

Religion 1001 A
Asian Religions
Fall 2008

Professor: Richard Mann
Office: Paterson Hall 2A51
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1PM – 2PM and Wednesdays 2PM - 3PM
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TAs: TBA

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the basic beliefs, rituals and historical development of some Asian traditions. We will begin in India with Hinduism and Buddhism. We then move to China to study Confucianism and Taoism as well as certain aspects of Buddhism in China. We close the course with a brief examination of Buddhism in Japan.

Required Texts:

Ludwig, Theodore. *The Sacred Paths: Understanding the Religions of the World*. 4th edition. Pearson/Prentice Hall.

Course Package available at The Carleton University Bookstore.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

1. Midterm exam (**35%**) written in class on **October 22**
2. Short Paper (4 pgs.) (**25%**) Due at the beginning of class on **Nov. 5**. You will receive a list of topics and a writing guide for the paper once the course has begun.
3. Final Examination (**40%**) TBA – the final exam will be written in the formal final examination period.

General Notes on Evaluation:

1. You will receive a guideline for the short paper. Your paper must follow these guidelines and your grade will be based on your adherence to that criteria.
2. Please see “Regulations Common to all Humanities Courses” attached to the syllabus for policy on plagiarism, grading systems, requests for academic accommodation and petitions to defer.
3. Late assignments may not be graded. Those that are graded will receive a 5% mark deduction per day late.
4. Missed tests and assignments can only be made up if the student supplies adequate written documentation (i.e., a doctor’s note, an obituary) for the absence.

Class and Reading Schedule:

Week One: Sept 05

Lecture 1: Hinduism – Vedic India

Syllabus Review, course policies; Conceptualizing Religion overview

Read: 1. Ludwig, begin reading chapters 4-6

Week Two : Sept. 10 and 12

Lectures 2 & 3: Hinduism – Vedic India

Read: 1. Ludwig, begin reading chapters 4-6

2. *Rigveda* 10.129 – located in the course pack

3. *Rigveda* 10.90 – located in the course pack

Week Three : Sept. 17 and 19

Lectures 4 & 5: Hinduism – The Upanishads

Read : 1. Selections from the *Brihadaranyaka Upanishad* (BU) and *Chandogya Upanishad* (CU) – located in the course pack

Week Four : Sept. 24 and 26

Lectures 6 & 7: Hinduism – Classical Hinduism and Bhakti (devotional) Hinduism

Read: 1. Selections from *The Bhagavad Gita* – located in the course pack

Read: 1. Selections from the *Bhagavata Purana* – located in the course pack

Week Five : Oct. 01 and 03

Lecture 8: Hinduism – Rituals and Modern Hinduism

Lecture 9 : Buddhism – The life of the Buddha

Read: 1. Ludwig, begin reading chapters 7-9

Week Six : Oct. 08 (no class Oct. 10 due to University Day)

Lectures 10: Buddhism – Basic Teachings

Read: 1. “Setting in Motion the Wheel of Truth” – located in the course pack

2. “The Three Jewels” – located in the course pack

3. Selections from the *Dhammapada* – located in the course pack

Week Seven : Oct. 15 and 17

Lectures 11 & 12 : Buddhism – Mahayana Buddhism and Buddhist Ritual

Read: 1. “Wisdom and Compassion” – located in the course pack

Week Eight : Oct. 22 and 24 : **Midterm exam on Oct. 22**

Lectures 13: Early Chinese traditions and Confucianism – Kongfuzi (Confucius)

Read: 1. start reading Ludwig chapters 12-14

2. *The Analects of Confucius* – selections – located in the course pack

Week Nine : Oct. 29 and 31

Lecture 14 & 15 : Confucianism continued -- Mengzi (Mencius) and Xunzi (Hsun-tzu)

Read: 1. *Mencius* – selections – located in the course pack

2. Hsun Tzu (Xunzi) – selections – located in the course pack

Week Ten : Nov. 05 and 07 : **Short Paper due Nov. 5**

Lectures 16 & 17 : Taoism (Daoism) – *Tao Te Ching (Dao De Jing)* and Chuang Tzu (Zhuangzi)

Read: 1. *Tao Te Ching* – selections, located in the course pack

2. *Chuang Tzu (Zhuangzi)* – selections – located in the course pack

Week Eleven : Nov. 12 and 14

Lecture 18: Taoism continued – Religious Taoism

Lecture 19: Buddhism in China – Tiantai, Huayan and Ch’an

Week Twelve : Nov. 19 and 21

Lectures 20 & 21 : Buddhism in China – Ch’an continued and Pure Land Buddhism in China

Read: 1. Hui-neng, *The Platform Scripture* – selections – located in the course pack

Read: 1. “Reciting the Name of the Buddha” – located in the course pack

Week Thirteen : Nov. 26 and 28

Lectures 22 & 23: Buddhism in Japan – Pure Land and other forms of Buddhism

Read: 1. “The Gift of Faith” – located in the course pack

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 “to use and pass off as one’s own idea or product the work of another without expressly giving credit to another.” This can include:

- Copying from another person's work without indicating this through appropriate use of quotation marks and footnote citations.
- Lengthy and close paraphrasing of another person's work (i.e. extensive copying interspersed with a few phrases or sentences of your own).
- Submitting written work produced by someone else as if it were your own work (e.g. another student's term paper, a paper purchased from a term paper "factory", materials or term papers downloaded from the Internet, etc.).
- Handing in "substantially the same piece of work to two or more courses without the prior written permission of the instructors...involved." (University Senate)

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 range from a mark of zero for the plagiarized work to a final grade of "F" for the course, and even suspension from all studies or expulsion from the University.

GRADING SYSTEM

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

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

F	Failure. No academic credit
WDN	Withdrawn from the course
ABS	Absent from the final examination
DEF	Official deferral (see "Petitions to Defer")
FND	"Failed, no Deferral" – assigned when the student is absent from the final exam and has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from Fall term courses is November 7th, 2008. Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter (full year) and Winter term courses is March 6th, 2009.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

For Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive 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 require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by November 7, 2008, for December examinations, and March 6, 2009, for April examinations.

For Religious Obligations:

Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious obligation should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student.

Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton's Academic Accommodation policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance. (613-520-5622)

For Pregnancy:

Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to complete a **final** term paper or write a **final** examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control or whose performance on an examination has been impaired by such circumstances may apply in writing within five working days to the Registrar's Office for permission to extend a term paper deadline or to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully and specifically supported by a medical certificate or other relevant documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered.

ADDRESSES

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Classics and 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	500 Unicentre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-6632	4 th floor Library