

SEMESTER AT SEA

Colorado State University, Academic Sponsor

Voyage: Spring 2018
Discipline: Philosophy
Course Number and Title: PHIL 172 Religions of the East (Section 1)
Division: Lower
Faculty Name: David G. Hackett
Semester Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course embraces the major Asian religious traditions we will encounter on our journey. These religions provide values and ideals that are foundational to many of the countries we will explore. We begin by heading East to Japan and the religions of Shinto and Zen Buddhism. Onward to China and Hong Kong and the religions of Confucianism and Taoism. Southeast Asia then unfolds with the Mahayana Buddhism of Vietnam, Myanmar's Theravada Buddhism and then to the heart of Hinduism in India. As our journey tacks westward to Africa we will explore the globalization of these religions and contrast and compare them with the traditions of Mauritius, South Africa, Ghana, and Morocco. On ship we will discuss within an historical framework the sacred stories, beliefs and rituals of these religious ways of knowing. Disembarking we will explore sacred sites and practices, and try to discern the place of these traditions in their adherents lives. Though the places will seem distant, the time remote, and the themes beyond space and time, if we take these religions seriously we may come to see their followers as people much like us with whom we share our global village.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Acquire knowledge of the basic beliefs and practices of the Asian religious traditions we will encounter through readings, primary texts, and on site observations.
2. Compare and contrast the existential implications of the various moral codes, conceptions of reality, and ritual practices found within these religious traditions.
3. Come to recognize the complex and multivalent characteristics of so-called singular traditions such as Buddhism or Hinduism while developing a critical awareness of the diverse settings in which each tradition has developed.
4. Develop an awareness of the globalization of Asian religions in comparisons with African religions and Islam.
5. Employ active methods of comparison and contrast to achieve a deeper awareness of our own cultures and their historical and contemporary relationship with Asian cultures.
6. Develop keen powers of observation and employ writing skills to connect classroom understandings of religion with field experiences.
7. Create an interactive community of learners engaged in a common quest.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

AUTHOR: Brodd, et al.

TITLE: Invitation to World Religions

PUBLISHER: Oxford University Press

ISBN #: 9780199378364

DATE/EDITION: 2015/2nd edition

Use promo code **DAVIS2016** to receive **20% off** your Oxford University Press textbook order at www.oup.com/us.

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

Depart Ensenada, Mexico - January 5

B1 - January 8: **Introduction**
What is this course about?
What is religion?
What is your relationship with religion?

Writing Assignment: In 2-3 pages explain your relationship with religion over the course of your life and connect that with your hopes and expectations for this course. Due next class.

B2 - January 10: **Studying Religion in the Global Village**
Note: paper due
How do we study religion?
Religious Evolution
Encountering the Other
READING: IWR pp.3-27

Before the next class view *The Buddha – The Story of Siddhartha*

Honolulu, Hawaii - January 12

B3 - January 13: **The Life of the Buddha**
READING: IWR pp.143-148

B4 - January 15: **The Teachings of Buddhism**
READING: IWR pp. 148-155
DOCUMENT: "The Four Noble Truths and "The Eightfold Path" pp. 81-83.

B5 - January 18: **The History and Practice of Buddhism**
Buddhism Quiz
READING: IWR pp. 155-185

Before the next class view *The Zen Mind*

No class January 19

B6 - January 21: **I Shinto: Way of the Kami**
READING: IWR pp.297-319
Shinto Quiz

B7- January 23 **Japanese Buddhism**
DOCUMENTS:

- “The Blessings of the Pure Land” in Van Voorst ed. World Scriptures,87-88.
- “Zen and Koans” in Fisher and Bailey eds.An Anthology of Living Religions, 124-126

Kobe, Japan – January 24 – 28
Field Class – Nara

Before arrival in China view *China's Leap of Faith: The Gods Come Home (part one)*

B8 - January 30: **Chinese Religions Today**
Note: Nara Field Class Reports Due
READING: IWR pp. 269-292

Shanghai , China - January 31- February 1
Hong Kong – February 4-5

B9 – February 7: **Confucianism**
Note: China Field Reports Due
READING: IWR pp. 245-262
DOCUMENT: Confucianism selections in Van Voorst ed. World Scriptures, 148-156

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam - February 8-13

B-10 - February 15: **Taoism**
Note: Vietnam Field Reports Due
Chinese Religions Quiz
READING: IWR pp. 262-269
DOCUMENT: Taoism selections from Stephen Mitchell ed.,tao te ching 13,19,24,46,56,72,74,78,80

No class February 16

B11 - February 18: **Essay Exam #1 on Buddhism, Shinto and Chinese Religions**

Yangon, Myanmar - February 19-23

B12 – February 25:

Hinduism: Teachings

Note: Myanmar Field Reports Due

READING: IWR pp. 89-114

B13 – February 27

Hinduism: History and Practice

Hinduism Quiz

READINGS:

- IWR pp. 114-138
- Diana Eck, “Seeing the Sacred” in her Darsan: Seeing the Divine Image in India pp. 3-31.

