

Classics 333: Creeds & Kings, East & West

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TR 9:35-11:15

Playing is the best way to learn (or at least the most fun). Take this class, and you'll first play a Brahmin or Buddhist advising King Ashoka (268-232 BCE). Shall the king promote his Buddhist faith or try to reconcile different religious traditions?

Then, as an early Christian bishop, you'll shape early Christianity at the Council of Nicaea (325 CE) under Constantine the Great, the first Christian emperor of Rome. Just what is the precise relationship between Jesus of Nazareth and God the Father? How closely should Christianity remain connected to Judaism? What role should women have in the Church?

We'll prepare to play by studying texts from the Brahmin, Buddhist, and Jain traditions, readings from the New Testament, and selections from the first history of Christianity. You'll then pursue your own historical winning objectives in class debates and written work.



Statue of Buddha, 1st or 2nd century CE,
in the Greco-Buddhist style.



Head of Constantine
from colossal statue at Rome, c. 300 CE.