INTRODUCTION TO ASIAN RELIGIONS

RELI 1303, May Term 2019
Daily 9:00-1:00; Location: TBA

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Office Hours: Daily 1-2PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is an introductory overview of the major religious traditions of Asia. The course focuses on the religious and cultural trends expressed in South Asia (Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism) and East Asia (Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism). Students will explore these traditions from the contexts of their origins through the historical developments and spread throughout Asia and the West.

INSTRUCTOR
Dr. Lindquist is an Associate Professor in Religious Studies and Director of Asian Studies at SMU. He teaches the expanse of Asian religions, specializes in Sanskrit religious literature and Hinduism, and has lived in India over 6 years.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
This course satisfies:
— "Breadth: Philosophical and Religious Inquiry and Ethics" (PRIE)
— "Breadth: Historical Contexts" (HC)
— "Proficiencies and Experiences: Human Diversity" (HD)
— "Proficiencies and Experiences: Global Engagement" (GE)

Through tests, papers, and discussions, students who successfully complete this course will be able:
— to describe and explain some of the general features and principal theoretical methods of one of the fields of philosophy, religious studies, or ethics (PRIE).
— to summarize the major continuities and changes that took place over time in a defined historical period(s) (HC).
— to identify key events, actors, and evidence involved in a defined historical period(s) (HC).
— to demonstrate an understanding of the historical, cultural, social, or political conditions of identity formation and function in human society, including the ways in which these conditions influence individual or group status, treatment, or accomplishments (HD)
— Students will gain an enhanced awareness of personal values and attitudes pertaining to global identity and commitment through engagement with other societies and cultures (GE).

TEXTS (required; available at bookstore)
— Amore, Hussain, and Oxtoby. World Religions: Eastern Traditions, Oxford, 2018/2019 (WR on reading schedule)

E-texts
There are occasional readings from outside the textbook. These will be distributed via Canvas (= C on reading schedule) or you will be pointed to where to acquire them (such as a website or the university online resources). It is your responsibility to be familiar with Canvas.

Multimedia
As the visual is central to Asian religious experience, this class utilizes PowerPoint presentations and, occasionally, video material. All of this material constitutes required material for exams.
ASSIGNMENTS

**Quizzes:** Daily quizzes are conducted at the very start of each class. Quizzes consist of multiple choice and T/F questions. Should you arrive late or leave class after a quiz is administered, you forfeit taking the quiz.

**Papers:** Three field-trip response papers (2-3 pages each). Papers are due in class two days after a visit. Criteria will be passed out and discussed in class. If you miss a class fieldtrip, you must attend an appropriate venue on your own. Please note that fieldtrip date and times are tentative and depend on the availability of the venue. It is possible an evening visit will be required. Visit schedule will be set in class.

**Exam:** Two exams are scheduled during the course. Both exams consist of short answers and a longer essay. The second exam is not cumulative, but covers the material from the midpoint until the end of the course.

**Participation:** Attendance and participation in the class activities and discussion is required.

**POLICIES**

**Grades (including +/- where appropriate)**
A range = 90-100; B range = 80-89; C range = 70-79; D range = 60-69; below 60 = F

Grades: Your grade will be based on quizzes (20%), field-trip response papers (10% each = 30%), midterm (20%), final exam (20%), and attendance and participation (10%).

**Late Penalties**
There will be no make-up exams or quizzes for this course. If you miss an exam or quiz, you will receive a "0" for that item, except in the case of documented medical emergency. Late assignments are docked ONE-FULL GRADE FOR EACH 24 HR PERIOD LATE.

**Attendance**
Attendance is taken twice during the day, at the beginning of the first 2 hr. session and at the beginning of the second 2hr. session. Missing a session without a documented medical excuse = automatic 2% deduction in participation grade (full day = 4%).

