

The College of the Humanities
Religion Program: RELI: 1716 A
“East Asian Religions”

Instructor: Melanie Coughlin

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Office Hours: Thursdays, 18:10 -19:05 p.m.

Class Hours: Tues&Thurs 16:35-17:55

Class Location: SA 416

Teaching Assistant: Bliss Tracy

E-mail: blisstracy@cmail.carleton.ca

Office Hours: TBA

Course Description

This course surveys religion in China, Japan, and Korea in a range of ancient traditions and contemporary movements including Ancestor Worship, Confucianism, Daoism, Shamanism, Zen Buddhism, Pure Land Buddhism, Christianity, Feminism, and New Religions.

Course Goals

Students will become familiar with historical and contemporary East Asian religious traditions, apply that knowledge in order to interpret the meaning of key texts in those traditions, and relate what they have learned to current issues.

Course Assessment

*Students will require content from both the required readings and the course lectures in order to do well in this course.

a) Textbook Reading Responses

(10%)

There are three textbook reading responses in total. For each one, choose one of the two possible questions in the course schedule, and write a thoughtful and detailed response of about 250 words. The final mark will be based on your strongest two submissions.

*submit *via* CULearn

b) Group Presentations

(15%)

Present your collective interpretation of a selected passage from the assigned primary source reading to the class. Groups will be assigned in-class. Passages and groups are accessible *via* CULearn.

*each student presents in one group, one time, and presentations will take place in class

c) Unit 1 Test

(15%)

Three parts:

i) answer multiple choice questions about Chinese history, ii) give definitions of key terms for understanding Chinese religions, and iii) analyze passages from Confucius' *Analects* and Zhuangzi's *Basic Writings*.

*write during regular class hours

d) Unit 2 Paper

(30%)

Respond to a question about Dōgen's *Bendōwa* and Shinran's *Tannishō* in a 1000 word essay. The question will be explained in-class and posted along with a marking rubric on the course website. There will be a peer editing exchange with your fellow classmates held in class.

*submit via CULearn

e) Final Exam

(30%)

Four parts:

i) answer multiple choice questions about the history of Korean religions, ii) give definitions of key terms for understanding Korean religions, iii) analyze passages from Yun Sung-Bum and Kim Iryōp, and iv) write a short essay in response to a question about Korean religions.

*write during the formal exam period: date, time, and location TBD

Required Reading

TEXTBOOK

*On sale at Haven Books at 43 Seneca St Ottawa, ON K1S 4X2, T: (613) 730-9888

World Religions: Eastern Traditions; edited by Oxtoby, Amore, and Hussain. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014. (referred to as WREAT in the schedule below)

PRIMARY SOURCES

*PDFs available for free download from the course website

Confucius, *The Essential Analects: selected passages with traditional commentary*; trans. Edward Slingerland. Indianapolis/Cambridge: Hackett Publishing, 2006, pp. 1-3, 34-37, 57-59, 103-108.

Zhuangzi, *Basic Writings*; trans. Burton Watson. New York: Columbia University Press, 2003, pp. 23-30, 89-95.

Dōgen Zenji, "Bendōwa (Negotiating the Way)," *The Heart of Dōgen's Shōbōgenzō*; trans. Norman Waddell and Masao Abe. New York: State University of New York Press, 2002, pp. 7-14.

Shinran Shōnin, "Tannishō (Lamenting the Deviations)," *The Collected Works of Shinran Vol. I: The Writings*; tr. Dennis Hirota. Kyoto: Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, 1997, pp. 661-666.

Yun Sung-Bum "Korean Christianity and Ancestor Worship" *Korea Journal* 13/2, February 1973, pp. 17-21.

Kim Iryōp, "On New Year's Day of the 25th Year after Joining the Monastery," *Reflections of a Zen Buddhist Nun: Essays by Zen Master Kim Iryōp*; trans. Jin Y. Park. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2014, pp. 78-86.

