

Semester at Sea, Course Syllabus  
Colorado State University, Academic Partner

**Voyage:** Spring 2017  
**Discipline:** Philosophy  
**Course Number and Title:** PHIL 172 Religions of the East  
**Division:** Lower  
**Faculty Name:** David Haberman  
**Semester Credit Hours:** 3

**Prerequisites:** None

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is an introductory survey of the major religious traditions of Asia—including Hinduism, Buddhism (both South and East Asian), Jainism, Sikhism, Confucianism, Daoism, and Shinto. We will explore within a historical frame the sacred stories, beliefs, notions of human perfection, and practices of the great variety that is these traditions. A central focus of the course will be the question: “Is the religious life a celebration of something natural or does it necessarily involve radical transformation via unnatural discipline?” Concomitant issues to be explored include differing views of the world, conceptions of human nature, and proposals for appropriate religious action.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

1. Acquire knowledge of the basic tenets of the major religious traditions of India, China, Southeast Asia, and Japan through a reading of primary sources in translation and various secondary sources.
2. Analyze various texts, including foundational scriptures and ritual practices from each religion, while learning about and applying some of the tools employed in religious studies to understand the nature and development of Asian religious traditions.
3. Come to recognize the complex and multivalent characteristic of so-called singular traditions such as Buddhism or Hinduism.
4. Explore the existential implications of various life proposals and conceptions of reality found within Asian religious traditions.
5. Develop an appreciation of the wide range of the religious dimensions of Asian religious cultures and develop a deep understanding of human difference.
6. Cultivate a desire for further study of Asian religions.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

**AUTHOR:** Brodd, et. al.  
**TITLE:** *Invitation to Asian Religions*  
**PUBLISHER:** Oxford University Press

ISBN #: 978-0-19-021126-4  
DATE/EDITION: 2016/1<sup>st</sup> edition

## TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

Depart Ensenada – January 5

**B1 – January 8:** Introduction: Studying Asian Religions  
IAR: pp. 3-29 (What is religion? One-page assignment due next class.)

**B2 – January 10:** Beginnings: Life of the Buddha  
IAR: pp. 85-114; “The Life of the Buddha as a Way of Salvation”

Honolulu – January 12

**B3 – January 13:** Buddhist Teachings: The Four Noble Truths  
“Questions which Tend Not to Edification” and “There is No Ego”

**B4 – January 15:** Buddhist Society and Monastic Discipline  
IAR: pp. 114-129

**B5 – January 18:** Skillful Means and Mahayana Buddhism Selections from *Lotus Sutra*

No class January 19

**B6 – January 21:** Shinto: Way of the Kami  
IAR: pp. 239-263

**B7 – January 23:** Japanese Buddhism  
Honen, “One-Page Testament”; Shinran, “Selection from Tannisho”;  
Nichiren, “On Attaining Buddhahood in this Lifetime”; and Dogen,  
“Exertion & Sitting”.

Kobe – January 24 - 28

**B8 – January 30:** Chinese Religions Today  
FILM: “China’s Leap of Faith: The Gods Come Home”;  
IAR: pp. 211-235

Shanghai – January 31 – February 5

**B9 – February 7:** Exam #1

**B10 – February 9:** The Compassionate Bodhisattva Kwan Yin  
Lotus Sutra and Kwan Yin

Ho Chi Minh City – February 10-14 (February 14: Field Class - Buddhist Temples of Vietnam)

**B11 – February 16: Foundations of Hindu Thought**  
IAR: pp. 31-67; Purusha Sukta and Selections from *Upanishads*

No Class – February 17

**B12 – February 19: The Synthesis of Karma Yoga**  
CR: *Bhagavad Gita-I*

Yangon – February 20-24

**B13 – February 26: Theistic Hinduism: Drawing Form out of the Formless**  
*Bhagavad Gita-II*, IAR: pp. 68-82

**B14 – February 28: Temple Hinduism: Worshipful Interaction with Embodied Forms of Divinity**  
Diana Eck, “Seeing the Sacred”

Cochin – March 1-6

**B15 – March 8: Religion of Love: Bhakti Poetry**  
Selections from Devotional Poets

**B16 – March 11: Embodied Encounters in Hindu Pilgrimage**  
(focus on Ganga Lake pilgrimage site in Mauritius)

Mauritius – March 12

**B17 – March 14: Exam #2**

No Class – March 15

**B18 – March 17: Confucius and the Analects**  
IAR: pp. 187-203; Selections from the *Analects*

Cape Town – March 19-24

**B19 – March 25: On Human Nature: Mencius and Xun-zi**  
Selections from *Book of Mencius* & Hsun Tzu, “Man’s Nature is Evil”

**B20 – March 27: Lao-zi and the *Dao De Jing***  
IAR: pp. 204-211; Selections from Lao Tzu’s *Tao Te Ching*

No Class – March 29

**B21 – March 30: The Usefulness of Uselessness: Zhuang-zi**  
Selections from *Chuang Tzu*

Tema – March 31-April 3

**B22 – April 5:** Jainism: Naked Monks and Religious Death  
IAR: pp. 131-157

**B23 – April 7:** Sikhism: In the Presence of the Guru  
IAR: pp. 159-185

**B24 – April 9:** Review of Asian Religions and Comparisons with Islam

Study Day – April 10

Casablanca – April 11-April 14

**B25 Finals – April 16: Exam #3**

Arrive Hamburg – April 19

## **FIELD WORK**

Semester at Sea field experiences allow for an unparalleled opportunity to compare, contrast, and synthesize the different cultures and countries encountered over the course of the voyage. In addition to the one field class, students will complete independent field assignments that span multiple countries.

