

REL 3310: Intro to Asian Religions; Section U01

Professor: Dr Samani Chaitanya Pragya

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Class Room: DM 144; Time: 11:00-11:50am

Office Hours: MW 12:00-01:00pm

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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 three 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. 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 MATERIAL

Required Text Book

- ***Pulse of Wisdom***: The Philosophies of India, China, and Japan, Michael C. Brannigan (Paperback - 2000) - Student Edition, Language: English.

Recommended Text Book

- ***World Religions, Eastern Traditions (5th Edition)***- Edited by Roy C. Amore, Amir

Hussain, Willard G. Oxtoby, Oxford New Work, Oxford Press, 2019

- Additional study material will be posted on Canvas as per requirement.

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.

IV. 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 three 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 from 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 - 20%

Exams (3 in total) - 45% (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

Week	Topics
	Hinduism
Week 1 Jan 06-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • History • Concept of Reality
Week 2 Jan 13-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theory of Self • Concept of Ethics <p>Video</p>
Week 3 Jan 20-24	MLK Holiday
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept of Knowledge • Concept of Death
Week 4 Jan 27-31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision and Discussion • Test on Hinduism

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of Buddhism
	Buddhism
Week 5 Feb 03-07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History • Concept of Reality • Concept of Self
Week 6 Feb 10-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept of Ethics • Concept of Death • Video
Week 7 Feb 17-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theory of Knowledge (Due date for Abstract Submission) • Class Review and Discussion • History of Jainism
Feb 24-29	Spring Break
	Jainism
Week 8 Mar 02-06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept of Reality • Concept of Self • Concept of Karma
Week 9 Mar 09-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept of Ethics • Concept of Death • Video
Week 10 Mar 16-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theory of Knowledge • Class Review and Discussion • Test on Jainism
	Chinese Philosophy
Week 11 Mar 23-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History • Concept of Reality • Concept of Self
Week 12 Mar 30-Apr 03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept of Ethics • Concept of Death • Theory of Knowledge
Week 13 Apr 06-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video • Review and Class Discussion • Pop-up Quiz (due date for site visit assignment)

	Class-Presentations
Week 14 Apr 13-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class Discussion – Pick one religion to debate about it• Presentations• Presentations
Week 15 Apr 20-24	Final Exam (PC 425, 9.45 AM - 11.45)