

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
Department of Religious Studies  
**REL 3310 Introduction to Asian Religions**  
Spring 2017

Instructor: Dr. Samani Rohini Pragya

Class Room: PC 445

Hours: DM 320 C, MW12–1.00PM by appointment

Class MWF,11:00PM-11:50PM

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**COURSE TEXTBOOKS:**

Pulse of Wisdom: The Philosophies of India, China, and Japan-Textbook ONLY by Michael C. Brannigan (Paperback - 2000) - Student Edition

- Publisher: Wadsworth, Inc; 2nd edition (2000)
- Language: English
- ISBN-10: 0534746713
- ISBN-13: 978-0534746711

Additional reading material is available on the black board.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will analyze in a critical and analytical fashion, religions of Asia. The course will mainly explore Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism. It will also go over Confucius and Daoist philosophy. The course is geared towards a philosophical discussion of the Asian religion. The course will assist in enriching the students with the nature of Asian religions being intertwined with intense philosophy. The course going over the history will then ride into the concept of reality, self, concept of knowledge, ethics and death. The course will serve as a platform to have a comparative analysis of the religions of Asian being diverse and similar. The course assignments will directly involve the students to peep into the religions to answer modern ethical questions. The course will be challenging and therefore push students to think critically about the nature of Asian religion in our complex world today.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

The class format will include lectures, films and student presentations. Each student will have four class exams, a term paper and class presentation along with one Asian religious site visits. All written work must be typed and double-spaced using a 1" margin all around, a 12 point font letter size and a word count listed at the top of the page. PLEASE NOTE: The instructor will take off points if the above writing assignment requirements are not adhered to. All written work will need to be submitted through the online service [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). Please make sure to sign up or register on the site directly before your first assignment is due.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- (1) Explain various concepts of Asian religions.
- (2) Analyze the historical development of the Asian Religions.
- (3) See the ways in which Asian religions and Philosophies are both similar yet different
- (4) Have a critical eye to evaluate religious philosophical & ritualistic practices of Asian religions.
- (5) Understand the difference between theory and practice in a religious context

## **COURSE POLICIES:**

### **I. ATTENDANCE and CLASS PARTICIPATION**

It is key for students to attend class in order to be successful in this course. If a student arrives late or leaves early it is BOTH disruptive to the lecturer and students alike. To alleviate this from happening I will count ONE absence for every TWO late arrivals or early departures. Class participation is also important so that students can challenge each other. Dialogue is highly encouraged in this class. Attendance and class participation is vital to a university education and will make up 10% of the course grade.

### **II. PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is defined as "literally theft," and will NOT be tolerated. Plagiarism, in forms some students may not be aware of may include:

- (1) A written work that is ENTIRELY stolen from another source
- (2) Using quotations from source without proper citation

(3) Paraphrasing from a source without proper citation

Students are expected to UNDERSTAND the definition of plagiarism. To view the University Code of Academic Integrity please visit <http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/2codeofacainteg.htm> When all else fails; ASK the instructor for help. If you are found guilty you could receive a failing grade for the course which in some cases leads to dismissal from the course and in severe cases from the university.

### **III. POP QUIZZES**

There may be random pop quizzes given on the reading material. Be prepared for class, ESPECIALLY on days that a class discussion on an article is assigned. Quiz grades will be factored into the attendance and class participation grade, which is 10% of the final grade.

### **III. LATE PAPERS**

Late papers will be downgraded at the discretion of the instructor and is therefore, highly discouraged! **No late submissions will be accepted with the commencement of Exam Week.**

## **DESCRIPTION OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:**

### **I. IN CLASS EXAMS:**

There will be four exams in this course. The format will include true/false, matching, essay, and short answer.

### **II. Term paper and Class Presentation:**

Each student will choose one concept of any of the Asian religions. The term paper will be a research analysis of the concept from the perspective of the chosen religion. At the end of the semester, class presentation will be given by each student through power-point (containing at least seven to ten slides) about the same research undertaken.

I expect at least five academic sources to be used in the paper. Do not refer to wiki. At least three sources must be any academic book related to the topic. You could use either Chicago, APA or MLA style for your citation. The instructor will provide further detail as the semester continues.

**If you miss the opportunity of presenting in class as per the schedule, pls contact right away to finalize the presentation date and time.**

### **III. SITE VISIT REPORTS:**

Because there is an abundance of Asian related sites around South Florida, this course will require that each student visit one site and report on them. This assignment is to educate the student on the practice level which is equally as important to the theory level discussed in class. **Make sure your experience of the site visit is compared with your theoretical learning and understanding.** More information can be provided later as per students' queries.

