

# INTRODUCTION TO ASIAN RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS - RELG 104

Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:25-10:40, Wall 319



**Instructor: Dr. Ronald Green**

**Office: AOC2 332**

Office hours in AOC2 332: Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:30-9:15 and 10:30-12:05

**Phone: 349-2782**

**E-mail: [rgreen@coastal.edu](mailto:rgreen@coastal.edu)**

**Class website: [ww2.coastal.edu/rgreen/mandala.html](http://ww2.coastal.edu/rgreen/mandala.html)**

*Final Exam: Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 in our regular classroom*

## **Course Objectives:**

The objective of this course is to provide students with an overview of a number of religions found in India, China, Japan, Tibet, and Southeast Asia from ancient times to the present. We will meet this object through the study theories, practices and images from Hinduism, Daoism, East Asian shamanism, Shintō, Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism, and Japanese 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 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. (Goal 5B of the CCU Core Curriculum).

## **Required Readings**

Course textbooks available online:

1. *Dhammapada* (teachings of the Buddha) <http://www.accesstoinsight.org/tipitaka/kn/dhp/index.html>
2. *Daodejing* (teachings of Daoism) <http://ctext.org/dao-de-jing>
3. *Analects of Confucius* (teachings of Confucius) <http://ctext.org/analects>
4. Other reading and listening assignments a posted on **MOODLE**.

Students will also become familiar with JSTOR, a database of academic articles available through the Kimbel Library. Some of our readings can be found through JSTOR and will require your CCU log in to access them.

## **Our Regular Weekly Communication**

You can contact me via email at [rgreen@coastal.edu](mailto:rgreen@coastal.edu) or call me on my office phone at 843-349-2782. If I don't answer, leave a message if it's important.

## Required Assignments and Grading

*Grades will be posted on Moodle.*

**1. Weekly Assignments: (a) Reading Quizzes or (b) Journal Entries.** Students are required to complete weekly assignments consisting of either a journal entry or a reading check-up (short quiz) depending on the week. These serve as both records of attendance and a means of grading. The average of the fifteen weekly assignments is worth 40% of the grade for the term. To receive credit for a weekly assignment, it must be submitted before midnight on the day it is due. These due dates appear on the class calendar and on the Moodle course page. A description of these follows.

(a) Reading Quizzes consist of five or so short-answer questions about the reading assignment that week.

(b) **HOW TO WRITE A JOURNAL ENTRY.** A journal entry is an original work written by the student. It must be two typed pages in length, that is, at least 500 words. Each journal entry must consist of two parts: (1) a synopsis of the religious traditions treated in class that week and (2) a reflection on the same traditions. Because these journal entries are intended to prepare you for the tests, they must be about the information covered in class. **Use the Vocabulary and Ideas sheets to write synopsis.** If you need to know how to write the reflection section, see <http://www.wikihow.com/Write-a-Reflection-Paper>. Below is a grading rubric detailing exactly what you must include in a journal entry and how it will be graded.

Note 1: *DO NOT PLAGIARIZE!* If your paper is found to be plagiarized from a website or elsewhere, you will be referred to the Dean's Office and the university disciplinary board. You will also receive a final grade of 'F' for the course (see the *CCU Student Handbook* for the university's plagiarism policy).

Note 2: *NO LATE PAPERS* and *NO MAKE-UP PAPERS!* Such papers will not be accepted. It is up to the student to make sure the journal entries are turned in on time.

Criterion	Standard
<b>Synopsis section: Coverage of the Topic</b> 30%	30 – clearly addresses the topic and responds effectively to all aspects of the assignment; 28 – clearly address the topic, but does not respond to some aspects of the assignment 26 – addresses the topic, but slights some aspects of the topic 24 – indicates confusion about the topic or neglects important aspects of the assignment 22 – suggests an inability to comprehend the assignment or to respond meaningfully to the topic
<b>Reflection Section: Communication of Ideas</b> 30%	30 – explores the issues showing comprehension of the text; goes beyond the obvious 28 – shows some depth and complexity of thought 26 – treats the topic simplistically or repetitively; does not demonstrate sufficient comprehension 24 – lacks focus, demonstrates confused or simplistic thinking, or fails to communicate ideas 22 – is unfocused, illogical, incoherent or disorganized
<b>Organization</b> 20%	20 – coherently organized, with ideas supported by apt reasons 18 – well organized and developed with appropriate reasons and examples 16 – adequately organized and developed, generally supporting ideas with reasons and examples 14 – poorly organized and/or undeveloped; lacks support from the text 12 – undeveloped; provides little or no relevant support
<b>Grammar, Spelling, etc.</b> 20%	20 – is generally free from errors in mechanics, usage, and sentence structure 18 – has a few errors in mechanics, usage, and sentence structure 12 – has some errors, but generally demonstrates control of mechanics, usage, and sentence structure 8 – is marred by an accumulation of errors in mechanics, usage, and sentence structure 4 – has serious and persistent errors in word choice, mechanics, usage, and sentence structure
<b>Word Count</b> Important Note:	<b><i>Journal entries must meet the minimum word count to be accepted.</i></b> If a journal entry is submitted that does not meet the minimum word count requirement, the student will receive a grade of zero for the assignment.

**2. Tests.** There will be two tests, each worth 20% of your entire grade for the term. On these tests, you will be asked to choose the correct answers to a series of multiple-choice questions. You will also be asked on the tests to write very short responses to several questions.

**3. Final exam.** There will be a final exam worth 20% 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. The final exam will be in the same basic format as the quizzes. It will be approximately the same length and will generally be at the same level of difficulty.

