

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
Department of Religious Studies
The Conquest of Karma: An Introduction to the Jain Religious Traditions
REL 3336
Fall 2013

Instructor: Steven M. Vose
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Class Hours: MWF 1:00-1:50
Classroom: VH 131

Course Description:

Jainism, the ‘Path of the Victorious Ones,’ is one of the oldest living religions in the world, stretching back to at least the fifth or sixth century BCE. Despite the fact that Jains comprise less than 1% of the population of India today, their ideas have been hugely influential in Indian history, from the widespread practice of vegetarianism to Mahatma Gandhi’s insistence on a path of *ahimsa* or non-violence in his struggle to free India from colonial rule. Jain ideas have also influenced social activism in the United States, as Martin Luther King, Jr. insisted that the quest for civil rights follow Gandhi’s non-violent methods. Today, many Jains insist that such central tenets of their faith as non-violence, respecting the plurality of views, and limiting possessions can contribute to solving several of the major planetary crises of the twenty-first century. It is a tradition famous for the harsh asceticism practiced by its monks and nuns, and great wealth on the part of its laity. This course introduces the history, philosophy, beliefs, and practices of Jainism, and examines how Jains have lived their faith and expressed their devotion in stories, songs, and in the magnificent artworks and temples adorning the Indian landscape. Special focus will be placed on the changes Jainism has undergone over time and the forms it takes on today.

Course Grading and Requirements:

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|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Class Participation and Attendance | (10%) |
| 2. Midterm Exam | (20%) |
| 3. Paper I – Living a Jain Life (Visit to Jain temple) | (20%) |
| 4. Paper II – Plan for Research | (25%) |
| 5. Final Exam | (25%) |

Class Participation and Attendance: Students are expected to attend all class sessions and to come to class having completed the readings and with questions for discussion. Bring all assigned readings to class! Absences will only be excused in case of illness, school-sanctioned event, family or religious obligation *with appropriate documentation*.

Midterm Exam: Identification of vocabulary terms, short answers of important concepts, and one essay covering conceptual issues from the readings and lectures.

Paper I—Living a Jain Life: Each student is expected to visit the Jain temple of South Florida to observe Sunday services or a function held at another time. A group trip will be arranged. Students must then write 4-5 pages comparing their observations to scholarship on Jain rituals or Jain lifestyle. Submit the paper to the appropriate Turnitin folder on the course Blackboard page.

Due date will be announced and posted to course Blackboard page.

Paper II—Plan for Research: Each student must write a 10-page proposal to conduct a research project on any topic of their choice. Students must include questions for investigation, a plan for conducting their research, and a literature review of available scholarship on their topic. Details will be posted on the course Blackboard page. Students will give a short presentation of their proposals during the final week of classes. **Due Dec. 6 at 11:59 PM on Blackboard.**

Final Exam: Non-cumulative vocabulary and image identification, plus short answers on concepts; two cumulative synthetic essays covering major themes of the entire course.

Course Objectives:

This course introduces students to the beliefs, practices, philosophies, literature, material culture, and history of the Jain religious traditions. The course emphasizes the lived experience of Jains from all sectors of the community, and places the Jain traditions within the larger context of Indian religious thought. It examines the tradition's regional diversity within India as well as its global expressions. To accomplish these goals, we will read Jain scriptures, examine Jain art and architecture, and listen to experts on the Jain tradition—both scholars and practitioners. These various perspectives combine to create a complex of materials and opinions to generate a critical discourse about the tradition and develop a set of questions for continued study.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will:

1. Understand the tenets and practices of the Jain religious tradition in the context of the history of religion in South Asia and in the global diaspora.
2. Recognize the diversity of thought and practice among the various Jain traditions.
3. Apply text critical methods to understanding scripture as a phenomenological and historical category.
4. Utilize visual material to understand the ritual cultures developed by the various regional traditions of Jainism.
5. Observe services at the Jain temple of greater Miami and compare observations to scholarship on Jain ritual and lifestyle.
6. Evaluate current representations of Jainism by Jain thinkers and leaders by comparing them to scholarly representations of the tradition.
7. Assemble a plan for a research project on a topic of student's choice to be provisionally carried out in the US or India.

