

# PHIL R103: SURVEY OF WORLD RELIGIONS: EAST

**Originator**  
chorrock

**College**

Oxnard College

**Discipline (CB01A)**

PHIL - Philosophy

**Course Number (CB01B)**

R103

**Course Title (CB02)**

Survey of World Religions: East

**Banner/Short Title**

Survey of World Religions:East

**Credit Type**

Credit

**Start Term**

Fall 2021

**Catalog Course Description**

This course explores the origins, core concepts and philosophical development of the major religions of Asia. The religions studied include Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Taoism, Confucianism, Shinto and Zen. Emphasis and analysis is placed upon major figures, sacred texts, and forms of life and worship emanating from these traditions. Students will discuss contemporary applications of the metaphysical, ethical and social ideas found in Eastern religions.

**Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) Code (CB03)**

1509.00 - Philosophy

**Course Credit Status (CB04)**

D (Credit - Degree Applicable)

**Course Transfer Status (CB05) (select one only)**

A (Transferable to both UC and CSU)

**Course Basic Skills Status (CB08)**

N - The Course is Not a Basic Skills Course

**SAM Priority Code (CB09)**

E - Non-Occupational

**Course Cooperative Work Experience Education Status (CB10)**

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

**Course Classification Status (CB11)**

Y - Credit Course

**Educational Assistance Class Instruction (Approved Special Class) (CB13)**

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

**Course Prior to Transfer Level (CB21)**

Y - Not Applicable

**Course Noncredit Category (CB22)**

Y - Credit Course

**Funding Agency Category (CB23)**

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

**Course Program Status (CB24)**

1 - Program Applicable

**General Education Status (CB25)**

Y - Not Applicable

**Support Course Status (CB26)**

N - Course is not a support course

**Field trips**

May be required

**Grading method**

Letter Graded

**Does this course require an instructional materials fee?**

No

**Repeatable for Credit**

No

**Is this course part of a family?**

No

**Units and Hours**

**Carnegie Unit Override**

No

**In-Class**

**Lecture**

**Minimum Contact/In-Class Lecture Hours**

52.5

**Maximum Contact/In-Class Lecture Hours**

52.5

**Activity**

**Laboratory**

**Total in-Class**

**Total in-Class**

**Total Minimum Contact/In-Class Hours**

52.5

**Total Maximum Contact/In-Class Hours**

52.5

**Outside-of-Class**

**Internship/Cooperative Work Experience**

**Paid****Unpaid****Total Outside-of-Class****Total Outside-of-Class****Minimum Outside-of-Class Hours**

105

**Maximum Outside-of-Class Hours**

105

**Total Student Learning****Total Student Learning****Total Minimum Student Learning Hours**

157.5

**Total Maximum Student Learning Hours**

157.5

**Minimum Units (CB07)**

3

**Maximum Units (CB06)**

3

**Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)****Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:**

- |   |                                                                                                                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Students will identify similarities among the major Eastern religious traditions.                                                    |
| 2 | Students will describe differences among the major Eastern religious traditions.                                                     |
| 3 | Students will be able to analyze sacred Eastern texts for depth of understanding, variety of interpretation, and breadth of meaning. |

**Course Objectives****Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:**

- |   |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Describe major philosophical concepts and methods found in Eastern religions.                                                                                                                     |
| 2 | Distinguish between foundational concepts and insights, and the historical development of Eastern ideas including contemporary expressions and practices.                                         |
| 3 | Analyze significant ethical teachings articulated in Eastern religions and explore their potential applications.                                                                                  |
| 4 | Evaluate key social and political ideas articulated in Eastern religions, and compare their historical and contemporary relevance.                                                                |
| 5 | Compare the analysis of religious concepts presented in original texts and primary sources with the use of secondary sources and interpretations or elaborations based upon those original texts. |
| 6 | Compare Eastern religious ideas, rituals, and social/cultural forms of life with Western religious ideas and forms of religious/cultural life.                                                    |

**Course Content****Lecture/Course Content**

1. Introduction to the Study of Eastern Religions
  - a. Characteristics of the Philosophical Study of Religious Ideas
  - b. Concepts of Religion and the Sacred
  - c. Geographical and Historical Introduction to Eastern Religions
2. Hinduism
  - a. South Asia Before the Vedic Age
  - b. Indo-Aryan Migration Debate

