Religion 363/4     JAINISM
Concordia University, winter 2016

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Description:
This course provides an introduction to the religious culture of the Jain community. We will explore the early history of the Jain tradition in India through a consideration of the life stories of the great teachers of the tradition, the classical systems of Jain philosophy, cosmology and ethics, and the rich traditions of Jain narrative literature and art. The second half of the course will focus on contemporary Jainism, including the religious practices of monks, nuns, laymen, and laywomen, and the contemporary relevance of Jainism's central precept of universal non-violence (ahimsa).

Required reading:
A course pack has been prepared for this course, which is on sale at the Concordia University bookstore in the Library building. All of the readings in the coursepack are required readings, and several of the required readings that are not in the coursepack are available on electronic reserve in the library. Please note that the coursepack contains images as well as “readings.”

Evaluation:
Participation --------------------------------------------------------------- 10%
two quizzes (Jan 28 and Feb 18, 10% each) ---------------------------------- 20%
term paper prospectus (due Feb 4) ------------------------------------------ 10%
term paper part 1 (due March 1) ------------------------------------------ 15%
term paper part 2 (due March 31) ------------------------------------------ 20%
take-home exam (due April 26) ------------------------------------------ 25%

You are expected to attend class meetings and -- having done the assigned reading in advance of each class as outlined below -- to participate in class discussions. Participation and class attendance are worth 10% of your final grade.

Quizzes will be held in the first 20 minutes of class on the dates indicated. You will be required to provide short definitions and identifications of terms. The list of terms, some of which will appear on the quiz, will be distributed one week in advance of the quiz.

The term paper project has three parts. The first phase of your work will involve the putting together of a “prospectus.” This will consist of a statement of the topic you wish to explore, what questions you will try to answer, and why the topic is significant – but, most importantly, an indication of what sources you will use to investigate the topic. The sources you use must be primary sources – i.e. materials produced by people within the Jain tradition, or (since you will probably not be able to do fieldwork yourself) reports produced by anthropologists on the practices of Jains, the organization of their communities, etc. Possible sources you might use would include philosophical or narrative texts, Jain art and architecture, or contemporary publications (including those found on the internet). Early in the term, you will receive a handout with a listing of possible sources, as well as a detailed description of what is required for the prospectus and for parts 1 and 2 of the term paper.
The take-home exam will be an essay-style exam. The questions will be distributed on the last day our class meets, April 12, and you must hand in your exam answers by the end of the day on April 26.

If you are unable to meet any of these deadlines, you should discuss the situation with the instructor as soon as any difficulty becomes apparent. Normally extensions will be granted only for medical reasons (a doctor's note will be required) or very serious family or personal problems. All work for the course must be submitted by April 26th. If this is impossible, you must speak with the instructor and make an application for late completion at the Student Service Centre in the Library building before May 15, 2016 and submit all missing work for the course by May 30, 2016. If there is a medical condition that necessitates a longer extension for course completion, you should apply for a “MED” grade before May 15, 2016.

It is VERY IMPORTANT that you understand what plagiarism is, and recognize that it is a serious offense. When you use other people’s ideas and other people’s words without giving acknowledgement, this is plagiarism. It is a very serious academic offense, which may result in your failing the assignment, failing the course, or having to withdraw from the university. Please consult the university’s code of conduct in the undergraduate calendar, or ask the instructor if you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, or how you should give proper acknowledgement to your sources.

Guidelines for assignments and other materials will be posted on moodle. Please note that if you want to contact me, you should not message me through moodle, but send me an e-mail at the address provided above.

Outline

Note that readings must be done BEFORE the class meeting.
You must be prepared to participate in discussion of the readings in class.

Introduction: Jainism

January 7 and 12
“The fordmakers” from The Jains, Paul Dundas (London: Routledge, 1992), pp. 11-39

Tirthankaras and Sacred Texts

January 14
“The Victor’s Penance” from Aspects of Jaina Monasticism, Nathmal Tatia and Mahendra Kumar (Ladnun: Jain Vishva Bharati, 1981), pp. 96-107 [ON E-RESERVE IN LIBRARY]

January 19
Jainism in America “The Jinas,” Bhuvanendra Kumar (Jain Humanities Press, 1996), pp. 43-60

Jain Cosmology and Philosophy

January 21
The Jain Cosmology, Collette Caillat and Ravi Kumar (Basel: Ravi Kumar, 1981), pp. 19-35
January 26

January 28: QUIZ #1

Ahimsa and Karma

February 2

February 4: TERM PAPER PROSPECTUS IS DUE

February 9

Divisions within the Jain Community and Relations with Non-Jains

February 11
“The Digambaras and the Shvetambaras” from The Jains, Paul Dundas (see notes and bibliography from the earlier selection from this book in the course pack)

February 16

February 18: QUIZ #2
Neelakesi - excerpts from the summary of the book by A. Chakravarti (Kumbakonam: A. Chakravarti, 1936), pp. 136-149 [ON E-RESERVE IN LIBRARY]

Week of February 22 – reading week/ no classes

Jain Religious Practices

March 1: TERM PAPER PART 1 IS DUE

March 3
March 8

March 10
“Jain Pilgrimage: In Memory and Celebration of the Jinas,” Phyllis Granoff - from The Peaceful Liberator, pp. 63-75

March 15

March 17

March 22

March 24
“The Ideal Monk ” In Aspects of Jaina Monasticism (Ladnun: Jain Vishva Bharati, 1981) pp. 87-95 [ON E-RESERVE IN LIBRARY]

Jains in Diaspora/ Global Jainism

March 29
“Jains Coming to America” from Jainism in America, Bhuvanendra Kumar, pp. 98-121

March 31: TERM PAPER PART 2 IS DUE

April 5 & 7

April 12: last class/ concluding reflections/ TAKE-HOME EXAM QUESTIONS DISTRIBUTED