

## **RSOC 10 Asian Religious Traditions      Fall, 2008**

M. W. F. 10:30 – 11:35      Kenna Hall 212

Instructor:            Hyung Shin Park “Shin”  
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Office Hour:    M. W. F. 12:50- 2:00 PM (and by appointment)

### **A. DESCRIPTION**

This course will survey representative Asian religious traditions in South Asia and East Asia including Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Shamanism, and Shinto. In order to understand the ancient form, historical development, and contemporary features of the religions, we will take a look at the social, cultural, economic, and political aspects as well as the religious and philosophical aspects. Strong emphasis will be on the introduction of the religions by lectures, the interpretation of the texts, 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, and both mid-term and final exams.

### **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 couple of source materials about 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**

- Every student is expected to have finished the source readings assigned for each class session and critically participate in the discussion.
- Absences after the first one may be excused only with advanced notice and reasonable reason by email or other ways.
- The quality of participation in the class will result in advantages or disadvantages in grading.
- Weight of Grade: 30%

#### **2. Essay (Submission Date: Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008)**

- Every student is expected to write a 4 page comparative essay on two sources out of the assigned sources found in the textbook *Anthology of Asian Scripture*.
- 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 develop your point of view on the source materials.

- Weight of Grade: 10%

3. Mid-Term and Final Examinations:

- Mid-Term Exam (Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>) will be on South Asian Religions and the Final Exam (TBA) on East Asian Religions.
- Weight of Grade: 60% (30 % 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* (2001)

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 (Sept. 22, 24, 26): Introduction and Hinduism I**

Read: Oxtoby, pp. 471-75 “Appendix One” “Appendix Two”

Oxtoby, CH I pp. 13-71

Van Voorst, CH II

- Page 23-30, “Introduction”
- Page 30, “Aditi and the Birth of the Gods”
- Page 33-34, “The God Shiva”

**Week 2 (Sept. 29, Oct. 1, 3): Hinduism II**

Read: Oxtoby, CH I pp. 71-125

Van Voorst, CH II

- Page 36-37, “The Creation of the Caste System”
- Page 39-40: “The Way of Asceticism”
- Page 43: The Way of Women

Video on Hinduism

**Week 3 (Oct. 6, 8, 10): Jainism and Sikhism**

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

Van Voorst, CH IV & V

- Page 125-127, "The Road to Final Deliverance"
- Page 146, "Creation of the World"
- Page 148, "Truth Is the Basis of Conduct"

**Week 4 (Oct. 13, 15, 17): Buddhism I**

Read: Oxtoby, CH IV pp. 198-251

Van Voorst, III

- Page 79-84, "The Life of Gotama Buddha"
- Page 90-91, "The Essence of Buddhism"
- Page 91-93, "A Tibetan Commentary on the Heart Sutra"

**Week 5 (Oct. 20, 22, 24): Buddhism II**

Read: Oxtoby, CH IV pp. 252-315

Van Voorst, III

- Page 105-106, "The Order of Nuns"
- Page 107, "The Relics of the Buddha"

Video on Buddhism

**Week 6 (Oct. 27, 29, 31): Folk Religions and Shamanism**

**Midterm Exam: Monday Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>**

Read: Oxtoby, CH V pp. 316-341

Video on Shamanism

**Week 7 (Nov. 3, 5, 7): Confucianism**

Read: Oxtoby, CH V pp. 352- 382

Van Voorst, VII

- Page 177-178, "The Virtues of the Superior Man"
- Page 183-185, "Early Debate over the Goodness of Human Nature"
- Page 196-197, "Advice for Reading Texts"

Video on Confucianism

**Week 8 (Nov. 10, 12, 14): Daoism and Syncretism**

Read: Oxtoby, CH V pp.382-398

Van voorst, CH VIII

- Page, 203-204, "The Nature of the Tao"
- Page, 208-209, "The Superior Man"

Video on Daoism

**Week 9 (Nov. 17, 19, 21): Shintoism**

Read: Oxtoby, CH V pp. 341-352

Voorst, CH IX

- Page 230-231, "The Shrine at Ise"
- Page 233-234, "Ritual Prayer for Forgiveness and Purification of Governing Officials"

**Thanksgiving Break**

**Week 10 (Dec. 1, 3, 5): New Religions**

Read: Oxtoby, CH V pp. 398-429

**Final Exam:**