

REL 2315: RELIGION IN ASIA; Fall 2016

University of Florida, Department of Religion

TIMES: Tues. 8th-9th periods; Thurs. 9th period

ROOM: Anderson 19

INSTRUCTOR: Jodi Shaw

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Office: AND 123

Office hours: Wednesday 3-5 and by appointment

DESCRIPTION:

Religion in Asia introduces students to the dynamic religions of South Asia, East Asia, and South East Asia. The course will supply an overview of Hindu Traditions, Jain Traditions, Buddhist Traditions, Sikh Traditions, and the “three teachings” found in Chinese, Korean, and Japanese Traditions. Since the course is Religion **in** Asia, it will also introduce students to Christianity and Islam as they are practiced in some Asian countries. As a survey course, it will not be possible to delve deeply into all the religions of these countries, or all the variants and subtleties found within the traditions listed above. However, by paying attention to the big picture, students will be grounded in the major practices, doctrines, and artistic expressions of these traditions.

No prior knowledge of Asian religions, cultures, or languages is expected. However, students are expected to be respectful of the traditions and attempt to understand them before critiquing them. Students are also invited to cultivate “openness.” In other words, whether the tradition studied is “other” or “one’s own” the study of religion can encourage us to reflect critically on our own assumptions, practices, and beliefs.

This class fulfills the **Gordon Rule** writing requirement (GR2) for undergraduates. This means you are required to write a minimum of

2,000 words for this class. The primary writing assignments will be on popular films from the regions (details to be explained in class).

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To identify practices, major figures, and major doctrines of the traditions studied.
- To be able to chart the trajectory of a tradition across centuries.
- To recognize the exchanges among traditions as they engaged with each other across time and across continents.
- To unearth the social-political context in which traditions developed and to which traditions adjusted.

REQUIREMENTS

1. **Attendance and participation** 10% (10/100 points) • do all reading (see schedule)
 - Be prepared to discuss the readings, the in-class films when applicable, and to engage in occasional group activities.
2. **Four 600-1000 word** film analysis/review papers 10% each, 40% overall, or 40/100 points.
 - Due: Sept. 12, Sept. 26, Oct. 31, Dec. 5.
 - A list of films to choose from for each due date will be posted on Canvas. Students will be expected to discuss the representation of/critiques of/interpretation of/use of religion in the film based on what they have learned from the readings and class discussions.
 - **All papers** should be double spaced, 12 point font. All sources (even if only the film) should be cited according to MLA. Students are expected to craft these papers carefully.

The rubric will be available on Canvas. Students should submit their papers on Canvas.

3. **Four Quizzes** 2.5% each, 10% overall, or 10/100 points. (Sept. 22, Oct. 6, Nov. 8, Dec.1). Quizzes will be based on lectures, reading, and in-class films when applicable. **Please note all quizzes, EXCEPT Nov. 8th, are on Thursdays at the end of class. November 8th's quiz will be on Tuesday at the beginning of class.**
4. **Midterm Exam** 50 minutes in-class on October 13th. 20% or 20/100 points. Exams will be based on lectures, readings, and in-class films when applicable.
5. **Final Exam** 50 minute exam like the midterm December 15th. 20% or 20/100 points.

The instructor reserves the right to give a pop quiz / writing prompt if students demonstrate a lack of preparedness and have not completed the readings.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is **mandatory**. More than three absences without legitimate written explanation (like a doctor's note) will be reflected in the final grade which will be marked down (A to A- for example) for each unaccounted for absence.

CONSEQUENCES OF LATE ASSIGNMENTS

The grade will be marked down (A to A- for example) for each day they are late unless the student supplies legitimate written documentation to justify the tardiness. Assignments will not be accepted a week after assigned deadline. The grade will automatically be zero for that assignment.

Makeup exams will only be given with proper written explanation.

RULES

Cell phones and other devices must be turned off. If a student makes or receives calls in class he or she will be asked to leave, and will be marked absent for the day. Students may take notes on a laptop, tablet, etc., but the instructor reserves the right to ask the student to turn it off if circumstances warrant it. Texting, tweeting, chatting, and so forth are also deemed reasons to be asked to leave and the student will then be counted as absent. Any type of disruptive behavior including, but not limited to, snoring or whispering will also result in the student being asked to leave and counted as absent. Tardiness is strongly discouraged; it disrupts the flow of the class and distracts your classmates. Chronic tardiness without a legitimate written excuse, will result in a reduction in the final grade.

GRADING POLICY

4 film review/analysis papers: 40 pts (40%)

4 quizzes: 10 pts. (10%)

2 exams: 40 pts (40%)

Discussion and attendance: 10 pts (10%)

Total 100 pts (100%)

Grading Scale: 100-93: A, 92-90: A-, 89-86: B+, 85-83: B, 81-79: B-, 78-75: C+, 75-72: C, 71-69: C-, 68-66: D+, 65-62: D, 61-60: D-, 59-0: E

- Grade A is reserved for work that is exceptional in quality, for work showing keen insight, understanding, and initiative. (Note: No A+ grades).
- Grade B is for work that is consistently superior, for work showing interest, effort, and/or originality.
- Grade C is a respectable grade that reflects consistent daily preparation and completion in a satisfactory manner of all work required in the course. A minimum “C” average (2.00) is required for

graduation.