- c. The Caste System
  - d. The Vedic Worldview and the Vedas (excerpts)
  - e. Vedanta and the Upanishads (excerpts)
  - f. The Bhagavad Gita (excerpts)
  - g. Samsara, Karma and Liberation
  - h. Yogas of Transformation
  - i. Theories of Religious Rituals and Social Practices
  - j. Comparison of Philosophical Schools in Hinduism
3. Buddhism
    - a. Origins and Sacred Story of Buddhism
    - b. Concepts of Unconditional and Relative Truth
    - c. Concepts of Samsara, Anatman and Nirvana
    - d. Concepts of the Four Noble Truths
    - e. Concept of the Eightfold Path
    - f. Distinction of Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism
    - g. The Bodhisattva
    - h. Buddhist Ethics and Social Philosophy
    - i. Contemporary Buddhist Movements
  4. Jainism
    - a. Origins and Concept of Sacred Teachers
    - b. Concept of Ultimate Reality and Liberation
    - c. The Metaphysics of Karmic Matter, Jiva and Ajiva
    - d. Concept of Ahimsa (non-violence)
    - e. Ethics, Rituals and Social Practices
  5. Sikhism
    - a. Origins and the Teachings of Guru Nanak
    - b. Concepts of God and Creation
    - c. Power and meditation (Shakti and Bhakti)
    - d. Concept of Sacred Sound and Transformation
    - e. Theories of Rituals and Social Practices
  6. Daoism
    - a. Legendary Origins of Laozi and the Daoist Scriptures
    - b. Concepts of Reality, Evolution and Change
    - c. Concepts of Wise Action and Balancing Yin and Yang
    - d. Theories of Magic, Healing, Feng Shui, Salvation and Responses to Death
    - e. Daoist Views of Leadership
  7. Confucianism
    - a. Origins and the Impact of Confucius
    - b. Concepts of the Five Virtues, Five Relationships and the Good Life
    - c. Concepts of the Golden Mean and Social Harmony
    - d. Concepts of Reciprocity and Filial Piety
    - e. Contrasting Perspectives on Human Nature: Mengzi and Xunzi
    - f. Neo-Confucianism and Confucian Views of Leadership
  8. Shinto
    - a. Origins and Mythology of Shinto
    - b. Shinto Views of Sacred Reality and the Presence of Kami
    - c. Concepts of Pollution and the Path of Purification
    - d. The Shinto Shrine and Festival
    - e. Political and Social Applications of Shinto Ideas Including the Bushido Code
  9. Buddhism in Japan
    - a. Political and Cultural Uses of Buddhist Ideas
    - b. Concepts of the Dharma Body and Shunyata
    - c. Zen Buddhism and the Arts
    - d. Beliefs and Rituals of Pure Land Buddhism
  10. Contemporary Expressions of Eastern Religious Concepts
    - a. The Philosophical Influence of the Theosophical Movement
    - b. Mahatma Gandhi's Principle and Practice of Non-Violence

- c. The Dali Lama's Ethics for the Millenium
  - d. Reception and Development of Eastern Religions in America
11. Comparisons and Contrasts with Western Religion and Western Religions
- a. Metaphysics, Epistemology and Ethics
  - b. Spirituality and Divinity
  - c. Doctrines and Practices
  - d. Challenges going forward

### Laboratory or Activity Content

None

## Methods of Evaluation

**Which of these methods will students use to demonstrate proficiency in the subject matter of this course? (Check all that apply):**

Written expression

**Methods of Evaluation may include, but are not limited to, the following typical classroom assessment techniques/required assignments (check as many as are deemed appropriate):**

Essay exams  
 Essays  
 Group projects  
 Objective exams  
 Quizzes  
 Reports/papers  
 Research papers

## Instructional Methodology

**Specify the methods of instruction that may be employed in this course**

Audio-visual presentations  
 Computer-aided presentations  
 Class discussions  
 Distance Education  
 Field trips  
 Instructor-guided interpretation and analysis  
 Lecture

