

# INTRODUCTION TO ASIAN RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS - RELG 104-01



**Instructor: Dr. Ron Green.**

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**Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.**

**Class website [http://ww2.coastal.edu/rgreen/Asian\\_Religions/AsianReligions.html](http://ww2.coastal.edu/rgreen/Asian_Religions/AsianReligions.html)**

**Final exam: Monday, April 30, 11 a.m. in our regular classroom**

This course provides an overview of a number of religions found in India, China, Japan, and Southeast Asia from ancient times to the present. We will study theories, practices and images from Hinduism, Daoism, East Asian shamanism, Shintō, Buddhism, and Asian new religions. We will proceed within the context of historical, cultural, economic and political developments of those countries 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 the 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.

## **Required Readings:**

1. *Dhammapada*, <http://www.accesstoinight.org/tipitaka/kn/dhp/index.html>
2. *Daodejing*, <http://ctext.org/dao-de-jing>
3. *Analects of Confucius*, <http://ctext.org/analects>
4. Handouts of supplemental readings on Asian religions (available on Blackboard).
  - a. Hawley, John Stratton and Mark Juergensmeyer. *Songs of the Saints of India*. Oxford U. Press, 2004
  - b. Reps, Paul. *Zen Flesh, Zen Bones*. Tuttle Publishing, 1998.
  - c. *The Heart Sūtra*, [http://ww2.coastal.edu/rgreen/Heart\\_Sutra.htm](http://ww2.coastal.edu/rgreen/Heart_Sutra.htm)

## **Blackboard:**

Grades will be posted on Blackboard. I will at times communicate with you through Blackboard. Also, please be sure your e-mail address is current with the university.

## **Required Assignments and Grading**

1. There will be **two quizzes**, each of worth 25% of your entire grade for the term. On these quizzes, you will be asked to choose the correct answers to a series of multiple-choice questions. You will also be asked on the quizzes to write very short responses to several questions. Review sessions are scheduled for classes prior to the quizzes.

2. Students are required to keep a Blackboard journal consisting of **four graded journal entries**. To receive credit for each entry, it must be submitted before the beginning of class the day it is due (see attached calendar). Each journal entry must include a synopsis of the religious traditions treated in class during the preceding weeks (from the time of the previous journal entry) and a reflection on the same traditions. Each entry should be no less than two typed pages in length (about 500 words) and must be an original work by the student. If your paper is found to be plagiarized from a website or elsewhere, you will receive a final grade of “F” for the course (see the *CCU Student Handbook* for the university’s plagiarism policy). Because these journal entries are intended in part to prepare you for the quizzes, they must be about the information covered in class. Use the Vocabulary sheets to write the journals. The sum of the grades averaged for these four journal entries is worth 25% of the final grade for this class.

Note: Late and make-up papers are not accepted. It is up to the student to make sure the journal entries are turned in on time.

3. There will be a **final exam** worth 25% of the final grade for the term. Most of the final exam will be non-cumulative (75% in terms of graded credit for the exam). On a smaller portion of the final exam (worth 25% of the grade on the exam) you will be asked to reflect on connections and/or disjunctions among aspects of Asian religious traditions covered in this course. By the end of the term, students who attended most of the classes and kept up with the readings will likely not need to study further for the reflection section of the final exam. The final exam will be in the same basic format as the quizzes, approximately the same length and will generally be at the same level of difficulty.

### *Summary of grading:*

Average for four Journal Entries	=	25%
Quiz 1	=	25%
Quiz 2	=	25%
Final Exam	=	25%

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

A = 91 - 100%	C = 71 - 77%
B+ = 88 - 90%	D+ = 68 - 70%
B = 81 - 87%	D = 60 - 67%
C+ = 78 - 80%	F = below 60%

### **Attendance:**

Students who are absent for more than 25% of the regularly scheduled class meetings (i.e., absent from 10 classes or the equivalent) will receive a final grade of “F” for the term. Likewise, students with poor attendance will probably find it impossible to pass this course.

## Calendar - Introduction to Asian Religious Traditions - RELG 104

January 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>9</b> First day of classes  - How to make an 'A' in this course	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>HINDUISM</b>  Varieties of yogic practices	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>HINDUISM</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  <b>No Classes</b>  MLK Holiday	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>BUDDHISM AND PEACE</b>  Lackey Chapel 5:30-6:20	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>HINDUISM</b>  Modern Hinduism	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>INDIAN BUDDHISM</b>  The Three Jewels	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>INDIAN BUDDHISM</b>  Theravada, stupa puja, Nāgārjuna, <i>Wisdom Sūtra</i> , <i>Heart Sūtra</i>	<b>25</b>	<b>27</b> <b>INDIAN BUDDHISM</b>  Dhammapada  Insight meditation	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>JAINISM</b>  <i>ahimsa</i>  <b>*Journal Entry</b> due on Hinduism and Buddhism	<b>31</b> 4:30 PM Wall Auditorium  Dr. Whitney Sanford, University of Florida  "Ghandi's Environmental Legacy: Food Sovereignty and Social Movements"				

February						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> <b>JAINISM</b>  (no class if we see Dr. Sanford)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>JAINISM</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>SIKHISM</b>  <b>Guru Nanak</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>SIKHISM</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>SIKHISM</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>13</b> <b>INDIAN RELIGIOUS POETS</b>  Rumi, Kabir, Tagore  <b>*Journal Entry</b> due on Jaina and Sikhism	<b>*14</b>	<b>15</b> Film: <i>The Boy with Divine Powers</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>REVIEW FOR QUIZ 1</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>*20</b>  <b>*Quiz 1</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>ANCIENT CHINESE RELIGIONS</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>DAOISM &amp; RELIGIOUS DAOISM</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>DAOISM</b>  Reading: <i>Daodejing</i>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>DAOISM</b>  Reading: <i>Daodejing</i>			

March						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 CHINESE RELIGIONS  Film excerpt: <i>The Qin Emperor</i>	3
4	5 CONFUCIANISM  Reading: <i>Analects</i>	6	7 CONFUCIANISM  Reading: <i>Analects</i>	8	9 CHINESE RELIGIONS  Film excerpt: <i>The Zen Mind</i>	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Spring Break						
18	19 CHINESE BUDDHISM AND ZEN WORDS  Thich Nhat Hahn Tang Religious Poets	20	21 CHINESE BUDDHISM AND ZEN KOANS  *Reading questions: <i>Zen Flesh, Zen Bones</i>	22	23 ZEN	24
25	7 REVIEW FOR QUIZ 2	27	*28 *Quiz 2: Chinese Religions.  *Journal Entry on Chinese Religions due	29	30  Celebration of Inquiry	31

April						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 TIBETAN BUDDHISM  Dream Yoga and Lucid Dreaming	3	4 TIBETAN BUDDHISM  Film: <i>Yogis of Tibet</i>	5	6 No Classes  Student Holiday	7
8	9 SHINTŌ	10	11 SHINTŌ	12	13 JAPANESE BUDDHIST TRADITIONS	14
15	16 JAPAN'S RELIGIOUS SITES	17	18 SHIKOKU PILGRIMAGE	19	20 ASIAN NEW RELIGIONS  Aum, Soka Gakkai, Mingjun Buddhism, Socially Engaged Buddhism	21
22	23 BUDDHISM IN JAPANESE ARTS  Noh, tea, Bashō	24	25 Review for Final  *Journal Entry due on all topics covered in April	26	27	28
29	30	27	28	29	*30 FINAL EXAM  11:00 a.m.  in our regular classroom	

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