Required Text (available at the FIU bookstore and online booksellers):

Jeffery D. Long. *Jainism: An Introduction*. London: I.B. Tauris, 2009.
(ISBN: 9781845116262)

* All other readings will be available on Blackboard under the "Readings" tab.

* Long and certain other volumes (e.g. art and architecture books) will be on reserve at Green Library (GL).

* Reference (on reserve): Paul Dundas, *The Jains*, 2nd ed. (London: Routledge, 2002).

Schedule of Readings and Class Meetings:*Introduction: The Early Jains in Context*

Week 1 (Aug. 26-30): Jainism and the Jains

- Monday: Introductions, Overview of course
 Read for Wed: Long, Introduction: An Overview of this Book, pp. xi-xvii, xxii-xxiv;
 Long, Chapter 1: What Is Jainism?, pp. 1-3;
 Long, Chapter 2: Mahavira and the Origins of Jainism, pp. 29-39.
 Wednesday: Video: *Frontiers of Peace* and Discussion
 Read for Fri: Selections from the Vedas and Upanishads;
Acharanga Sutra (p. 50), *Uttaradhyayana Sutra* (pp. 50-56, 136-141);
 Long, Chapter 2: Mahavira and the Origins of Jainism, pp. 39-56.
 Friday: Jainism in the Early Indian Religious Landscape
 Vocabulary: Jina, Tirthankara, Jain, Jainism, dharma, karma, samsara, atman, jiva,
 moksha, tapas, brahman

Week 2 (Sep. 2-6): The Life of Mahavira and the Jain Canon

- Monday: NO CLASS: LABOR DAY
 Read for Wed: Dundas, "Early teachings," pp. 41-44;
 Selections from *Acharanga Sutra*, *Sutrakrtanga*, *Uttaradhyayana Sutra*.
 Wednesday: What Mahavira Taught, and How It Is Remembered
 Read for Fri: Selections from the *Kalpa Sutra* (pp. 217-270) and *Acharanga Sutra* (pp.
 79-87, 189-202);
 Cort, Shvetambar Murtipujak Jain Scripture in a Performative Context
 Friday: The Life Story of Mahavira, the Last Jina
 Vocabulary: shramana, Brahmin, Kshatriya, samavasarana, moksha-marga, kevala-
 jnana, Parshvanatha

Week 3 (Sep. 9-13): *Sangha*: The Fourfold Jain Community

- Read for Mon: Long, Ch. 3, Jain History, pp. 57-67;
 Dundas, "Svetambaras and Digambaras," pp. 45-51.
 Monday: The Sectarian Schism and the Formation of the Canon
 Read for Wed: Jaini, Introduction to *Gender & Salvation*, 30 pp.
 Wednesday: Women, Clothes, and Possessions
 Read for Fri: Quintanilla, Icons in the Manifold (from *Victorious Ones*), pp. 111-127.
 Friday: Mathura, The Early Jain Community in the Visual Record
 Vocabulary: Shvetambara, Digambara, sangha, tirtha, muni, sadhu, sadhvi, shravaka,
 shravika, jina-kalpa, sthavira-kalpa

Jain Doctrine

Week 4 (Sep. 16-20): The Map to Liberation: Views, Vows, Time and Space

- Read for Mon: Selections from *Acharanga Sutra* (pp. 202-210), and *Uttaradhyayana Sutra* (pp. 119-129);
 Long, Ch. 4: The Jain Path, pp. 83-110.
 Monday: The Monastic Vows: Ethical Principles of the Jain Worldview
 Read for Wed: Cort, The Cosmic Man and the Human Condition, pp. 35-47;

