FILM: "Todaiji," BEGIN Japanology, YouTube  
DISTRIBUTOR: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=slKs\\_ptYA8Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=slKs_ptYA8Y)

TITLE OF FILM: "Five Story Pagodas," Begin Japanology, YouTube  
DISTRIBUTOR: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Pl0E4T6NXA>

## ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

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: 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: John Nelson  
CHAPTER TITLE: "The Kami"  
BOOK TITLE: *A Year in the Life of a Shinto Shrine,*  
DATE: 1996  
PAGES: 25-33.

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

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

None