**Honor Code:**
Any academic dishonesty, such as plagiarism, cheating, or misrepresenting yourself carries a severe penalty. It is up to you to know the rules and to seek clarification if you are unsure about anything. Ignorance is no excuse! See: www.smu.edu/studentlife/PCL_05_HC.asp

**Disability Accommodations**
Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first be registered with Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS) to verify the disability and to establish eligibility for accommodations. Students may call 214-768-1470 or visit www.smu.edu/alec/dass. Once registered, students should then schedule an appointment with the professor to make appropriate arrangements.

**ELECTRONIC DEVICES**
No electronic devices of any kind (computer, cellphone, etc.) are permitted to be used during the class period, unless there are special accommodations established with DASS.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Required Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day One</td>
<td>• 9AM-11AM Introduction to Asia and the Study of Religion</td>
<td>(1) Locate Asian countries on a map: India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Thailand, Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia, Japan, China, the Koreas. Map tool at <a href="http://tinyurl.com/3lry8p">http://tinyurl.com/3lry8p</a></td>
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<td>May 16th</td>
<td>• 11AM-1PM: Framing</td>
<td>(2) WR 4-27</td>
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<td>Day Two</td>
<td>• 9AM-11AM Early Hinduism</td>
<td>(1) See video clip and discussion on &quot;Rosetta Stone for the Indus Script?&quot; at <a href="http://tinyurl.com/k3k7u3n">http://tinyurl.com/k3k7u3n</a></td>
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<td>May 17th</td>
<td>• 11AM-1PM Modern Hinduism</td>
<td>(2) WR pp. 30-87</td>
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<td>Day Three</td>
<td>• 9AM-11AM Diaspora and Global Hinduism</td>
<td>(1) WR pp. 87-107</td>
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<td>May 20th</td>
<td>• 11AM-1PM Early Buddhism</td>
<td>(2) Take the virtual tour of Radha Madhav Dham (Austin, TX) at <a href="http://radhamadhavdham.org/">http://radhamadhavdham.org/</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>• 11AM-1PM Early Buddhism</td>
<td>(3) &quot;American Hinduism&quot; and accompanying video from Harvard University's <a href="http://tinyurl.com/glza9sh">Pluralism Project</a></td>
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<td>Day Four</td>
<td>• Meet at Radha Kalachandji Temple (time TBD)</td>
<td>(4) WR, pp. 200-232</td>
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<td>May 21st</td>
<td>• 11PM-1PM East Asian Buddhism</td>
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<td>Day Five</td>
<td>• Meet at Buddhist Center of Dallas (time TBD)</td>
<td>(1) 12-1PM: WR pp. 232-262</td>
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<td>May 22nd</td>
<td>• 11PM-1PM Diaspora and Global Buddhism</td>
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<td>Day Six</td>
<td>• 9AM-11AM: Review, Catch-up</td>
<td>(1) 12-1PM: WR pp. 262-279</td>
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<td>May 23rd</td>
<td>• 11AM-1PM: Exam</td>
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<td>Day Seven</td>
<td>• 9AM-11AM Early Jainism</td>
<td>(1) WR pp. 160-197</td>
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<td>May 24th</td>
<td>• 11AM-1PM Modern Jainism</td>
<td>(2) Bahubali comic book (C)</td>
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<td>Day</td>
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<td>Activities</td>
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<td>Eight</td>
<td>May 28th</td>
<td>9AM-11AM Early Sikhism</td>
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<td>11AM-1PM Modern and Global Sikhism</td>
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<td>Nine</td>
<td>May 29th</td>
<td>9AM-11AM Chinese Traditions</td>
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<td>Meet at Dallas Museum of Art (time TBD)</td>
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<td>Ten</td>
<td>May 30th</td>
<td>9AM-11AM</td>
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<td>11AM-1PM Global Buddhism, Daoism, and Confucianism</td>
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<td>Eleven</td>
<td>May 31st</td>
<td>9AM-11AM Review; Catch-up</td>
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<td>11AM-1PM Exam</td>
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Grade Definitions!1

Individual criteria are applied differently if the essay is an in-class essay or a take-home essay. Broadly speaking, I am less concerned with grammar/spelling or overall structure with an essay taken in class (where time is limited) and more concerned with completeness and detail. For a take-home essay or paper, however, grammar and spelling are very important, but I am most concerned with analytical skill, the ability to construct an argument, and ingenuity in writing (both in style and in the creativity of the argument).