***Final Exam: Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 in our regular classroom***

*Summary of grading:*

Average of (15) Weekly Assignments	=	40%
Test 1	=	20%
Test 2	=	20%
Final Exam	=	20%

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%

In the event of an emergency or absence you will need to notify by email before the due date and provide documentation when submitting the late assignment.

**Other course policies:**

**Online Information.** ALL students in this online class are REQUIRED to have regular and reliable access to the MOODLE and the online reading assignments.

**Absences & Make-ups.** There will be **no make-ups** for exams, quizzes, or other assignments in this class without a documented medical excuse or other serious unavoidable circumstance (e.g., death in the family) that demonstrates that you were unable to access the online course for more than an entire day. The instructor also reserves the right to change the content and format of any assignments or exams when make-ups are given. When possible, the professor will offer makeup exams during office hours in person.

**Withdrawals & Incompletes.** No incompletes will be issued in this class without extraordinary and documented reasons. Permission for either Restricted Withdrawals or Incompletes is rare. Students hoping to receive either an Incomplete or permission for Restricted Withdrawal must see the instructor well in advance. Review CCU policies.

**Students with Disabilities.** As a higher education institution, Coastal Carolina University wants to see each student become successful and be given equal opportunity to achieve his/ her fullest potential. Keeping this in mind, any student who needs further assistance due to a disability - physical, learning or psychological - will be provided with the means necessary to achieve his/ her goals. For further information, please contact Accessibility and Disability Services at 843-349-2341. If assistance is need, a student must provide documentation of this to the instructor within the first two weeks of the course.

**Academic Dishonesty.** 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. Link to Office of Academic Integrity: <http://www.coastal.edu/aic/>.

**Attendance.** Students who are absent for more than 25% of the classes will receive a final grade of “F” for the term. This means 3.75 weeks of classes. Hey, let’s face it, if you don’t do four weeks’ worth of work you should fail and you will. Students must complete the Weekly Assignments on time to be counted present for the week.

**A list of online resources for this class:**

- **Link to [CCU Student Computing Services](http://www.coastal.edu/scs/) <http://www.coastal.edu/scs/>**
- **Link to [CCU Office of Accessibility and Disability Services](https://www.coastal.edu/disabilityservices) <https://www.coastal.edu/disabilityservices>**
- **Link to [Learning Assistance Center](http://www.coastal.edu/lac) <http://www.coastal.edu/lac>**
- **Link to [Kimbel Library Website](http://www.coastal.edu/library/index.html) <http://www.coastal.edu/library/index.html>**
- **Link to [Counseling Services](http://www.coastal.edu/counseling/) <http://www.coastal.edu/counseling/>**
- **Link to [A list of on-campus HelpDesks and the Help Request Form](http://www.coastal.edu/scs/index.html?type=helpdesk) <http://www.coastal.edu/scs/index.html?type=helpdesk>**
- **Link to [Office of the Registrar](http://www.coastal.edu/registrar/) <http://www.coastal.edu/registrar/>**
- **Link to [Financial Aid and Scholarships](https://www.coastal.edu/financialaid/) <https://www.coastal.edu/financialaid/>**
- **Link to [Student Activities and Leadership](http://www.coastal.edu/osal/) <http://www.coastal.edu/osal/>**
- **Link to [Dean of Students Office](http://www.coastal.edu/deanofstudents/) <http://www.coastal.edu/deanofstudents/>**

## SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

**Week One August 22-24**

*OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE*  
*HINDUISM*

**Week Two August 29-31**

*HINDUISM*

ASSIGNMENT: LISTEN TO SELECTIONS FROM THE *BHAGAVAD GITA* ON MOODLE

**Week Three September 1-3**

*INDIAN BUDDHISM*

*FILM: THE BOY WITH DIVINE POWERS*

READING ASSIGNMENT: READ FIRST 10 ENTRIES (chapters) in the *ANALECTS OF CONFUCIUS*

**Week Four September 5-7**

*JAINISM*

READING ASSIGNMENT ON MOODLE

**Week Five September 12-14**

*SIKHISM*

READING ASSIGNMENT ON MOODLE

**Week Six September 19-21**

*RELIGIOUS POETS*

*FILM ON SIKHISM*

READING ASSIGNMENT ON MOODLE

**Week Seven September 26 - 28**  
*REVIEW & TEST 1*

**Week Eight October 3-6**  
*CHINESE RELIGIONS*  
*DAOISM*  
READING ASSIGNMENT: READ FIRST 10 ENTRIES (chapters) in the *DAODEJING*

**Week Nine October 10-12**  
*CONFUCIANISM*  
READING ASSIGNMENT: READ FIRST 10 ENTRIES (chapters) in the *DAODEJING*

**Week Ten October 17-19**  
*CHINESE CHAN (ZEN)*  
READING ASSIGNMENT ON MOODLE

**Week Eleven October 24-26**  
*FILM: ENLIGHTENMENT GUARANTEED*

**Week Twelve October 31-November 2**  
*TIBETAN BUDDHISM*  
*FILM ON TIBETAN BUDDHISM*

**Week Thirteen November 7-9**  
*SHINTŌ*  
READING ASSIGNMENT ON MOODLE

**Week Fourteen November 14-16**  
*SHINTŌ*  
READING ASSIGNMENT ON MOODLE

<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>
---------------------------

**Week Fifteen November 28-30**  
*JAPANESE NEW RELIGIONS and PRACTICES TODAY*  
*CLOSING SUMMARY*

**Review for Final December 5**

\*Term papers due by the beginning of class on December 5th

*Final Exam: Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 in our regular classroom*