## **COURSE GRADE DISTRIBUTION:**

Attendance and Class Participation 5%

Exams (4 in total) 60% (15% each)

Term Paper 15%

Class Presentation 10 %

Site Visits 10%

**Grading Scale:**

93-100 A  
 90-92 A-  
 87-89 B+  
 83-86 B  
 80-82 B-  
 77-79 C+  
 73-76 C  
 70-72 C-  
 67-69 D+ 63-66 D  
 60-62 D-  
 59 – 0 F

**CLASS SCHEDULE:**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Subject and Study Material</b>
Mon Jan 9	Introduction
<b>Hinduism</b>	
Wed Jan 11	<b>History</b> - Michael C. Brannigan, Hinduism, pp 4-14
Fri Jan 13	<b>Concept of Reality</b> - Michael C. Brannigan, Hinduism, pp 57-65
Mon Jan 16	<b>MLK Leave</b>
Wed Jan 18	<b>Concept of Self</b> , Michael C. Brannigan, Hinduism, pp 129-135
Fri Jan 20	<b>Theory of Knowledge</b> , Michael C. Brannigan, Hinduism, pp 189-198
Mon Jan 23	<b>Concept of Ethics</b> , pp. 250-260
Wed Jan 25	<b>Concept of Death</b> , pp. 322-327
Fri Jan 27	<b>Video</b>
Mon Jan 30	<b>Revision and Discussion</b>
Wed Feb 1	<b>Hinduism Test</b>
<b>Buddhism</b>	
Fri Feb 3	<b>History</b> , Michael C. Brannigan, Buddhism, pp 14-23

Mon Feb 6	<b>Concept of Reality</b> , Michael C. Brannigan, pp 65-70
Wed Feb 8	<b>Concept of Self</b> , Michael C. Brannigan, Buddhism, pp135-140
Fri Feb 10	<b>Theory of Knowledge</b> , Michael C. Brannigan, Buddhism, pp 198-204
Mon Feb 13	<b>Concept of Ethics</b> , Michael C. Brannigan, Buddhism, pp 257-262
Wed Feb 15	<b>Concept of Death</b> - Michsael C. Brannigan, Buddhism, pp 328-333
Fri Feb 17	<b>Video – due date for submission of Abstract of term paper</b>
Mon Feb 20	<b>Class Review and Discussion</b>
Wed Feb 22	<b>Buddhism Test</b>
<b>Jainism</b>	(Articles are available on Black Board)
Fri Feb 24	<b>History</b>
Mon Feb 27	<b>Concept of Reality</b>
Wed March 01	<b>Concept of Self</b>
Fri March 03	<b>Theory of Knowledge</b>
Mon Mar 06	<b>Theory of Knowledge</b>
Wed Mar 08	<b>Concept of Death</b>
Fri Mar 10	<b>Video</b>
Mon-Sat Mar 13-18	<b>Spring Break</b>
Mon Mar 20	<b>Class Catch up – due date for submission of term paper</b>
Wed Mar 22	<b>Concept of Ethics</b>
Fri Mar 24	<b>Concept of Ethics</b>
Mon Mar 27	<b>Jainism Test</b>
Wed Mar 29	<b>Class Discussion – Pick one religion to debate about it</b>
<b>Chinese Philosophy</b>	
Fri Mar 31	<b>History</b> , Michael C. Brannigan, Chinese Philosophy, pp 23-36

Mon April 03	<b>Concept of Reality</b> , Michael C. Brannigan, Chinese Philosophy, pp 70-80
Wed April 05	<b>Ethics</b> , Michael C. Brannigan, Chinese Philosophy, pp 262-267
Fri April 07	<b>Concept of Death</b> , Michael C. Brannigan, Chinese Philosophy, pp 333-337
Mon April 10	<b>Class Review and Discussion</b>
Wed April 12	<b>Video - due date for site visit assignment</b>
Fri April 14	<b>Class Presentations</b> (Hinduism)
Mon April 17	<b>Class Presentations</b> (Buddhism)
Wed April 19	<b>Class Presentations</b> (Jainism)
Fri April 21	<b>Class Presentations</b> ( Confucianism - Daoism)
Mon April 26	<b>Final Exam</b> (Confucianism and Daoism) 9.45AM-11.45AM, PC445