Ownby, David. "The Falun Gong: A New Religious Movement in Post- Mao China," *Controversial New Religions*; eds. Lewis, James R., and Jesper Aagaard Petersen. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005. pp. 195-214.

Ben-Ami, Shillony "The Princess of the Dragon Palace. A New Shinto Sect is Born" in *Monumenta Nipponica* Vol. 39, No. 2 (Summer, 1984), pp. 177-182.

Chryssides, George, D., "The Blessing," *The Advent of Sun Myung Moon*. London: Macmillan, 1991, pp. 131-148

Recommended Reading

*ON RESERVE at MacOdrum Library.

Margot Northey, *Making Sense: A Student's Guide to Research and Writing: Religious Studies*. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Schedule

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| UNIT 1 CHINA | Jan 7 & 12 | <p>Introduction to Chinese Religions -WREAT 263-295</p> <p><i>Unit 1 Textbook Reading Response</i> Answer <i>one</i> of the following questions in about 250 words:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Why was it thought that offerings made in the Temple of Heaven, pictured on p. 266, would bring a bountiful harvest? ii) What are the important Confucian and Daoist sites marked on the map on p. 290 and what does the difference between these sites tell us about the difference between these two religious traditions? <p>*Submit your answer <i>via</i> CULearn on January 12th, by 3:30 p.m.</p> |
| | Jan 14 & 19 | <p>Confucianism -Confucius, <i>The Essential Analects</i>, Chapters 1 & 12 *Group Presentations: Confucianism A & B on January 19th in class</p> |
| | Jan 21 & 26 | <p>Daoism -Zhuangzi, <i>Basic Writings</i>, Sections 1 & 7 *Group Presentations: Daoism A & B on January 26th in class</p> |

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| | Jan 28 | <p>Unit 1 Test</p> <p>The test is to be written and submitted in-class unless special accommodations are arranged <i>via</i> the Paul Menton Centre.</p> |
| UNIT 2 JAPAN | Feb 2 & 4 | <p>Introduction to Japanese Religions</p> <p>-WREAT 341-367</p> <p><i>Unit 2 Textbook Reading Response</i></p> <p>Answer <i>one</i> of the following questions in about 250 words:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) How does the city of Nara, discussed on p. 353, give an example of the textbook's general view concerning Japanese religions? ii) What major themes of Japanese religions can be used to explain the bibbed statues of Jizo pictured on p. 354? <p>*Submit your answer <i>via</i> CuLearn on February 4th, by 3:30 p.m.</p> |
| | Feb 9 & 11 | <p>Zen Buddhism</p> <p>-Dōgen, <i>Bendōwa</i> (Negotiating the Way)</p> <p>*Group Presentations: Zen Buddhism A & B on February 11th in class</p> |
| | Feb 23 & 25 | <p>Pure Land Buddhism</p> <p>-Shinran, <i>Tannishō</i> (In Lamentation of Divergences)</p> <p>*Group Presentations: Pure Land Buddhism A & B on March 1st in class</p> |
| | Mar 1 | <p>Unit 2 Paper Workshop</p> <p>Bring a draft of your paper for a peer editing workshop guided by the assignment rubric</p> |
| | Mar 4 | <p>Unit 2 Paper Due</p> <p>*Submit an electronic copy <i>via</i> CuLearn on March 4th by 11:59 p.m.</p> |