Cochin, India – February 28-March 5

No Class –March 7

B14 – March 8

Diaspora Hinduism

Note: India Field Reports Due

READING: Younger, “Introduction” pp. 3-17 in his New Homelands

B-15 – March 10

Hinduism in Mauritius

READING: Younger, “Mauritius: A Parallel Society” in his New Homelands, 19-54.

Port Louis, Mauritius – March 11

B-16 – March 13

Mauritius Discussion

Note: Mauritius Field Reports Due

B-17 – March 15

Essay Exam #2 – Hinduism and Asian Religions

B-18 - March 17

The Globalization of Religion

READING: Vásquez, Manuel A. and Marie F. Marquardt. 2003. “Theorizing Globalization and Religion.” In *Globalizing the Sacred: Religion Across the Americas*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, pp. 34-64.

Cape Town, South Africa – March 18-23

B-19 March 25

The Teachings of African Indigenous Religions

Discuss South Africa visit

READING: IWR pp. 59-75

Before next class view *Witchcraft Among the Azande*

B-20 March 27

The Practice of African Indigenous Religions

African Indigenous Religions Quiz

READING: IWR pp. 75-85

Before next class view *Africa's Great Civilizations Part 3, first hour* (PBS, 2017)

B-21 March 29

Religion and Identity in Ghana

Before next class view *Inside Islam*

Takoradi, Ghana March 30-April 1

Tema, Ghana April 2-3

B-22 April 5

The Teachings of Islam

Discuss Ghana visit

READING: IWR pp. 469-488

B-23 April 7

The Practice of Islam

Islam Quiz

READING: IWR pp. 488-522

Final Paper Assigned

Provide a narrative of your own journey toward new religious understanding through the course of this semester's voyage. If you have kept a journal return to it to refresh your memory and track your progress. Discuss the major movements of this course, especially since leaving Asia, in the context of your changing understandings. Identify through specific insights how you have grown through the readings and experiences of this course. Six pages

Study Day/No class April 8

B-24 April 10

Course Review

Final Paper Due

Casablanca, Morocco – April 11-April 14

B-25 - April 16:

Course Wrap-Up

Discuss Morocco visit

Last Thoughts

Disembark Bremerhaven, Germany – 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.

While our Field Class will be restricted to one port, you must also choose to do two other field reports from among the other Asian ports we will be exploring. The reports are due the first class following our port visit.

Field Class and Assignment

The Field Class for this course will take place on *Thursday, 25 January, in Kobe, Japan.*

Field Class Title: *Shinto and Buddhism in Nara, Japan*

Field Class Description: Nara is the capital of Japan's Nara Prefecture, in south-central Honshu. The city has significant temples and artwork dating to the 8th century, when it was Japan's capital. Deer roam in Nara Park, site of Tōdai-ji temple. Daibutsu, Tōdai-ji's 15m-high bronze Buddha, is displayed in a large wooden hall. On the park's east side is the Shinto shrine Kasuga Taisha, which dates to 768 A.D. and has more than 3,000 lanterns. We will take guided tours of these major Shinto and Buddhist worship sites, where you will observe tourists and pilgrims. We hope to have conversations with practitioners as well as observation and—as appropriate—participation in ritual activities.

Field Class Learning Objectives:

1. Become more closely acquainted with the nature, details, and meanings of Shinto ritual.
2. Better understand how these reflect, sustain, and affect the elements of Shinto's more formal belief structure.
3. Study the relationship between architecture, worship and Shinto ideals
4. Gain insight into the relationship between Shinto values and how these shape and are shaped by Japanese society.
5. Understand the relationship between Shinto and Buddhism in Japanese society

Assignment:

You will reflect on your experiences and observations in light of course readings and class discussions, paying particular attention to the above learning objectives. You will present a summary of your reflections to the class on January 30th and submit an expanded version to me in the form of a written site report. 4-6 pages.

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. In addition to the Field Class, students are required to visit TWO religious sites associated with Asian religions chosen from the following countries: China, Vietnam, Myanmar, India and Mauritius. The beginning of each class following our port visits through Mauritius will consist of a discussion with those who did field work at that site. **Your independent field reports will be due at the first class following the port visit.** Each field report should be 2-3 pages in length.

- State where you went, the date of your visit, what port it was, and the religious tradition associated with the site. (You should make field notes either during or immediately after your visit).
 - When you adapt your notes to a report, try to describe everything that you saw and did. What did you observe? What were people doing? How were they dressed? Were there women? Children? Did you talk to anyone? What did you learn?
 - You are also encouraged reflect on your experience. How did it make you feel? Were you excited? Nervous? Reverent?
 - Finally, how did your experience of this tradition compare to the description in your textbook? What was similar and what was different?

Evaluation of Field Assignments

All field assignments will be evaluated based on 1) effort in conducting and recording field work, 2) effective writing, 3) ability to apply appropriate terms and concepts from readings and class 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.

