

Pacific and Asian Studies

PAAS 204:

INTRODUCTION TO ASIAN RELIGIONS

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In this course you will examine the basic historical context, literature and developments of each religious tradition by means of lectures, assigned readings, discussions and films.

We will discuss other central topics such as scripture, religious practice, and ethics. We begin our journey with a study of Hinduism before proceeding on to a briefer treatment of Jainism. We then continue with an exploration of the early Buddhist tradition. In the last month you will be introduced to Chinese religions (Confucianism, Taoism, and Chinese Buddhism). We end the course with a brief exploration of religious developments in Japan (Zen, Pure Land Buddhism).