- Grade D is below the average necessary for meeting graduation requirements and ordinarily is not accepted for transfer by other institutions. A grade of a “D-” is the lowest passing grade.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students are required to conform to the University’s academic honesty policy in regard to plagiarism and other types of cheating. This means that with all work submitted for credit the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” There is a zero tolerance policy in this course for any type of cheating and plagiarism. Any student found to have cheated, plagiarized, or in any other way violate the honor code for any assignment in this course will be prosecuted to the full extent of the university honor policy including judicial actions and sanctions. Please see the university guidelines for more information.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students requesting classroom accommodations or special consideration must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact the Disability Resource Center <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/> to make an appointment to discuss your needs or request accommodations. Please ask the instructor if you would like any assistance in this process.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES POLICY

Please visit

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx#religious> for information on UF’s policy on religious observances. Please

note that students are required to inform instructors of any religious observances in order for it to be excused and students are responsible for any work that will be missed.

REQUIRED BOOKS AND FILMS

Oxtoby, Willard G., Roy C. Amore and Amir Hussain, editors. (2014) *Fourth Edition, World Religions: Eastern Traditions (WRE)*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Four films. While some choices might be available on Youtube, students should be prepared to rent the films if another option is unavailable. Most of the titles are available on at least one of the following: iTunes, Google Play, Netflix, and Amazon.

AVAILABLE ON CANVAS

Davis, Richard H. (1995) "Introduction: A Brief History of Religion in India," in *Religions of India in Practice*, Donald S. Lopez Jr., editor. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Hoskins, Janet (2011) "What are Vietnam's Indigenous Religions?" In *Newsletter: Center for Southeast Asian Studies Kyoto University*, No. 64, pages 3-6.

Vũ Thị Tú Anh (2015) "The Modernization of Dao Mau: The Impact of Political Ideology and Commercialism on the Worship of the Mother Goddess in Vietnam." In *Journal of Indigenous Social Development*, Vol.4, issue 1. 1-17.

Selections from:

DuBois, Thomas David (2011). *Religion and the Making of Modern East Asia*. New York: Cambridge University Press, eBook.

Eaton, Richard M. (2001) *Essays on Islam and Indian History*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Poceski, Mario (2009). *Chinese Religions - the eBook*. Utah: Journal of Buddhist Ethics Online Books.

Winzeler, Robert L. (2016). *Popular Religion in Southeast Asia*. London: Rowman & Littlefield.

SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction & the Study of Religion

August 23rd: Intro to the course, review syllabus

August 25th: WRE Chapter 1 pages 4-24; Dubois “In the Beginning: Religion and History” 1-15.

Week 2: Indus Valley, Vedic Traditions, & Classical Hinduism

August 30th: WRE Chapter 2: 28-40; Davis “A Brief History of Religion in India” 1-16. Watch in class: *Alter of Fire*

Sept 1st: WRE Chapter 2 cont. 41-53; Davis “A Brief History of Religion in India” 16-27

Week 3: Hindu Traditions

Sept 6th: WRE Chapter 2 cont. 53-74, Davis 27-31, 41-43

Sept. 8th: WRE 74-96 Davis 31-41

1st film review due Sept 12

Week 4: Islam (focus on Islam in South India)

Sept 13th: Eaton “Islamic History as World History” (9-44); Watch in class: *Yaadhum: A Tamil Muslim’s Journey in Search of his Roots and Identity*

Sept 15th: Eaton “Multiple Lenses: Differing Perspectives of Fifteenth-Century Calicut” (76-93)

Week 5: Sikh Traditions

Sept 20: WRE Chapter 3, 106-142

Sept 22: Davis 43-51

Sept 22: **Quiz** on Hindu Traditions, Islam in India, and Sikh Traditions

2nd film review due Sept 26

Week 6: Jaina Traditions

Sept 27th: WRE Chapter 4, 148-180

Sept 29th: Selected Readings TBA

Week 7: Buddhist Traditions

Oct 4th: WRE Chapter 5, 210-239; *Watch Mystic Vision, Sacred Art Tibetan Painting*

Oct. 6th: WRE Chapter 5 cont., 239-258

Oct 6th: **Quiz** on Jain and Buddhist traditions (up to page 239)

Week 8: Midterm

Oct 11th: Review for midterm (covers everything thus far)

Oct 13th: **Midterm**

Week 9: Chinese Traditions

Oct 18th: WRE Chapter 6, 264-315

Oct: 20th Poceski "Popular religion" 164-181

Week 10: Chinese and Korean Traditions

Oct 25th: WRE Chapter 6 cont., 315-334

Oct 27th: Poceski "Communism, the Cult of Mao, and Religious Resurgence" 246-257

3rd film review due October 31

Week 11: Japanese Traditions

Nov. 1st: WRE Chapter 7, 342-375

Nov. 3rd: DuBois "Spirit of the rising sun: Japanese religious militarism" 179-193; DuBois, "The peace paradigm and search for meaning in Japan" 215-223

Week 12: Christianity and Islam in China and Korea

Nov 8th: ***Quiz*** on Chinese, Korean, and Japanese Traditions

Read: Poceski “Christianity, Islam, and other ‘Western’ Religions” 209-234

Nov 10th: Korean Christianity - Guest lecturer Jeyoul Choi

Reading TBA

Week 13: South East Asia

Nov 15th: Winzeler “The Development of Religion in South East Asia” 23-54

Nov 17th: Hoskins “What are Vietnam’s Indigenous Religions?” 3-6;

Vũ Thị Tú Anh “The Modernization of Dao Mau: The Impact of Political Ideology and Commercialism on the Worship of the Mother Goddess in Vietnam” 1-17.

Week 14: South East Asia

Nov 22nd: TBA

Thanksgiving

Week 15: SE Asia continued Islam in Malaysia and Indonesia;

Modern Issues, fundamentalism etc

Nov 29th: Winzeler “Popular Islam in Malaysia and Indonesia” 125-167

Dec 1st: WRE Chapter 8, 382-398

Dec 1st: **Quiz** on Christianity and Islam in China and Korea and SE Asia

4th film review due Dec 5

Week 16: Conclusion

Dec 6th: review for final; wrap-up

Final Exam December 15th.