

# INTRODUCTION TO ASIAN RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS - RELG 104-H3

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:50 - 12:05

AOC2 311



**Instructor: Dr. Ronald Green**

**Office: AOC2 332**

Office hours in AOC2 332: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:25 - 10:40

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**Final Exam: *Thursday, May 7, 1:30 p.m. in our regular classroom***

## Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the most prevalent and enduring ideas, images, and personalities of Asian religious traditions including Daoism, Confucianism, East Asian Shamanism, Shinto, and Buddhism. The regions of focus include India, Tibet, China, Korea, and Japan, with some reference to other areas of Asia.

## Course Objectives:

The objective of this course is to provide students with an overview of a number of religions found in Asia from ancient times to the present. We will meet this object through the study theories, practices and images associated with them. We will proceed by studying our subject within the context of historical, cultural, economic and political developments of Asia and the world.

## Student Learning Outcomes:

On completion of this course, students will have

1. Demonstrated knowledge of some of the beliefs, practices, narratives and important persons associated with major religious traditions of Asia.
2. Expressed themselves on topical issues concerning Asian religions
3. Fostered appreciation of global diversity through understanding how Asian religions contribute to and are affected by individual and collective behaviors.
4. Gained knowledge of the cultures, languages and social structures of other countries of the world.

**Course Attendance Policy:** Following the guidelines posted in the *CCU Student Handbook*, students who are **absent for 25%** of the regularly scheduled class meetings **for any reason** will receive a final **grade of "F"** for the term. This includes both excused and unexcused absences.

**Academic Integrity & Plagiarism Statement:** Violations of the Student Code of Conduct will not be tolerated. Any such violations will be dealt with in strict accordance to Coastal Carolina University guidelines. The student will be responsible for familiarizing himself/herself with this policy, which is located in the CCU Student Handbook under the Code of Student Conduct Section.

**Disability Services:** Coastal Carolina University is committed to equitable access and inclusion of individuals with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Individuals seeking reasonable accommodations should contact Accessibility & Disability Services (843-349-2503 or <https://www.coastal.edu/disabilityservices/>).

**Required texts:**

<b>1. Upanishads</b>	author unknown	<a href="https://www.arshabodha.org/Kathopanishad/kathaTrans1.pdf">https://www.arshabodha.org/Kathopanishad/kathaTrans1.pdf</a>
hard copy alternative	<i>The Upanishads, Breath of the Eternal.</i>	NY: Signet, 2002. ISBN: 9780451528483
<b>2. Dhammapada</b>	Buddha, trans. Max Muller	<a href="https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Dhammapada_(Muller)">https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Dhammapada_(Muller)</a>
hard copy alternative	<i>The Dhammapada, Verses on the Way</i> (trans. Glenn Wallis)	Modern Library, 2007. ISBN: 9780812977271
<b>3. Jain Stories</b>	Nine Truths, Worldly Lust for Life, The Mango Tree	Readings on Moodle
<b>4. Daodejing</b> [ <i>Tao te Ching</i> ]	Laozi	<a href="https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Translation:Tao_Te_Ching">https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Translation:Tao_Te_Ching</a>
hard copy alternative	<i>Tao te Ching</i> (trans. D.C. Lau)	Penguin Classics; Reprint 1964 ISBN: 9780140441314
<b>5. Confucian Analects</b>	Confucius (Kungfuzi)	<a href="https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Confucian_Analects">https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Confucian_Analects</a>
hard copy alternative	<i>The Analects</i> (trans. D.C. Lau)	Penguin Classics; Reprint 1998. ISBN: 9780140443486

**Grading:**

The final grade for Honors students will be calculated as a percentage of items 1 through 3 below. This percentage will be determined by the quality of the Honors term paper, item 4 below. For example, if an Honors student earns 95% on all graded items for non-Honors students (1 through 3 below) and 90% on the Honors term paper, the final grade for the term is 90% of 95, which equals 85.5, a 'B' (90 X .95 = 85.5).

Honors students should earn 90% or better on all graded items required of non-Honors students *and* 90% or higher on the Honors term paper. In addition, Professor Green holds Honors students to a higher academic standard than non-Honors students and therefore expects them to earn an 'A' for the term.

1. There will be **five reading check-ups**, one on each of the assigned readings. These will be given at the beginning of class on the day the readings are due (see attached calendar). They will consist of two to five short-answer questions about the reading assignments. The lowest grade of the six reading check-up will be dropped. The sum of the grades averaged for the highest five reading check-ups is worth 20% of the final grade for the course. Students may not make-up missed reading check-ups.