- Granoff, *Contemplating the Jain Universe*, pp. 49-63;
Sutrakrtanga (pp. 279-286); *Tattvartha Sutra* (pp. 68-88).
- Wednesday: Time and Space: The Ethical Jain Universe
 Read for Fri: Selections from the *Tattvartha Sutra* (focus on Ch. 5);
 Long, pp. 63-67, 123-125.
- Friday: The World According to Umasvati: The Summation of Jain Doctrine
 Vocabulary: samyaktva; samyak-jnana, -darshana, -caritra; maha-vratas: ahimsa,
 satya, asteya, brahmacharya, aparigraha; tattva, moksha, gunasthana
- Week 5 (Sep. 23-27): A Philosophy of Pluralism: How Jains Relate to Others
 Read for Mon: Long, Ch. 5, *Jain Doctrines of Relativity: An Intellectual History*;
 Selection from the *Sutrakrtanga* (pp. 409-419).
- Monday: Anekantavada, Part I: The Philosophy of Truth
 Read for Wed: Cort, "Intellectual Ahimsa" Revisited (18 pp.);
 Long, Ch. 6, *Jain Doctrines of Relativity: A Philosophical Analysis*;
 Selections from *Sutrakrtanga*.
- Wednesday: Anekantavada, Part II: The Ethics of Engaging Others' Truths
 Read for Fri: TBA
 Friday: Guest Speaker(s): Samanis on Modern Meaning of Anekantavada
 Vocabulary: Anekantavada, Nayavada, Syadvada

Jain Literature

- Week 6 (Sep. 30-Oct. 4): The Heroes of Jain "History"
 Read for Mon: Cort, "An Overview of the Jaina Puranas," 21 pp.
 Monday: The 63 "Illustrious Persons" of Our Era
 Read for Wed: The Story of Bharata and Bahubali, 36 pp.
 Wednesday: The First Jina, Rishabhanatha, and the World He Made
 Read for Fri: Hemacandra, Parshvanatha Caritra (Chs 1 & 2, 35 pp.)
 Friday: Parshvanatha and Kamatha: Lives Karmically Intertwined
 Vocabulary: Cakravartin, Vasudeva, Prati-Vasudeva, Baladeva, Purana, Caritra

Week 7 (Oct. 7-11): Illustrating the Workings of Karma: Didactic Literature

- Read for Mon: The Story of King Yashodhara, 15 pp.
 Monday: Charting the Course of a Soul
 Read for Wed: Merusundara Gani, Narmadasundari-Katha, 9 pp.
 Wednesday: The Importance of Forbearance and Forgiveness
 Vocabulary: kathā, kshamā
Friday: Midterm Exam

Living the Jain Life

- Week 8 (Oct. 14-18): Mendicants: Exemplars of the Path to Moksha
 Read for Mon: Long, Ch. 3, *Jain History*, pp. 67-73;
 Folkert, "The Gaccha and Jain History" and "The Jain Sadhu as
 Community Builder," pp. 153-174.
 Monday: The Life of the Ascetic: *Tirtha* and *Sangha*
 Read for Wed: N. Shanta, Sadhvi renunciation stories from *The Unknown Pilgrims*.

Wednesday: Initiation, Conduct, Austerities, and Daily Rituals
 Read for Fri: Long, "Sallekhana: The Fast to the Death," pp. 110-111;
 Tukul, "Sallekhana by Acharya Shantisagar," pp. 98-106;
 Selections from *Acharanga Sutra* and *Uttaradhyayana Sutra*;
 Hemacandra, *Yoga-shastra* (pp. 74-5).
 Friday: Sallekhana: The Good Death
 Vocabulary: tirtha, sangha, sadhu, muni, acharya, sadhvi, gaccha, diksha,
 sallekhana/santhara; 6 avashyakas: samayika, deva-vandana, guru-
 vandana, pratikramana, kayotsarga, pratyakhyana

Week 9 (Oct. 21-25): Lay Jains: Balancing Salvation and Wellbeing

Read for Mon: Cort, *Jains in the World*, Introduction and Chapter 1 (30 pp.).
 Monday: A Model for Understanding Lay Jains
 Read for Wed: Laidlaw, "The Gift that Doesn't Really Happen" (21 pp.).
 Wednesday: Devotion to Asceticism: Giving in Support of the Mendicants
 Read for Fri: Kelting, Tournaments of Honor: Jain Auctions, Gender and Reputation
 (24 pp.);
 Friday: Festivals and Auctions: Social Reproduction of the Jain Community
 Vocabulary: shravaka, shravika, dana

