

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Department of Religious Studies

Fall 2014

REL 3310

INTRO TO ASIAN RELIGIONS

Time: 1:00PM-1:50PM

Instructor: Unnata Pragma

Office: Located in the Religious Studies Dept. DM building, 3rd floor. Room No.306

Office Hours: M/W 11:00 to 11:50pm by appointment

Email: upragya@fiu.edu

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, religious texts and practices of the various religious traditions of Asia using the modern study of worldviews analysis. This will allow students to understand and appreciate the each religion by using objective reasoning through comparing and contrasting the structure and history of Asian religions. The course will travel into the history, and then explore philosophical theories of soul, reality, epistemology, ethics and death. The course will directly involve the evaluating of religions from vantage points

such as practices, beliefs, and sacred texts. The course will be challenging and therefore push students to think critically about the philosophy 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 group 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.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

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

- (1) Explain various definitions of Asian “religion”
- (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) Use an objective, 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!

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.

Term paper & Assignment policy:

- **In any situations there will be no submissions accepted with the commencement of the Exam week. All submission, even if late should be done prior to the exam week.**
- **Late submissions will be graded lower**

Term Paper

The term paper will be research paper developed around the theme-

Self-Discipline: Key to life fulfilled

Students will pick one of the code and research any current area related to that specific area. Students will receive an opportunity to present as well.

Poster presentation for the theme “Self Discipline is key to life fulfilled” will be a research presentation.

Research in any **current areas** of domestic violence, suicide, aggression, equality, religious intolerance, unethical business practice, social evils, environmental issues, addiction and consumerism is welcome.

The posters will be presented on the occasion of an International Conference at FIU

Acharya Tulsi: Making of Modern Jainism

There will be special award for the two best research & presentation.

Submission deadline:

Selection of subject: 13th September 2014

Abstract: 15th September 2014

Paper: 8th October 2014

Revised Paper: 15th October 2014

Poster submission: 22nd Oct 2014

Presentation: 1st and 2nd November 2014 in Marc Pavillion and Ball Room, at FIU, Miami

Please contact for submission and more information at : upragya@fiu.edu

Anuvrat Movement

1. I will not intentionally kill or hurt any innocent creature.
 - a. I will not commit **suicide**.
 - b. I will not commit **feticide**.
 - c. I will not engage in **domestic violence**.
2. I will not attack anyone or support attacking any **war**.
 - a. I will not support **aggression**.
 - b. I will support **disarmament** and world peace.
3. I will not participate in riots and **violent demonstrations**.
4. I will remain committed to human **equality and unity**.
5. I will not engage in **discrimination** based on caste, race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, religion, age, or sexual orientation. I will embrace religious tolerance.

- a. I will not indulge sectarian conflict or tension.
6. I will remain **honest and fair in business** and personal dealings.
 - a. I will not harm others in order to serve any ends.
 - b. I will not engage in deceptive practices.
7. I will set limits to the practice of continence and **material acquisition**.
8. I will not engage in unethical conduct relating to **political elections**.
9. I will not encourage or defend **evil social belief**, harmful customs, and **superstitions**.
10. I will lead a life free from **addictions**.
 - a. I will not use intoxicants such as alcohol, opium, marijuana, heroin, tobacco, etc.
11. I will remain vigilant towards preventing **environmental pollution** and my environmental impact.
 - a. I will not unnecessarily cut down trees.
 - b. I will not waste water.

The term paper must be a minimum of 7 pages and no more than 10 pages in length, excluding the bibliography or works cited page and the cover page. The paper should have at least five sources, of which at least three should be any authentic text, journals, etc. The references in the body of the paper is required. The topic of the paper should be submitted & receive an approval as per the scheduled dates. This paper is formal and must be typed, *not hand-written*, in Times New Roman font size 12 and double-spaced. The margins should be 1-inch on all sides. *APA*, *MLA*, and *Chicago Manual Style* will be accepted. According to the style of choice, the student is advised to include footnotes or endnotes. A more thorough explanation of the term paper will be given during class.

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. More information will be provided later.

COURSE GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

Attendance and Class Participation 5%

Exams (3 in total)	60%
Term paper	20%
Presentation	5%
Site Visit	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

	Subject and Study Material
8/25	Introduction
8/27	History
8/29	No class (Jain Religious festival of forgiveness/samvatsari)
9/1	Holiday
9/3	Concept of Reality

9/5	Concept of Reality
9/8	Anuvrat Movement: Ethics for humanity by Acharya Tulsi
9/10	Anuvrat Movement
9/12	Class discussion to select the topic of research
9/15	Class discussion/ submit abstract
9/17	Concept of self and ethics
9/19	Concept of Knowledge
9/22	Jain practices of Festivals
9/24	Concept of ethics
9/26	Concept of death
9/29	Documentary
10/1	History - Michael C. Brannigan, Hinduism, pp 4-14
10/3	History
10/6	Concept of Reality - Michael C. Brannigan, Hinduism, pp 57-65
10/8	Reality
10/10	Concept of Self , Michael C. Brannigan, Hinduism, pp 129-135
10/13	Theory of Knowledge , Michael C. Brannigan, Hinduism, pp 189-198
10/15	practices of Festivals
10/17	Ethics pp---to 256
10/20	Death pp-----to 327
10/22	Video
10/24	Test 1

10/27	History - Michael C. Brannigan, Buddhism, pp 14-23
10/29	Concept of Reality, Michael C. Brannigan, pp 65-70
10/31	Concept of Self, Michael C. Brannigan, Buddhism, pp135-140
11/3	Theory of Knowledge, Michael C. Brannigan, Buddhism, pp 198-204
11/5	practices of Festivals
11/7	Concept of Ethics, Michael C. Brannigan, Buddhism, pp 257-262
11/10	Concept of Death - Michael C. Brannigan, Buddhism, pp 328-333
11/12	Class review and Quiz
11/14	History - Michael C. Brannigan, Chinese Philosophy, pgs. 23-36
11/17	Concept of Reality - Michael C. Brannigan, Chinese Philosophy, pp 70-80
11/19	Ethics, Michael C. Brannigan, Chinese Philosophy, pp 262-267
11/21	Concept of Death in China
11/24	Documentary
11/26	Discussion of religions of Asia
11/28	Holiday
12/1	Religious classics of Asia
12/3	Goddess of Asia
12/5	<i>Catch up</i>