2. There will be **three in-class tests**, each worth 20% of the final grade. There will be no make-up tests.

3. There is a **non-cumulative Final Exam** worth 20% of the final grade for the class.

**4. Honors Term Paper:** In addition to the above requirements for the non-Honors Asian Religions course, Honors students are required to write a 5-page (approximately 1250-word) term paper that further explores an issue covered in class. **The topic of this paper must be approved by the instructor by midterm.** The paper is worth 15% of the final grade for the course. It is due by the beginning of class on the last day of classes for the term. This academic-style essay must be double-spaced in 12-point type, in a font such as Times New Roman or Courier New. Chicago or MLA styles are acceptable. The paper must use and properly cite at least two reputable academic sources. The instructor and the CCU Writing

Center can help if needed. The paper is due at the beginning of class on the last day of classes, April 28 at 10:50 a.m.

**Summary of term paper:** 5-page research paper  
Topic: further explore an issue covered in class  
Requirement: use and cite two reputable academic sources  
Topic must be approved by midterm  
**Due date: April 28 at 10:50 a.m.**

**FINAL EXAM:** Thursday, December 12, 11:00 a.m. in our regular classroom.

*Summary of grading for Honors students:*

<i>Items 1-3:</i>	<u>Average of Reading Check-ups</u>	=	20% (4% each)
	Test 1	=	20%
	Test 2	=	20%
	Test 3	=	20%
	Final Exam	=	20%

*Item 4:* Percentage of items 1-3 above calculated by quality of term paper.

Based on the above, Honors students will earn a letter grade for the term according to the following system:

A = 90 - 100	C = 70 - 76
B+ = 87 - 89	D+ = 67 - 69
B = 80 - 86	D = 60 - 66
C+ = 77 - 79	F = below 60

# Asian Religions - RELG 104

Schedule of Classes - Calendar

January						
	13	14 About the course	15	16 HINDUISM	17	18
19	20	21 HINDUISM  Ancient India and the <i>Vedas</i>	22	*23 HINDUISM  Developments  *Reading Check-up <i>Upanishads:</i> Katha Upanishad.	24	25
26	27	28 HINDUISM  Developments	29	30 BUDDHISM  <i>Jataka</i> and Life of the Buddha	31	

February						1
2	3	4 BUDDHISM  Life of the Buddha	5	*6 BUDDHISM  *Reading Check-up <i>Dhammapada</i> Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4	7	8
9	10	11 BUDDHISM  Four Noble Truths & Eightfold Path  REVIEW FOR TEST 1	12	*13  *Test 1:  HINDUISM and BUDDHISM	14	15
16	17	18 JAINISM	19	*20 JAINISM  *Reading Check-up Nine Truths, Worldly Lust for Life, The Mango Tree	21	22
23	24	25 SIKHISM	26	27 SIKHISM	28	

March						
1	2	3 REVIEW FOR TEST 2 ON JAINISM AND SIKHISM	4	*5  *Test 2:  JAINISM AND SIKHISM	6	7
Spring Break						
15	16	17 SHINTŌ Origins Creation myths	18	19 SHINTŌ developments	20	21
22	23	24 SHINTŌ film: <i>Princess Mononoke</i>	25	26 SHINTŌ film: <i>Princess Mononoke</i> and discussion	27	28
29	30	31 SHINTŌ Discussion and Review				

### FINAL EXAM:

104-03 - Thursday, May 7, 11:00 in our regular classroom (AOC2 311)

### alternative final exam times:

- with 104-02 - Thursday, May 7, 1:30 p.m. in EHFA 168
- with RELG 350: Tuesday, May 5, 4:00 p.m. in AOC2 310

April						
			1	*2  *Test 3:  SHINTŌ	3	4
5	6	7 CHINESE RELIGIONS Ancient sites	8	9 CHINESE RELIGIONS Ancient sites	10	11
12	13	*14  DAOISM  *Reading Check-up <i>Tao te Ching</i> : Chapters 1-5	15	16  CONFUCIANISM	17	18
19	20	*21  CONFUCIANISM  *Reading Check-up <i>Analects</i> : Book I #8- 11; Book VII #33-34; Book XII #1-3 and 17-19	22	23 CHINESE MEDICINE  Theories and practices	24	25
26	27	28  REVIEW FOR FINAL	29	30		