**Describe specific examples of the methods the instructor will use:**

1. Instructor will direct interactive instructional activities asking students to compare and contrast different Eastern religious traditions, philosophies, rituals, and practices as they evolved historically and migrated (cross-) culturally.
2. Guided and focused class discussions of representative mythological subject areas, topics, questions, and theories. These discussions would elicit student opinions on the relationship between Eastern religions relative to a larger topic (ex. art and symbolic expression); an Eastern religion relative to another Eastern religion; and/or (an) Eastern religion/s relative to current practice/s, perspectives, beliefs, etc.
3. Instructor will show video/s comparing and contrasting the relationship between (traditional Western academic) philosophical methods of experience and reasoning, with that of Eastern religious, spiritual, historical, cultural, (Eastern) philosophical, etc. belief systems and (specific) modes of experience and analysis/evaluation within/common-to those traditions.

## Representative Course Assignments

### Writing Assignments

1. Students assigned paper requiring philosophical explanation of a major concept such as Buddhist teaching on dharma and suggest its ethical or social significance.

### Critical Thinking Assignments

1. Participate in class and small group discussions which engage in dialogue about traditional Eastern religious/philosophical notions of "reality," and "being," as well as compare to contemporary perspectives, including (modern natural) science.
2. Compare and contrast normative and descriptive views of Eastern religious/spiritual traditions, and its/their relationship/s to/with conceptions of the Wisdom tradition/(wisdom literature), (especially as found in a broad reading of world philosophy).

### Reading Assignments

1. Students read textbook chapter with corollary primary sources and prepare homework questions. Example: chapter on “Chinese Worlds of Meaning” is assigned along with selections from Confucian scriptures in reader. As homework, students asked to explain how the principle of the “Golden Mean” is rooted in metaphysical assumptions.

### Other assignments (if applicable)

1. Students visit a religious site such as the Hindu temple in Agoura Hills and write a report on their observation of puja.

### Outside Assignments

#### Representative Outside Assignments

1. Completing reading/s of primary source materials in worldwide comparative Eastern religion/s.
2. Completing reading/s of secondary source materials in worldwide comparative Eastern religion/s, including textbook materials, and other forms of interpretation.
3. Reviewing video of, for example, open-source university lectures on topics in worldwide comparative Eastern religion/s
4. Searching for video related to course topics, but not included in the syllabus, and/or course bibliography
5. Research electronic databases, e.g., Standard Encyclopedia of Philosophy, for additional material on a subject
6. Reviewing content found on university/4-yr. college philosophy department websites, including philosophy program features, instructor web pages (of recent work, professional background), student web pages, insofar as they are indicative of professional work within the field of comparative Eastern religion/s
7. Weekly short essay assignments related to class lecture.
8. Library/Learning resource search-inquiries and assignments.
9. (Self)-Reports/-ing of searches/inquiries, outcomes of searches, interpretation/analysis of searches.

### Articulation

#### Comparable Courses within the VCCCD

PHIL M12 - World Religions: East

PHIL V03A - Survey of World Religion: East

### District General Education

#### A. Natural Sciences

#### B. Social and Behavioral Sciences

#### C. Humanities

##### C2. Humanities

Approved

#### D. Language and Rationality

#### E. Health and Physical Education/Kinesiology

#### F. Ethnic Studies/Gender Studies

### CSU GE-Breadth

#### Area A: English Language Communication and Critical Thinking

#### Area B: Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning

#### Area C: Arts and Humanities

C2 Humanities: Literature, Philosophy, Languages Other than English

Approved

**Area D: Social Sciences**

**Area E: Lifelong Learning and Self-Development**

**Area F: Ethnic Studies**

**CSU Graduation Requirement in U.S. History, Constitution and American Ideals:**

**IGETC**

**Area 1: English Communication**

**Area 2A: Mathematical Concepts & Quantitative Reasoning**

**Area 3: Arts and Humanities**

**Area 3B: Humanities**

Approved

**Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences**

**Area 5: Physical and Biological Sciences**

**Area 6: Languages Other than English (LOTE)**

**Textbooks and Lab Manuals**

**Resource Type**

Textbook

**Description**

Ludwig, T.M (2015). *The Sacred Paths of the East*. Prentice Hall.

**Resource Type**

Textbook

**Description**

Van Voorst, R. (2019). *Anthology of World Scriptures*. Cengage.