Week 10 (Oct. 28-Nov. 1): Women in the Jain Traditions: A Closer Look

Read for Mon: Balbir, Women in Jainism;
 Reynell, "Women and the Reproduction of the Jain Community" 24 pp.
 Monday: Daughter, Wife, Mother, Nun: Women in the Jain Tradition
 Read for Wed: Kelting, Ch. 1 "Thinking About Wifehood," *Heroic Wives*, 29 pp.;
 Stories of Virtuous Jain Women (Divakar Chitra Katha).
 Wednesday: Wifehood and Jain Ideology
 Read for Fri: Kelting, Ch. 5 "Jains and Satimata Discourse," *Heroic Wives*, 31 pp.;
 "Rathanemi," from *Uttaradhyayana Sutra*.
 Friday: Family Ways and Ascetic Aspirations: Jain Nuns and Satis
 Vocabulary: samani, sadhvi, aryika, (Maha-) Sati, sati-mata, saubhagya, pativrata

Week 11 (Nov. 4-8): Jain Rituals and Sacred Space

Read for Mon: Babb, Giving and Giving Up (20 pp.);
 Cort, Murtipuja in Svetambar Jain Temples (12 pp.);
 Long, Ch. 4, The Jain Path, pp. 111-115.
 Monday: Victorious Kings, Victorious Ascetics: Aesthetics of Jain Worship
 Video: *The Jains: A Religious Community of India*
 Read for Wed: Hegewald, Sacred Place and Structured Space (15 pp.).
 Wednesday: The Jain Temple: A Machine for Moksha and Devotion
 Read for Fri: Cort, Pilgrimage to Shankheshvar Parsvanath;
 Luithle-Hardenberg, The '99fold' Pilgrimage to Shatrunjay
 (<http://www.herenow4u.net/index.php?id=76715>)
 Friday: Pilgrimages: Crossing Points to Liberation
 Vocabulary: Murti, Puja, Murtipujak, Mandir, Derasar, Basti, Tirtha (again), Tirtha-
 yatra, upashraya, Padmavati, Ambika, shasana-devata, punya, pāpa

Week 12 (Nov. 11-15): ‘Reform’ Movements of the Modern Era

Monday: NO CLASS: VETERANS’ DAY

Read for Wed: Long, Ch. 3, *Jain History*, pp. 71-81;
Vallely, “Ethics and the Ascetic Ideal” (12 pp.).

Wednesday: Jainism without Images: The Sthanakavasis and Terapanthis

Read for Fri: Banarasidas, excerpts from *A Half Story* (54 pp.).

Friday: Adhyatma: Banarsidas, Srimad Rajacandra, Kanji Svami

Vocabulary: Sthankavasi, Terapanthi, Adhyatma

Week 13 (Nov. 18-22): Jainism Faces Some Challenges in the World Today

Read for Mon: chapters from *Jainism and Ecology*;
Pravin Shah, “My Visit to a Dairy Farm,”

<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~pluralsm/affiliates/jainism/ahimsa/dairy.htm>

Monday: Environmentalism, Animal Rights, and Jain Ethics

Read for Wed: International School of Jain Studies Website blog:
“Peace Harmony Development. Ahimsa Anekanta Aparigraha in
Jainism,” <http://www.isjs.in/node/141>;

*In addition, each student is asked to find one other website on Jainism
and to analyze one or more articles on Jainism and be ready to give a
brief assessment in class.

Wednesday: The Jain ‘AAA’: A Presentation of Jainism for the Modern World

Read for Fri: TBA

Friday: Guest Speakers: Samanis on contemporary Jain ethics (reading?)

Week 14 (Nov. 25-29):

NO CLASS: INSTRUCTOR AT CONFERENCE AND THANKSGIVING BREAK
(Work on Paper II: Research Proposals)

Week 15 (Dec 2-6): Wrap-Up and Research Proposal Presentations

Final Exam: TBA (Week of Dec. 9-13)