

RSOC 88 Chinese Religions Fall, 2008
M. W. F. 11:45 – 12:50 Kenna Hall 104

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Office Hour: M. W. F. 12:50- 2:00 PM (and by appointment)

A. DESCRIPTION

This course will explore the world of Chinese Religions from the ancient times to modern periods in referring to religious traditions in some other regions, Western religions in China, and some theories in the study of religion. In order to understand the various and dynamic aspects of Chinese 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 interpretation of the texts, the use of visual materials including video, and the class discussion. Evaluation will be made by attendance, participation in the class discussion on the reading assignments, one short essay, and both mid-term and final exams.

B. GOALS

1. Students will have basic historical and geographical backgrounds of the Chinese religions.
2. Students will become familiar with the historical development of the Chinese religions.
3. Students will be able to do a critical reading of the primary and secondary source materials found in the field of Chinese religions.
4. Students will write an essay on some source materials about Chinese religions.
5. Students will show proper knowledge in the terms, events, figures, and topics in the Chinese 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: 20%

2. Essay (Submission Date: Nov. 7th, 2008)

- Every student is expected to write a 5 page essay on several (more than three) sources out of the assigned sources found in the textbook *Chinese Religion: an Anthology of Sources*.
- 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: 20%

3. Mid-Term and Final Examinations:

- Mid-Term Exam (Oct. 27th) 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.

Adler, Joseph, *Chinese Religious Traditions* (Prentice Hall, 2002)

Sommer, Deborah. *Chinese Religion: An Anthology of Sources* (Oxford Univ. Press, 1995)

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

Read Adler, CH I 1-19
Sommer, pp. 3-12

Week 2 (Sept. 29, Oct. 1, 3): The Shang and Western Zhou Periods

Read Adler, II pp. 20-29
Sommer, pp. 21-26

Week 3 (Oct. 6, 8, 10): The Classical Period I : Confucianism

Read Adler, III pp. 30-42
Sommer, pp. 41-48; 55-61

Week 4 (Oct. 13, 15, 17): The Classical Period II: Daoism

Read Adler, III pp. 42-57
Sommer, pp. 71-83

Week 5 (Oct. 20, 22, 24): Early Imperial China: Han through Tang I

Read Adler, CH IV pp. 58-67

Sommer, pp. 169-175

Week 6 (Oct. 27, 29, 31): Han Times II

Oct. 27: Midterm Exam

Read Adler, IV pp. 67-89:
Sommer, pp. 119-132; 145-148

Week 7 (Nov. 3, 5, 7): Early Modern China I

Read Adler, V pp. 90-97
Sommer, pp. 189-196, 227-232,

Week 8 (Nov. 10, 12, 14): Early Modern China II

Read Adler, V pp. 97-107
Sommer, pp. 199-210, 239-246, 267-278

Week 9 (Nov. 17, 19, 21): Early Modern China III

Read Adler, V pp. 107-109

Nov. 24-28: Thanksgiving Break

Week 10 (Dec. 1, 3, 5): Modern China

Read Adler, VI pp. 110-125
Sommer, pp. 281-292

Final Exam: