

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Department of Religious Studies

Spring 2013

REL 3310: INTRO TO ASIAN RELIGIONS

M/W/F 11:00-11:50pm

Room: PC 443

Instructor: Dr. Chaitanya Pragya

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

Office Hours: M/W by appointment

Email: samanijfiu@gmail.com

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 edition (2000)
- Language: English
- ISBN-10: 0534746713
- ISBN-13: 978-0534746711

Outlines of Jainism by S. Gopalan

- Publisher: New York: Halted Press: Edition 1973 edition (2000)
- Language: English
- ISBN-0-85226-324-4

Additional reading could be found 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 culture and context of each religion by using objective reasoning through comparing and contrasting the structure and history of Asian religious communities. The course will directly involve the evaluating of religions from vantage points such as practices and beliefs, sacred texts, environment, politics, science, and gender. 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 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. 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 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 a 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. CLASS EXAMS:

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

II. CLASS PRESENTATION:

The class presentation will be given by each student through power-point (containing at least seven to ten slides) according to his/her interest in a regional area of Asian religion. The group will research that region and present new and interesting information not previously covered in class regarding religion in the region, during a specified period at the end of the semester. At least three authentic books related to the topic must be referred to in the presentation. The instructor will provide further detail as the semester continues.

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 that at least in two pages. This assignment is to educate the student on the practice level which is equally important to the theory level discussed in class. The detail about assignment is posted on moodle Please! see from there.

COURSE GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

Attendance and Class Participation	10%
Exams (3 in total)	60%
Class Presentation	20%
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-
 0 – 59 F

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Mon Jan 7	Explanation of Syllabus and Introduction
Hinduism	
Wed Jan 9	History - Michael C. Brannigan, Hinduism, pp 4-14
Fri Jan 11	Concept of Reality - Michael C. Brannigan, Hinduism, pp 57-65
Mon Jan 14	Concept of Self , Michael C. Brannigan, Hinduism, pp 129-135
Wed Jan 16	Theory of Knowledge , Michael C. Brannigan, Hinduism, pp 189-198

Fri Jan 18	Concept of Ethics , Michael C. Brannigan, Hinduism, pp 249-257
Mon Jan 21	No Class (MLK Day)
Wed Jan 23	Concept of Death , Michael C. Brannigan, Hinduism, pp 322-328
Fri Jan 25	Class-review & DISCUSSION in group
Mon Jan 28	Video
Buddhism	
Wed Jan 30	History - Michael C. Brannigan, Buddhism, pp 14-23
Fri Feb 1	Concept of Reality , Michael C. Brannigan, pp 65-70
Mon Feb 4	Concept of Self , Michael C. Brannigan, Buddhism, pp135-140
Wed Feb 6	Theory of Knowledge , Michael C. Brannigan, Buddhism, pp 198-204
Fri Feb 8	Concept of Ethics , Michael C. Brannigan, Buddhism, pp 257-262
Mon Feb 11	Concept of Death - Michael C. Brannigan, Buddhism, pp 328-333
Wed Feb 13	Class review and Quiz

Fri Feb 15	Video
Mon Feb 18	Test I (Hinduism & Buddhism)
	Jainism (Articles on Black Board)
Wed Feb 20	History
Fri Feb 22	Concept of Reality
Mon Feb 25	Concept of Self (Visit http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWttCv0p6WQ&feature=related)
Wed Feb 27	Theory of Knowledge
Fri March 1	Ethics
Mon March 4	Concept of Death
Wed March 6	Class-review and DISCUSSION in group
Fri March 8	Video Test II (write an essay on one of the topics taught in the class)
Mon March 11	No Class (Spring Break)

Wed March 13	No Class (Spring Break)
Fri March 15	No Class (Spring Break)
Chinese Philosophy (Confucianism, Taoism and Chinese Buddhism)	
Mon March 18	History - Michael C. Brannigan, Chinese Philosophy, pgs. 23-36 Midterm essay & Site-visit report due
Wed March 20	Concept of Reality - Michael C. Brannigan, Chinese Philosophy, pp 70-80
Fri March 22	Concept of Self - Michael C. Brannigan, Chinese Philosophy, pp 140-144
Mon March 25	Theory of Knowledge - Michael C. Brannigan, Chinese Philosophy, pp 204-209
Wed March 27	Ethics , Michael C. Brannigan, Chinese Philosophy, pp 262-267 Final Class-Presentation Due
Fri March 29	Concept of Death , Michael C. Brannigan, Chinese Philosophy, pp 333-338
Mon April 1	Review & Catch up class
Wed April 3	Video, Balance

Fri April 5	Class Presentations (Hinduism)
Mon April 8	Class Presentations (Buddhism)
Wed April 10	Class presentations (Jainism)
Fri April 12	Class presentations (Confucianism)
Mon April 15	Class presentations (Taoism)
Wed April 17	Class presentations
Fri April 19	Review & Catch-up class
Mon April 23	Final Exam (AM - AM,)