

**RSOC 10 Asian Religious Traditions (45363)      Winter, 2009**  
M. W. F. 11:45 – 12:50      ARTSCI 129

Instructor:            Hyung Shin Park “Shin”  
Office:                 Kenna Hall 317  
Telephone:            551-3000 x 4273  
E-mail Address:      hpark04@hotmail.com  
Office Hour:    W. F. 10:30 - 11:30 AM (and by appointment)

#### A. DESCRIPTION

This course will survey various Asian religious traditions in South Asia and East Asia including Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Shamanism, and Shintoism. We will study the ancient form, historical development, and contemporary features of the religions from the historical perspective. We will also take a look at the social, cultural, economic, and political aspects as well as the religious and philosophical aspects. Strong emphasis of this course will be on the introduction of the religions by lecture, students’ interpretation of the texts in group discussion, and the use of visual materials including video tapes. Evaluation will be made by attendance, participation in the class discussion on the reading assignments, a short essay, four quizzes, mid-term exam, and final exam.

#### B. GOALS

1. Students will have basic historical and geographical backgrounds of the Asian religious traditions.
2. Students will become familiar with the historical development of the major Asian religions.
3. Students will be able to do a critical reading of the primary and secondary source materials found in the field of Asian religious traditions.
4. Students will write a comparative essay on a topic in Asian religions.
5. Students will show proper knowledge in the terms, events, figures, and topics in the Asian religions.

#### C. REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance and Participation/Contribution
  - Every student is expected to have finished the source readings assigned for each week and to critically participate in the discussion.
  - Two absences are allowed without notice.
  - Reasonable absences may be excused only with notice in advance or notice by the end of the day by email or other ways.
  - The quality of participation in the class will result in advantages or disadvantages in grading.
  - Weight of Grade: 20%
2. Quizzes
  - There will be 4 quizzes throughout the Quarter.
  - 2 quizzes will be on **Jan. 26 (Mon.)** and **Feb.23 (Mon.)**
  - 2 other quizzes will be included in the Mid Term Exam (**Feb. 9**) and the Final Exam (**Mar. 18**).

- Weight of Grade 20%

### 3. Essay (Submission Date: **Mar. 2**)

- Every student is expected to write a 2 page-comparative essay on a topic in using two sources out of **all the assigned sources** in the textbook *Anthology of Asian Scripture*. (Check the Class Schedule)
- Pay attention to the authors' perspective, use of sources, comparison and/or contrast to other sources, and other important points as well as the subject-matter.
- Try to show your point of view and/or reflection on the source materials.
- Weight of Grade: 10%

### 4. Mid-Term and Final Examinations: **Feb. 9 & Mar. 18**

- Mid-Term Exam will be about the contents covered during the first five weeks and the Final Exam about the contents covered during the second five weeks of the Quarter.
- Weight of Grade: 50% (25 % each)

### D. TEXTBOOKS

The required books can be purchased at the Bookstore.

- Willard G. Oxtoby, *World Religions: Eastern Traditions*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (2002)
- Robert E. Van Voorst, *Anthology of Asian Scriptures* (2007)

### E. GRADING POLICY

A+	97-100	C+	76-79
A	93-96	C	72-75
A-	90-92	C-	69-71
B+	87-89	D	64-68
B	83-86	D-	60-63
B-	80-82	F	<59

### F. PLAGERISM AND/OR ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will result in a failure for the specific project, and possibly for the whole course.

### CLASS SCHEDULE

#### **Week 1 (Jan. 5, 7, 9): Introduction and Hinduism I**

Readings: Oxtoby, pp. 471-75 "Appendix One" "Appendix Two"

Oxtoby, CH I pp. 13-71

Van Voorst, CH II

- Page 30, "Aditi and the Birth of the Gods"
- Pages 33-34, "Rudra and Shiva"
- Pages 43-44, "The Creation of the Caste System"
- Pages 44-45, "The Four Castes"

**Week 2 (Jan. 12, 14, 16): Hinduism II**

Readings: Oxtoby, CH I pp. 71-125

Van Voorst, CH II

- Page 38: “The Way of Asceticism”
- Pages 42-43: The Life of Women

Video on Hinduism

**Week 3 (Jan. 21, 23): Jainism and Sikhism**

Readings: Oxtoby, CH II & III pp. 126-197

Van Voorst, CH IV & V

- Page 135, “Can Women Achieve Liberation?”
- Page 141, “The Five Great Vows”
- Page 154, “Creation of the World”
- Page 156, “Truth Is the Basis of Conduct”

Video on Jainism

**Week 4 (Jan. 26, 28, 30): Buddhism I**

**Jan. 26: 1<sup>st</sup> Quiz**

Readings: Oxtoby, CH IV pp. 198-251

Van Voorst, III

- Pages 80-84, “The Life of Siddhartha Gotama”
- Pages 90-91, “The Essence of Buddhism”

**Week 5 (Feb. 2, 4, 6): Buddhism II**

Readings: Oxtoby, CH IV pp. 252-315

Van Voorst, III

- Pages 98-99, “Conduct of the Monk”
- Pages 101-102, “The Bodhisattva Ideal”
- Pages 109, “The Relics of the Buddha”

Video on Buddhism

<Midterm Exam: Monday Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>>

**Week 6 (Feb. 11, 13): Folk Religions and Shamanism**

Readings: Oxtoby, CH V pp. 316-341

Van Voorst, XI,

- Pages 181-183, “Divination”

**Week 7 (Feb. 18, 20): Confucianism**

Readings: Oxtoby, CH V pp. 352- 382

Van Voorst, VII

- Pages 173-174, “The Virtues of the Superior Man”
- Pages 171-173, “The Goodness of Human Nature”
- Pages 187-188, “Advice for Reading Texts”

**Week 8 (Feb. 23, 25, 27): Daoism and Syncretism**

**Feb 23: 3<sup>rd</sup> Quiz**

Readings: Oxtoby, CH V pp.382-398

Van Voorst, CH VIII

- Pages, 197-200, “Tao Te Ching, Ch.I,” “The Nature of the Tao”
- Page, 204, “The Superior Man”
- Pages, 201-202, “The Relationship of Taoism to Confucianism”

Video on Daoism

**Week 9 (Mar. 2, 4, 6): Shintoism**

Readings: Oxtoby, CH V pp. 341-352

Voorst, CH IX

- Pages 224-227, “The Creation of Japan”
- Pages 227, “The Shrine at Ise”
- Pages 229-230, “Ritual Prayer for Forgiveness and Purification of Governing Officials”

**Week 10 (Mar. 9, 11, 13): New Religions**

Readings: Oxtoby, CH V pp. 398-429

**Final Exam: March 18, 2009 (Wed.) 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**