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| UNIT 3 KOREA | Mar 3 & 8 | <p>Introduction to Korean Religions -WREAT 322-332</p> <p><i>Unit 3 Textbook Reading Response</i> Answer <i>one</i> of the following questions in about 250 words:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) What does the photograph on p. 332 suggest about the changing meaning of Confucianism in the modern Korean university? ii) What kind of religious rivalry is suggested by the assertion, made in the Document on p. 325, that Saso accomplished more than longevity? <p>*Submit your answer <i>via</i> CULearn on March 8th by 3:30 p.m.</p> |
| | Mar 10 & 15 | <p>Christianity and Ancestor Worship -Yun Sung-Bum, "Korean Christianity and Ancestor Worship"</p> |
| | Mar 17 & 22 | <p>Feminism and Buddhism -Kim Iryōp, "On New Year's Day of the 25th Year After Joining the Monastery"</p> |
| | Mar 24 | <p>Final Exam Review Workshop 1 -Bring review notes and questions about Unit 3 -Peer Exchange: the finer points of interpretation</p> |
| Unit 4 NRMs | Mar 29 | <p>China: Falun Gong Ownby, "The Falun Gong: A New Religious Movement in Post- Mao China"</p> |
| | Mar 31 | <p>Japan: New Shinto Ben-Ami, "The Princess of the Dragon Palace. A New Shinto Sect is Born"</p> |
| | Apr 5 | <p>Korea: The Unification Church Chryssides, George, D., "The Blessing"</p> |

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| | Apr 7 | Final Examination Review Workshop 2 -Bring review notes and questions about Unit 3 & 4 -Class Debate: Are new religious movements influenced by Christianity/Feminism/modern science rightfully described as 'East Asian Religions'? |
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Instructor's Policies

- (1) **Attendance.** Attendance is strictly the responsibility of the student and will not be monitored. There will be content and activities necessary to do well in this course that will be a regular part of class time and will not be available on-line. Therefore, regular and engaged attendance will have a positive impact on students' marks.
- (2) **Lateness.** Textbook Reading Responses will be reduced at a rate of one point out of five per hour past the 2:30 p.m. deadline and cannot be accepted at all after the beginning of class. The final grade of late Unit 2 Papers will be reduced at a rate of one grade point (e.g. A to A-, A- to B+, and so on) per 24-hour period beginning at 11:59 p.m. of the due date. If there are extraordinary circumstances which a student expects may have an impact on timely submission, then the instructor must be informed at least 48 hours before the due date in order for any extension of the deadline to be considered. In cases where the student informs the instructor less than 48 hours before a deadline, documented proof of emergency circumstances will be required.
- (3) **Appeals.** If a student judges any of her or his mark on an assignment or test to be unfair, then appeals must be made within two weeks after the distribution of the mark and (unless it is regarding a simple mistake in calculation) the appeal must include a paragraph written by the student to explain why a better mark is justified.
- (4) **E-mail.** The instructor will respond to student e-mails within 48 hours. If you do not receive a response within that time frame, then there is the strong possibility of a technical error, so re-send the e-mail, call the office phone number provided above, or speak to the instructor in person as befits the urgency of the question.

*Note that the student discussion form on CULearn is an excellent place to air questions and concerns.

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.*" This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*"

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

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| A+ = 90-100 (12) | B = 73-76 (8) | C - = 60-62 (4) |
| A = 85-89 (11) | B- = 70-72 (7) | D+ = 57-59 (3) |
| A- = 80-84 (10) | C+ = 67-69 (6) | D = 53-56 (2) |
| B+ = 77-79 (9) | C = 63-66 (5) | D - = 50-52 (1) |

F Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points

ABS Absent from final examination, equivalent to F

DEF Official deferral (see "Petitions to Defer")

FND Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from **FALL TERM** courses is **DEC. 7, 2015**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 8, 2016**.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by **Nov. 6, 2015** for the Fall term and **March 6, 2016** for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment.

If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please [contact](#) the Registrar's Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of a final assignment or take home, in courses without a final examination, must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

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| College of the Humanities 520-2809 | 300 Paterson |
| Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809 | 300 Paterson |
| Religion Office 520-2100 | 2A39 Paterson |
| Registrar's Office 520-3500 | 300 Tory |
| Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850 | 302 Tory |
| Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937 | 501 Uni-Centre |
| Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125 | 4 th Floor Library |
| Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125 | 4 th Floor Library |