A = Outstanding. Such a grade indicates that not only did the student completely address the question, but did so with rigor and clarity of thought. For a take-home essay or paper, this means that there were little to no errors in grammar/spelling and that structurally and stylistically the essay flowed really well. The introduction and conclusion were clear as was the development of the body of the paper. Such a paper is "tight" (i.e., well-structured, builds on itself, and does not introduce tangential or irrelevant material). In general, A's indicate that there is little I would have wanted changed for the assignment, but I may give comments for the student to further think about.

B = Very good. Such a grade indicates that the student clearly thought about the assignment and was able to execute the assignment with diligence and forethought. In general, though, a B indicates that, while the student did very good work, there were some areas in need of improvement. Depending on the nature of the assignment, this might be that there were structural or grammatical problems that made it difficult for me to understand in places. The student may not have proofread closely enough (for a take-home) or it may contain factual errors or generalities. Intro and conclusion are good, but could be improved.

C = Good. This is similar to the 'B' description, but the number of problems are more extensive (i.e., significant grammatical or structural problems, adding irrelevant material or new material inappropriately, too many generalities, etc.). For a take-home assignment or paper, there is little or no flare to the writing and there are some problems with the logic of the argument. This indicates the student needs to meet with me as well as with people at the Writing Center: http://smu.edu/alec/wc.asp

D = Minimally adequate. It is clear that the student did not fully understand the material or the assignment. Further, grammatical/structural problems make a D essay quite difficult to follow. There are usually far too many generalities and a lack of a clear argument. A grade of a 'D' should serve as a warning to the student that he/she definitely needs significant help outside of the class.

F = Unsatisfactory and unworthy of credit. This either indicates that the assignment was not done or what was done was simply unacceptable for any number of reasons.

Pluses (+) and minuses (-) are given to show relatively how close to the above criteria your assignment is (A- means just short of an A, while a B+ means an outstanding B, etc.).

1 Note: if you wish to discuss your grade(s) you must do so in my office hours or by appt. I do not discuss grades after class or via email because of privacy issues.
Abbreviations used in essay marking:

gram. = Grammatical error.

w.c. = Word choice. A particular word or phrase is improper in a particular context or has connotations that were probably not (or should not have been) intended.

sp. = Spelling error. Sometimes the word will simply be circled.

awk. = Awkward. Something is wrong in the phrasing. It may be a grammatical or word-choice problem or both. Sometimes replaced with a '?' if I simply can't understand what is being said.

irrel. = Irrelevant. Introducing non-necessary or distracting material (sometimes indicated by "off topic").

l.c. = Lower case (i.e., remove capitalization).

u.c. = Upper case (i.e., capitalize word).

idio = Idiomatic. Characteristic of spoken language, but inappropriate in a formal essay (such as contractions, slang, etc.).

inapp. = Inappropriate. This may include introducing stereotypes, unnecessary or inappropriate value judgments, etc.

ital. = Italicize the word.

¶ = Need to break a paragraph into two or more paragraphs.

run-on = Run-on sentence. A sentence is too long and should be broken down into two or more sentences.

too gen. = Too general. Indicates a statement is lacking in necessary detail or, worse, is simply a stereotype.

exp. or explain = Enter into more detail on a particular topic.

! = Indicates shock (or horror) at a serious typographical mistake (i.e. "In Vedic India, fertility rites were very, very impotent" -- important!). This means you MUST work on your proofreading.

Other marks: other marks are self-explanatory (i.e., crossing something out means to delete it). Other comments will be written out in full, but if you have difficulty in understanding any of them, please come and talk to me.

At the end of every essay, you will find a couple sentences evaluating the essay as a whole. Should you wish for further comments, please come and see me.