

Course number		U-LAS00 10012 LE34									
Course title (and course title in English)		The History of Eastern Thought I-E2 The History of Eastern Thought I-E2		Instructor's name, job title, and department of affiliation		Graduate School of Letters Professor,CATT, Adam Alvah					
Group		Humanities and Social Sciences		Field(Classification)		Philosophy(Foundations)					
Language of instruction		English		Old group		Group A		Number of credits		2	
Number of weekly time blocks		1		Class style		Lecture (Face-to-face course)		Year/semesters		2026 • First semester	
Days and periods		Wed.1		Target year		All students		Eligible students		For liberal arts students	
[Overview and purpose of the course]											
This course is designed as an introduction to early eastern philosophical and religious thought. We will begin with a reading of early Indian Vedic literature and then turn our focus to Zoroastrianism and early and later forms of Buddhism.											
[Course objectives]											
By the end of this course, students will have gained a basic understanding of eastern philosophical and religious thought.											
[Course schedule and contents)]											
The course is divided into the following four sections, each with a different theme.											
1. Introduction (about 2 weeks) Indo-Iranian and Indo-European origins; shared cultural, linguistic, and religious material; comparative mythology											
2. The Vedas and Upanishads (about 5 weeks) Vedic and the Vedic world: language, texts, and ritual; the Rigveda and the Upanishads											
3. Zoroastrianism (about 4 weeks) Zoroaster and his world; Zoroastrian religion and literature; shared Indo-Iranian religious and cultural themes											
4. Buddhism (about 3 weeks) The Buddha; Buddhist texts and schools; Japanese Buddhism											
Feedback (1 week)											
[Course requirements]											
None											

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The History of Eastern Thought I-E2(2)

[Evaluation methods and policy]

Grades are based on attendance/class participation (30%), and assignments/exams (70%). Important: If you miss four or more classes, you will not be given credit for the course.

[Textbooks]

Relevant materials will be provided in class.

[Study outside of class (preparation and review)]

Readings will be assigned on a weekly basis, and you will be expected to prepare sufficiently for each class. In addition, there are brief writing assignments for each section.

[Other information (office hours, etc.)]

Office hours to be specified (check KULASIS). For questions about the course or to set up a meeting, email me at catt.adam.7c@kyoto-u.ac.jp. Please include “ Eastern Thought I ” in the mail header and your full name and student number in the email. Important: Make sure that you search for answers to questions yourself before contacting me by email.

[Essential courses]