

RELI 212 - 003 Religions of the Orient

George Mason University

spring 2008

7:20-10:00 pm, Tuesday

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office hours by appointment

Description: "Surveys religions of India--Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, Buddhism--and the religions of the Far East, China, and Japan--including Daoism, Confucianism, Shinto--from origins to present." (3 credits)

Objective: From a standpoint of sympathetic fascination students will become broadly acquainted with eastern spiritualities as well as with these religions' influences on and responses to their contemporary societies.

Textbook: Michael D. Coogan, ed., *Eastern Religions: Origins, Beliefs, Practices, Holy Texts, Sacred Places* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005)

Requirements: 1-4. four term papers

Write more than three full but no more than four full doublespaced pages apiece (counting neither cover sheet nor mandatory endnotes and bibliography) with one-inch margins and twelve-point font. Put your name and paper title on a cover sheet. Submit a hard copy with numbered pages on **February 12** (for the first paper based on Hinduism), **March 4** (for the second paper based on Buddhism), **March 25** (for the third paper based on Daoism and/or Confucianism), and **April 15** (for the fourth paper based on Shinto) at the beginning of class. In each paper at least one source must be a print book, excluding our textbook; at least one source must be a print journal article; and at least one source must be an Internet

document which does not exist as a print book or article. Develop a thesis as your basis for each paper.

5. final test

Take a closed-book essay exam when it is scheduled, answering three out of five questions. Class attendance and participation will be your study guide. **Bring a blue book!**

Grading: Every requirement counts for one-fifth of your course grade. Any late paper receives one gradeletter deduction. I look for basically three things: analysis (i.e., critical thinking), content (i.e., accurate data), and style (i.e., grammar, etc.).

CALENDAR

1/22	preview	3/18	Taoism, pp. 212-59
1/29	Hinduism, pp. 8-39	3/25	Taoism, pp. 260-313
2/5	Hinduism, pp. 40-79	4/1	Confucianism, pp. 314-61
2/12	Hinduism, pp. 80-109	4/8	Confucianism, pp. 362-415
2/19	Buddhism, pp. 110-41	4/15	Shinto, pp. 416-67
2/26	Buddhism, pp. 142-81	4/22	Shinto, pp. 468-517
3/4	Buddhism, pp. 182-211	4/29	review

**5/13, 7:30-10:15 pm, test**