

Religions of Asia

Reli 212

Fall, 2016

Dr. Young-chan Ro

Robinson B 449

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00-2:00 pm and by appointment

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This course is a survey of Asian religious traditions including Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, among others. The course is designed to study the worldviews, the belief systems and the values of these religions from a global perspective to enhance our understanding of Asian cultures, values, and ways of thinking. The main approach in this course will be comparative and cross-cultural in understanding the Asian traditions in relation to the Western cultural and religious traditions.

Course Goals

To assist students to acquire the knowledge Asian cultural and religious traditions

To help students understand the Asian worldviews and values in relation to the Western religious traditions

To broaden student's intellectual perspective and enhance other forms of spiritual practice and religious manifestation

Required Text

Willard G. Oxtoby and Roy C. Amore, *World Religions: Eastern Tradition* (Four Edition, but any edition is acceptable.)

Recommended Texts: Any translation of *Bhagabad Gita*, Laozi's *Dao De Jing*, Confucius' *Analects*

Requirements

1. Class participation. It is important to attend lectures and participate in discussions. The exam questions are designed to reflect the class room lectures and discussions.
2. Two exams, midterm (30%) and final (40%).
3. An independent term paper (30%), due by Tuesday, November 29.

*In order to receive the grade "In" (Incomplete), students must file a written request for the permission.

Students must take exams on the dates and at the times specified in the syllabus. Should a very serious crisis make this difficult, the instructor must be notified as soon as possible. Excuses for illness must be accompanied by a medical certificate. Papers are due at class

time on the assigned date-late papers will incur the loss of a grade point per week. If the course work is not completed the student will receive a failing grade for the course. IN (Incomplete) must be requested and is given only under extreme circumstances.

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Resources at 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. For more information, see the following websites:

University Catalog: <http://catalog.gmu.edu/>

University Policies: <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/>

All students must observe academic integrity and honor code, for more information, see the website: <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/>

Week	Topic
Week 1.	Introduction to Religion and Asian religions 1-26
Week 2	The Hindu Tradition: Harappa culture, the Vedas, and the Upanishads 18-55
Week 3-4	Classical Hinduism, Vedanta, Yoga, and modern Hinduism 55-105
Week 5.	The Shik Tradition 106-143
Week 6	The Jain Tradition 144-175
Oct. 6	Midterm
Week 7.	The Buddha and his teachings 176-201
Week 8.	Theravada and Mahayana 202-237
Week 9.	Buddhism in the Modern World 238-253
Week 10	Chinese Worldview
Week 11.	Chinese religions and Confucianism 254-274
Week 12.	Han Confucianism 274-294
Week.13.	Daoism 294-313
Week 14.	Korean Religions 313-326
Week 15.	Religions in Japan 328-361

*The above schedule can be changed and readjusted as the semester progresses