

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

**Professor:** Melanie Coughlin  
**Office:** Patterson Hall 2A35  
**Office Phone:** 613-520-2600, ext. 2103  
**Office Hours:** Mon 17:00-18:00

**Class Hours:** Mon&Wed 18:05-20:55  
**Class Location:** [LA A720](#)  
**Email:** melanie.coughlin@carleton.ca

**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.  
\*submit *via* CULearn by 12 p.m. noon on July 8, 22, and August 3.
- b) Group Presentations** (10%)  
Present your collective interpretation of a selected passage from the assigned primary source reading to the class. Passages and groups are accessible *via* CULearn.  
\*each student presents in one group, one time, and presentations will take place in class between July 13 and August 10.
- c) Unit 1 Test** (20%)  
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 on July 20.

**d) Unit 2 Paper**

(30%)

Respond to a question about either Dōgen's *Bendōwa* or 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. Submit your paper using CULearn.

\*submit by Friday, July 31, 5:00 p.m.

**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 New Religious Movements in East Asia.

\*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"; trans. Jin Y. Park. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2014, pp. 78-86.

**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

INTRODUCTION	July 6	<b>Introduction to East Asian Religions</b> Learning how to ask questions about religion through the lenses of East Asian traditions.
UNIT 1  CHINA	July 8	<b>Introduction to Chinese Religions</b> -WREAT 263-295  <i>Unit 1 Textbook Reading Response</i> Answer <i>one</i> of the following questions in about 250 words: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Why was it thought that offerings made in the Temple of Heaven (pictured on p. 266) bring a bountiful harvest?</li> <li>ii) What are the important Confucian and Daoist features of the map on p. 290 and what do they tell us about the difference between these two religious traditions?</li> </ol> *Submit your answer <i>via</i> CULearn by 12 p.m. noon.
	July 13	<b>Confucianism</b> -Confucius, <i>The Essential Analects</i> , Chapters 1 & 12
	July 15	<b>Daoism</b> -Zhuangzi, <i>Basic Writings</i> , Sections 1 & 7
	July 20	<b>Unit 1 Test</b> The test is to be written and submitted in-class unless special accommodations are arranged <i>via</i> the Paul Menton Centre.
UNIT 2  JAPAN	July 22	<b>Introduction to Japanese Religions</b> -WREAT 341-367  <i>Unit 2 Textbook Reading Response</i> Answer <i>one</i> of the following questions in about 250 words: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Does the city of Nara discussed on p. 353 support the textbook's special approach to Japanese religions?</li> <li>ii) What themes of Japanese religions are evident in the bibbed statues of Jizo that are pictured on p. 354?</li> </ol> *Submit your answer <i>via</i> CULearn by 12 p.m. noon.

	July 27	<b>Zen Buddhism</b> -Dōgen, <i>Bendōwa</i> (Negotiating the Way)
	July 29	<b>Pure Land Buddhism</b> -Shinran, <i>Tannishō</i> (Lamenting the Deviations)  <i>Peer Editing Paper Workshop</i> Bring an outline or a draft of your paper and your peer will give you advice based on the rubric. *Workshop will take place during the second half of class.
	July 31	<b>Unit 2 Paper Due at 5:00 p.m.</b> *Submit an electronic copy <i>via</i> CuLearn
UNIT 3  KOREA	August 3	<b>Introduction to Korean Religions</b> -WREAT 322-332  <i>Unit 3 Textbook Reading Response</i> Answer <i>one</i> of the following questions in about 250 words: i) With reference to the photograph on p. 332, explain what history tells us about the relationship between Confucianism and the modern Korean university. ii) With reference to the Document on p. 325, explain what “art of the immortals” Saso is meant to have learned. *Submit your answer <i>via</i> CUlearn by 12 p.m. noon.
	August 5	<b>Christianity and Ancestor Worship</b> -Yun Sung-Bum, "Korean Christianity and Ancestor Worship"
	August 10	<b>Feminism and Buddhism</b> -Kim Iryōp, “On New Year’s Day of the 25th Year After Joining the Monastery”  <i>Unit 3 Final Exam Prep Workshop</i> Peer editing of your interpretation of a passage; bring a draft of your interpretation of one passage from either Kim Iryōp or Yun Sung-Bum. *Workshop will take place during the second half of class

CONCLUSION	August 12	<p><b>New Religious Movements and Current Issues</b> -WREAT 382-398</p> <p><i>Review Debates</i> Bring your review notes for the entire course with a focus on understanding current issues through the lens of East Asian traditions *Debates will take place during the second half of class.</p>
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### Instructor's Policies

- (1) **Attendance.** Attendance is strictly the responsibility of the student and will not be monitored. There will, however, 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.
- (2) **Lateness.** Textbook Reading Responses will be reduced at a rate of one point out of five per hour past the 12 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 5 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 special 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 call the office phone number provided above or speak to the instructor in person.

## 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:

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.

### DATES AND DEADLINES

**Last day to withdraw (financial): with a full fee adjustment**

Early Summer: May 22. Full Summer May 22.

Late Summer: July 23.

**Last Day to withdraw (Academic):**

Early Summer June 16. Full/Late Summer: August 14.

### ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term.

<http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/academic/>

For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** contact the instructor 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

**Religious obligation:** contact the instructor 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.

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the [PMC website](#) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

### 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 assignments 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)

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 <sup>th</sup> Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Library