

Course Title:**UGD 240L/ CRS 1123 WORLD RELIGIONS**

First Term 2008/2009 Thu 2:30-4:15 pm ELB LT3

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to some major religious traditions in the world from a phenomenological and historical point of view. As a basic course, this course expects no prerequisite knowledge from students. It prepares students to take more advanced course in all areas of religious studies. Through the study of religion in different cultures, this course seeks to broaden students' horizons and widen their academic experience.

Course Content and Schedule:

The class will meet three periods each week. The double periods (1hr 45 mins / week in-class) will be used for lectures and discussion, and the single period (45 mins / week in-class) for tutorials. This course consists of three main parts: (1) Indian Religious Traditions, (2) Chinese Religious Traditions and (3) Western Religious Traditions or, more precisely, Abrahamic Faiths.

Date	Topics	Key concepts	Readings
Sept 4	Course Introduction	Phenomenology of religion; 7 Dimensions of Religion	Ch. 1
Sept 11	Indus Valley Civilization & Vedic Religion	Indus Valley Civilization; Features of Hinduism; 4 Vedas	Chpt 6 & 7
Sept 18	Indian Religion: Path of Knowledge	<i>Ātman</i> and <i>Brahman</i> ; Upanishads	Chpt 9
Sept 25	Indian Religion: Path of Devotion	<i>Bhakti</i> movement, Indian concept of Divinity	Chpt 10
Oct 2	Indian Religion: Path of Devotion	Vishnu, Shiva and <i>Shakti</i> ; <i>Pūja</i>	Chp. 6
Oct 9	Indian Religion: Path of Action	<i>Dharma & Moksha</i> ; <i>Karma-yoga</i> 4 stages of Life, Caste systems,	Chpt 8
Oct 16	Buddhism: Basic concepts	4 noble Truths; 8 th fold Path; Karma; Samsāra; 12 Chains of Dependence	Ch 3
Oct 23	Buddhism: Later developments	Theravada; Mahāyāna and Varjayāna; 3 Baskets of Scriptures	Chpt. 13 & 14
Oct 30	Chinese Religion: Overview	Question of vocabulary; 4 unequal Traditions	pp.168-198
Nov 6	Chinese Religion in Rural Context	Lineage Hall and Temple Festivals; <i>Jiao</i> ritual	C. 3 or P.323-348
Nov 13	Abrahamic faith: Judaism	God; Creation; Human existence; History	Ch.7
Nov 20	Abrahamic faith : Islam	Five pillars of Faith Five pillars of observance; Shiite; Sunnies; Sufis	Ch 6
Nov 27	Abrahamic faith : Christianity	3 Branches and 3 major Trends of Christianity	Ch. 8
Dec 3 =	~ <i>Deadline for Written Assignment</i> ~	~ <i>Deadline for Written Assignment</i> ~	= Dec 3

Ch. = Huston Smith. *The World's Religions* (San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1991)

Chpt = N.C. Nielsen Jr. et al. ed. *Religions of the World* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1988)

Chp = David R. Kinsley. *Hinduism: A Cultural Perspective* (New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1993)

C = James Miller ed. *Chinese Religions in Contemporary Societies* (Santa Barara: ABC-CLIO, 2006)

Pp. = 李亦園 《宗教與神話論集》(台北：立緒文化，九八年)

P = 劉阿榮主編《都市治理與地方永續發展》(台北：揚智文化事業股份有限公司，2007)

Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge Outcomes:

- (1) To be able to understand world religions in their historical settings and contemporary contexts of modern living; globally, locally and in their many facets
- (2) To be able to engage in a critical analysis of religions by the methods of the humanities and social sciences

Attitude Outcomes

- (1) To develop your ability to have a critical and yet sympathetic understanding and appreciation of religious traditions especially those one does not belong
- (2) To develop your sensitivity to ultimate concern and religious dimension of human life

Learning Activities

As this course combines lectures and tutorials with web-based teaching and fieldwork, students must prepare to use the Web Course Tools (WebCT, 30 mins out-of class/ week) and participate in fieldtrips (at least one out of 3 : 1 weekend in October (Oct 10-12) + 5 hours out-of-class on Saturday in October and 5 hour in November). Class, tutorial and fieldtrip participation will be counted as 20 %. For tutorial participation, students will be asked to do a 15 minute presentation (could be a group project permitted by tutor) and to lead a discussion in tutorial class.