**Field Class attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field class.** Field Classes constitute at least 20% of the contact hours for each course.

### **Field Class and Assignment**

*The Field Class for this course will take place on Tuesday, 14 February in Ho Chi Minh City.*

Field Class Title:

This field class will involve a visit to several Buddhist temples within Ho Chi Minh City to observe a variety of Buddhist practices and talk with officiates and practitioners in the temples. This will include the Quan Am Pagoda that is dedicated to the bodhisattva of compassion Quan Am (Chinese Guan Yin). The religion of this pagoda is a mixture of Pure Land Buddhism focused on Amida Buddha and a variety of Chinese religions.

Field Class Objectives:

1. Encounter the living tradition of Vietnamese Buddhism
2. Experience the inside of Buddhist temples
3. Observe and learn about Buddhist practices

Field Class Assignment: Students are required to submit a 2-3 page field journal entry about this trip, demonstrating their knowledge of the important religious practices that take place in the Buddhist temples of Ho Chi Minh City.

### **Independent Field Assignments**

During our voyage, we have the opportunity to see Asian religions in action. Often the way that living people in actual places practice their religion is quite different from the way religious traditions are described in textbooks, which are usually written by Westerners and speak in universals rather than specifics. Students are required to visit three or more religious sites associated with Asian religions and keep a field journal of what you see. You will need to finish your fieldwork before we leave Port Louis in Mauritius (field journals due March 17<sup>th</sup>). Each journal entry should be 2-3 pages in length. State where you went, the date of your visit, what port it was, and what religious tradition with which the site is associated. You should make field notes either during or immediately after your visit. When you adapt your notes to a journal entry, try to describe everything that you saw and did. What did you learn? What did you observe? What were people doing? How were they dressed? Were there women? Children? Did you talk to anyone? You are also encouraged to be reflective of your experience. How did it make you feel? Were you excited? Nervous? Shocked? Finally, how did your experience of this tradition compare to the description in your textbook? What was similar and what was different? At the end of the course, journal entries will be evaluated based on 1) apparent effort in conducting and recording field work, 2) effective writing, 3) your ability to apply appropriate terms and concepts from readings and lectures to your own observations of religious practices and places of worship or reverence.

Before visiting religious sites on your own, it is highly recommended that you consult *How to Be A Perfect Stranger* by Stuart Matlins and Arthur Magida, which is on reserve in the ship's library. Many religious sites will expect you to remove your shoes before entering. As a rule of thumb, do not wear shorts or any clothing that might be considered "sexy" or provocative when visiting a sacred site.

One of the three sites must be the required Field Class in Ho Chi Minh City. For the other two, consult the list of suggested sites in each port.

### **METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING SCALE**

Class attendance and participation	20%
Exam #1, February 7:	20%
Field Assignment Journal, February 16/March 17:	20%
Exam #2, March 14:	20%
Final Exam, April 16:	20%

The following Grading Scale is utilized for student evaluation. Pass/Fail is not an option for Semester at Sea coursework. Note that C-, D+ and D- grades are also not assigned on Semester at Sea in accordance with the grading system at Colorado State University (the SAS partner institution).

Pluses and minuses are awarded as follows on a 100% scale:

<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Satisfactory/Poor</u>	<u>Failing</u>
97-100%: A+	87-89%: B+	77-79%: C+	Less than 60%: F
94-96%: A	84-86%: B	70-76%: C	
90-93%: A-	80-83%: B-	60-69%: D	

### **CLASS EXPECTATIONS**

I will take attendance every day. Attendance and class participation will be factors in the overall evaluation of your work. Students should attend class everyday having done the reading and prepared for a meaningful discussion of the material. Students are also expected to maintain a respectful learning environment. This includes avoiding use of distracting electronic devices.

### **ATTENDANCE/ENGAGEMENT IN THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM**

Attendance in all Semester at Sea classes is mandatory, but it is at the instructor's discretion to assign a grade to the participation and attendance requirement. Remember to include information concerning the evaluation of Field Assignments and the Field Classes, which must constitute at least 20% of the total grade in a course.

Students must inform their instructors prior to any unanticipated absence and take the initiative to make up missed work in a timely fashion. Instructors must make reasonable efforts to enable students to make up work which must be accomplished under the instructor's supervision (e.g., examinations, laboratories). In the event of a conflict in regard to this policy, individuals may appeal using established CSU procedures.