**Resource Type**

Textbook

**Description**

Fiesner, J., Powers, J (2014). *Scriptures of the World's Religions*. McGraw Hill.

**Distance Education Addendum**

**Definitions**

**Distance Education Modalities**

Hybrid (51%–99% online)

Hybrid (1%–50% online)

100% online

## Faculty Certifications

Faculty assigned to teach Hybrid or Fully Online sections of this course will receive training in how to satisfy the Federal and state regulations governing regular effective/substantive contact for distance education. The training will include common elements in the district-supported learning management system (LMS), online teaching methods, regular effective/substantive contact, and best practices.

Yes

Faculty assigned to teach Hybrid or Fully Online sections of this course will meet with the EAC Alternate Media Specialist to ensure that the course content meets the required Federal and state accessibility standards for access by students with disabilities. Common areas for discussion include accessibility of PDF files, images, captioning of videos, Power Point presentations, math and scientific notation, and ensuring the use of style mark-up in Word documents.

Yes

## Regular Effective/Substantive Contact

### Hybrid (1%–50% online) Modality:

Method of Instruction	Document typical activities or assignments for each method of instruction
Asynchronous Dialog (e.g., discussion board)	Students will post a discussion board post on topics such as the difference/s as well as interdependence/s/-ies between Eastern religious belief systems (ex. the concept of karma), Eastern (religious) ritual practices (ex. meditation), and (core) philosophical concepts/questions, (ex. the meaning of life).
E-mail	Faculty may record audio recordings and/or video lectures on the course content including videos on metaphysics, epistemology, logic, social and political philosophy, philosophy of science, and/or axiology...within the context of each one's (relative) impact on the field of Eastern religion/s/ philosophy.
Other DE (e.g., recorded lectures)	Faculty may record audio recordings and/or video lectures on the course content including videos on metaphysics, epistemology, logic, social and political philosophy, philosophy of science, and/or axiology...within the context of each one's (relative) impact on the field of Eastern religion/s/ philosophy.
Video Conferencing	Faculty may utilize online live meetings with students to deliver lectures and have discussions on topics related to the course content.

### Hybrid (51%–99% online) Modality:

Method of Instruction	Document typical activities or assignments for each method of instruction
Asynchronous Dialog (e.g., discussion board)	Students will post a discussion board post on topics such as the difference/s as well as interdependence/s/-ies between Eastern religious belief systems (ex. the concept of karma), Eastern (religious) ritual practices (ex. meditation), and (core) philosophical concepts/questions, (ex. the meaning of life).
E-mail	Faculty will communicate with students via email regarding course information and concerns.
Other DE (e.g., recorded lectures)	Faculty may record audio recordings and/or video lectures on the course content including videos on metaphysics, epistemology, logic, social and political philosophy, philosophy of science, and/or axiology...within the context of each one's (relative) impact on the field of Eastern religion/s/ philosophy.
Video Conferencing	Faculty may utilize online live meetings with students to deliver lectures and have discussions on topics related to the course content.



**100% online Modality:**

<b>Method of Instruction</b>	<b>Document typical activities or assignments for each method of instruction</b>
Asynchronous Dialog (e.g., discussion board)	Students will post a discussion board post on topics such as the difference/s as well as interdependence/s/-ies between Eastern religious belief systems (ex. the concept of karma), Eastern (religious) ritual practices (ex. meditation), and (core) philosophical concepts/questions, (ex. the meaning of life).
E-mail	Faculty will communicate with students via email regarding course information and concerns.
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Video Conferencing	Faculty may utilize online live meetings with students to deliver lectures and have discussions on topics related to the course content.

**Examinations**

**Hybrid (1%–50% online) Modality**

- Online
- On campus

**Hybrid (51%–99% online) Modality**

- Online
- On campus

**Primary Minimum Qualification**

PHILOSOPHY

**Review and Approval Dates**

**Department Chair**

09/20/2020

**Dean**

09/21/2020

**Technical Review**

10/28/2020

**Curriculum Committee**

10/28/2020

**DTRW-I**

MM/DD/YYYY

**Curriculum Committee**

12/09/2020

**Board**

MM/DD/YYYY

**CCCCO**

MM/DD/YYYY

**Control Number**

CCC000091843

**DOE/accreditation approval date**

MM/DD/YYYY