Lecture		Tutorial Presentation & Discussion		Tutorial Project		Field-trip		Web-based teaching		Course Reading		Written Assignment	
(hr) in /out class		(hr) in /out class		(hr) / course in /out class		(hr) / course in /out class		(hr) in /out class		(hr) in /out class		(hr) / course in /out class	
2 per week		1 per week		3		3 days	5 + 5		0.5 per week		3 per week		5
M	NA	M	NA	O	NA	M	M+ O	NA	M	NA	M	NA	M

M: Mandatory activity in the course

O: Optional activity

NA: Not applicable

Assessment scheme

There will be three quizzes, to be given in tutorials, counted as 30 % of your grade. All answered scripts have to be sent to GE office for archive purpose. Students are expected to spend 3 hour out-of-class per week for course reading.

A written assignment (4,500 to 6,500 words & due on or before Dec 3) based on fieldwork study and/ or primary source analysis will contribute 50 % of your grade. Students must submit their papers via the Webpage of the Chinese University Plagiarism Identification Engine (CUPIDE) <http://cupide.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/student> ; post a copy onto the WebCT and give a hardcopy together with a print out of receipt and signed Academic Honesty Declaration Statement from CUPIDE (received via e-mail after you have submitted your assignment) to their tutor.

Task nature	Description	Weight
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3 Tutorial Quizzes	Based on Course Readings	30%
Written Assignment	Fieldtrip Report (4,500 to 6,500 words & due <u>on or before Dec 3</u>)	50%
Tutorial Presentation + Class & tutorial Discussion	15-20 minutes presentation based on course reading or a project (individual or group) with prior permission from tutor + leading a discussion afterwards and participation in other tutorial discussions	20%

Learning resources for students

Basic readings will be taken from *The World's Religions* by Huston Smith (San Francisco : Harper, 1991). Translation in Chinese is available [劉安雲譯《人的宗教》(台北：立緒文化，九八年)]. In addition, on Chinese religion, students are suggested to read 李亦園《宗教與神話論集》(台北：立緒文化，九八年) ; James Miller ed. *Chinese Religions in Contemporary Societies* (Santa Barara: ABC-CLIO, 2006) and 劉阿榮主編《都市治理與地方永續發展》(台北縣深坑鄉：揚智文化事業股份有限公司，2007) . On Indian religions, read *Hinduism: A Cultural Perspective* (New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1993) by David R. Kinsley. Another helpful text is N.C. Nielsen Jr. et al. ed. *Religions of the World* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1988) 2nd edition. Other suggested readings will be given in class and through the WebCT.

A useful internet resource for this course is the website on Why Study Religion? by Brad Herling of the American Academy of Religion at <http://www.studyreligion.org/why/index.html>. See also Religion Online for titles, articles and chapters <http://www.religion-online.org/showsearch.asp>

Feedback for evaluation

A tailored made mid-term course evaluation and end-of- term university wide course evaluation will be conducted in class. Students' comments and feedback on the course through e-mails within WebCT or personal meeting with instructor and/ or tutors are always welcomed.

Teachers' & TA's Contact Details

Lecturer: Prof. TAM, Wai Lun 譚偉倫 (Department of Cultural and Religious Studies)

Departmental Webpage: <http://www2.cuhk.edu.hk/crs/crs0708/en/index.php>

Lecturer's office Hour: Thu 4:15-6:15 pm HYS 514

Tutors: Li Chun Hong 李駿康 ; Liang Rong 梁容 (Ph.D. candidates of CRS)

Please use the e-mails and Discussion Forum in WebCT for all course communication

A Facility for Posting Course Announcements

Details for fieldtrips, assignment and feedback for written assignment will be given through the WebCT in due course. All questions with regard to the courses could be posted on the discussion forum or via e-mails within the WebCT.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Students must submit their papers via CUPIDE and hand in a print out of receipt and a signed Academic Honesty Declaration Statement. Relevant information on academic honesty and plagiarism can be allocated via: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty>