

RELI 2050: Religions of Asia



University of Wyoming Spring 2021
Meeting Times: MWF 11-11:50 AM

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This course is an introduction to the diverse religious traditions of Asia. Our goal will be to gain a broad understanding of Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, Daoism, Confucianism, Shinto, and various forms of popular religion as dynamic living traditions with diverse and intertwining histories.

How did these traditions imagine the human person and their place in the world? How do humans exist in relation to society, to nature, and to themselves? How did these traditions think about human flourishing, and how best it might be attained? And how did they reflect on human frailty and suffering?

As a class, we will explore the basic elements of the religions we cover, including doctrines, rituals, key figures, scriptures, and material culture. We will also pay close attention to historical origins and developments as well as to the changing nature of Asian religions, both in Asia and as Asian religions spread worldwide.

Three Credits, Meets Arts and Sciences Core Global