### **LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS**

Semester at Sea provides academic accommodations for students with diagnosed learning disabilities, in accordance with ADA guidelines. Students who will need accommodations in a class, should contact ISE to discuss their individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation. A memo from the student's home institution verifying the accommodations received on their home campus is required before any accommodation is provided on the ship. Students must submit this verification of accommodations pre-voyage as soon as possible, but no later than November 19, 2016 to [academic@isevoyages.org](mailto:academic@isevoyages.org).

### **STUDENT CONDUCT CODE**

The foundation of a university is truth and knowledge, each of which relies in a fundamental manner upon academic integrity and is diminished significantly by academic misconduct. Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and taking credit for one's own work. A pervasive attitude promoting academic integrity enhances the sense of community and adds value to the educational process. All within the University are affected by the cooperative commitment to academic integrity. All Semester at Sea courses adhere to this Academic Integrity Policy and Student Conduct Code.

Depending on the nature of the assignment or exam, the faculty member may require a written declaration of the following honor pledge: "I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance on this exam/assignment."

### **RESERVE BOOKS AND FILMS FOR THE LIBRARY**

**AUTHOR:**

**TITLE:** China's Leap of Faith: The Gods Come Home (part one)

**PUBLISHER:** Films Media Group

**ISBN #:** 978-1-60467-941-0

**DATE/EDITION:** 2008

### **ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS**

**AUTHOR:** William Theodore de Bary

**ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE:** The Life of Buddha as a Way of Salvation

**JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE:** The Buddhist Tradition

**VOLUME:**

**DATE:** 1969

**PAGES:** 55-72

**AUTHOR:** Henry C. Warren, tr.

**ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE:** Questions which Tend Not to Edification

**JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE:** Buddhism in Translations

**VOLUME:**

**DATE:** 1968

**PAGES:** 117-128

**AUTHOR:** Henry C. Warren, tr.

**ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE:** There is No Ego

**JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE:** Buddhism in Translations

**VOLUME:**

**DATE:** 1968

**PAGES:** 128-137

**AUTHOR:** Bunno Kato, et. al.

**ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE:** Tactfulness

**JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE:** The Threefold Lotus Sutra

**VOLUME:**

**DATE:** 1975

**PAGES:** 51-73, also pp. 85-91, 110-115, 162-163, and 177-178

**AUTHOR:** William Theodore de Bary, et. al.

**ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE:** The One-Page Testament

**JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE:** Sources of Japanese Tradition

**VOLUME:**

**DATE:** 1964

PAGE: 202-203 (this short text easily fits on a single page – possible to post it that way?)

AUTHOR: William Theodore de Bary, et. al.  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Selections from the Tannisho  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Sources of Japanese Tradition  
VOLUME:  
DATE: 1964  
PAGE: 210-212

AUTHOR: Nichiren  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: On Attaining Buddhahood in This Lifetime  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Soka Gakkai Nichiren Buddhism Library  
VOLUME: available at: <http://www.nichirenlibrary.org/en/wnd-1/Content/1>  
DATE:  
PAGES: 3-5

AUTHOR: William Theodore de Bary, et. al.  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Sacrifice . . .  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Sources of Japanese Tradition  
VOLUME:  
DATE: 1964  
PAGE: 242-248

AUTHOR: Wendy Doniger O'Flaherty, tr.  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: four Rig Vedic hymns  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: The Rig Veda  
VOLUME:  
DATE: 1981  
PAGES: 25-33

AUTHOR: Robert E. Hume, tr.  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Katha Upanishad  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: The Thirteen Principal Upanishads  
VOLUME:  
DATE: 1971/77  
PAGES: 341-361

AUTHOR: Zaehner, tr.  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: The Bhagavad Gita  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Hindu Scriptures  
VOLUME:  
DATE: 1966  
PAGES: 249-273; 294-301

AUTHOR: Diana L. Eck  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Seeing the Sacred (Chapter One)  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Darśan: Seeing the Divine Image in India



VOLUME:  
DATE: many editions, any will do  
PAGES: 3-31

AUTHOR: Edward C. Dimock, tr.  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: (various poems)  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: In Praise of Krishna, Songs from the Bengali  
VOLUME:  
DATE: 1967  
PAGES: 15-18, 28-31

AUTHOR: D. C. Lau, tr.  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: selections from the Analects of Confucius  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Confucius: The Analects  
VOLUME:  
DATE: 1979  
PAGES: 63-66, 86-91, 118-119

AUTHOR: D. C. Lau, tr.  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: selections from the Book of Mencius  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Mencius  
VOLUME:  
DATE: 1970  
PAGES: 113-115, 160-169, 82-83

AUTHOR: B. Watson, tr.  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Man's Nature is Evil  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Hsun-tzu: Basic Writings  
VOLUME:  
DATE: 1963  
PAGES: 157-171

AUTHOR: D. C. Lau, tr.  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: selections from Lao Tzu's Tao Te Ching  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Tao Te Ching  
VOLUME:  
DATE: 1963  
PAGES: 57-59, 84-87, 91, 100-101, 108-109, 138-141

AUTHOR: B. Watson, tr.  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: selections from Chuang-tzu  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Chuang-tzu: Basic Writings  
VOLUME:  
DATE: 1964  
PAGES: 23-30, 96-115, 59-63