Journal

You are strongly urged to keep a journal detailing and reflecting on your on-shore experiences at the various stops along the voyage. As an aid to memory and a record of your own "pilgrim's progress," this material will add precision and depth to the personal assessment required in the final course paper. Ideally, journal entries should comment on how first-hand impressions compare to the learning and expectations gleaned from the course reading done prior to arrival at that port/country. How did the on-shore experience confirm, deepen, or correct what was imparted in class? And how did it contribute to your ongoing reflections about your religious/spiritual/philosophical outlook?

EVALUATION AND DUE DATES

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| • Autobiographical reflection: 5% | B2-January 10 th |
| • Buddhism Quiz 5% | B6-January 21 st |
| • Shinto Quiz 5% | B7-January 23 rd |
| • The Nara Field Class Report: 10% | B8- January 30 th |
| • Two Independent Field Reports: 5% each | in-class after each port visit |
| • Chinese Religions Quiz 5% | B10-February 15 th |
| • Exam #1: 15% | B11-February 18 th |
| • Hinduism Quiz 5% | B13-February 27 th |

- Exam #2 : 15%
- African Indigenous Religions Quiz 5%
- Islam Quiz 5%
- Final Paper: 15%

B17 –March 15th
 B20-March 27th
 B23-April 7th
 B24–April 10th

GRADING SCALE

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 O- 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</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%: C-	60-69%: D	

ATTENDANCE/ENGAGEMENT IN THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Attendance in all Semester at Sea classes, including the Field Class, is mandatory. 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.

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

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 ISEto discuss their individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation.

A letter from your home institution verifying the accommodations received on your home campus (dated within the last three years) is required before any accommodation is provided on the ship. Students must submit this verification of accommodations to academic@isevoyages.org as soon as possible, but no later than two months prior to the voyage.

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 FILMS FOR THE LIBRARY

SAS FILMS

TITLE: The Buddha – The Story of Siddhartha
DISTRIBUTOR: PBS
DATE: 2010

TITLE: The Zen Mind
DISTRIBUTOR: Empty Mind Films
DATE: 2007

TITLE: China's Leap of Faith: The Gods Come Home (part one)
DISTRIBUTOR: Films Media Group
DATE: 2008

AVAILABLE ON YOU TUBE

TITLE: Witchcraft Among the Azande
DISTRIBUTOR: Granada Television International
Available on You Tube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rmug_qvO15s
DATE: 1982

TITLE: Inside Islam
DISTRIBUTOR: History Channel
Available on You Tube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tU8p2fBN8xY>
DATE: 2002

TO PURCHASE (\$30.00)

TITLE: Africa's Great Civilizations (all three parts)
DISTRIBUTOR: PBS
DATE: 2017

Also being used in REL 479 Topics in Comparative Religions

RESERVE BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY

AUTHOR: Huston Smith
TITLE: The World's Religions
PUBLISHER: HarperOne
DATE/EDITION: paperback 2009
ISBN #: 978-0061660184

AUTHOR: Stephen Mitchell
BOOK TITLE: tao tec ching
PUBLISHER: Harper Perennial Modern Classics
DATE: 2006
ISBN 978-0-06-114266-6

AUTHOR: Stuart M. Matlins and Arthur J. Magida
TITLE: How to be a Perfect Stranger
PUBLISHER: Sky Light Paths
EDITION: Fourth
DATE: 2006
ISBN: 1-59473-140-3

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

AUTHOR: Rober E. Van Voorst ed.
BOOK TITLE Anthology of World Scriptures
EDITION: Seventh
PUBLISHER: Wadsworth
DATE: 2011
PAGES: 81-83, 87-88, 148-156
ISBN-13: 978-0-495-80879-4

AUTHORS: Mary Pat Fisher and Lee W. Bailey
BOOK TITLE: An Anthology of Living Religions
EDITION: Second (but others will work, check page numbers)
PUBLISHER: Prentice-Hall
DATE: 2008
PAGES: 124-126
ISBN-13 978-0-13-206059-2

AUTHOR: Stephen Mitchell
BOOK TITLE: tao te ching
PUBLISHER: Harper Perennial Modern Classics
DATE: 2006
PAGES/SELECTIONS (no page numbers): 13,19,24,46,56,72,74,78,80
ISBN 978-0-06-114266-6

AUTHOR: Diana L. Eck
CHAPTER TITLE: Seeing the Sacred (Chapter One)
BOOK TITLE: Darsan:Seeing the Divine Image in India
EDITION: THIRD
PUBLISHER: Columbia
DATE: 1998
PAGES: 3-31
ISBN-0-231-11265-3

AUTHOR: Paul Younger
CHAPTERS: "Introduction" and "Mauritius: A Parallel Society"
BOOK TITLE: New Homelands: Hindu Communities in Mauritius, Guyana, Trinidad, South Africa, Fiji, and East Africa
PUBLISHER: Oxford
DATE: 2010
PAGES: 3-17, 19-54
ISBN 978-0-19-539164-0

AUTHORS: Manuel A. Vásquez and Marie F. Marquardt

CHAPTER TITLE: "Theorizing Globalization and Religion"

BOOK TITLE: Globalizing the Sacred

PUBLISHER: Rutgers

DATE: 2003

PAGES: 34-64

ISBN 0-8135-3285-X