

Religions of the Orient

Reli 212

Spring, 2008

Dr. Young-chan Ro

Robinson B 449

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00-12:00 and by appointment

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This course is a survey of Asian religious traditions including Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, among others. The course is designed to study the worldviews, the belief systems and the values of these religions from a global perspective to enhance our understanding of Asian cultures, values, and ways of thinking. The main approach in this course will be comparative and cross-cultural in understanding the Asian traditions in relation to the Western cultural and religious traditions.

Text

Willard G. Oxtoby, *World Religions: Eastern Tradition*

Requirements

1. Class participation. It is important to attend lectures and participate in discussions. The exam questions are designed to reflect the class room lectures and discussions.
2. Mid-term (30%) and Final (40%) examinations
3. A short reflection paper (30%)

*In order to receive the grade "In" (Incomplete), students must file a written request for the permission.

Week 1. Introduction to Asian religions

Week 2 The Hindu Tradition: Harappa culture, the Vedas, and the Upanishads 1-32

Week 3-4 Classical Hinduism, Hindu philosophical schools 32-81

Week 5 The Jain Tradition 161-197

Week 6. The Shik Tradition 127-159

Week 7. Mid-term and The Buddha and his teachings 199-226

Week 8. Theravada and Mahayana 227-261

- Week 9. Mahayana in East Asia 261-315
- Week 10 Chinese Worldview
- Week 11. Chinese religions and Confucianism 318-351
- Week 12. Confucianism 352-382
- Week.13. Taoism 382-398
- Week 14. Discussion on Taoism 382-398
- Week 15. Religions in Japan 341-352; 412-425

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Resources at 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.