RELI 215A (4849) RELIGIONS OF ASIA (3 credits)

Lec A -We-Fr--- 8:45-10:00 MB S2.330 SGW

Instructor: J.F. **Marc des Jardins, Ph.D., C.M.D.**

Office: 2050 Mackay R-202
Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:00 - 11:00 or by appointment
Phone: 848-2424 ext. 5732
Email:marc.desjardins@concordia.ca

This email address has to be used with due circumspection. To book appointments or for other matters, please use office hours. No queries regarding the topics addressed in missed class will be answered. Students are responsible for taking notes of the contents of class lectures. The best way to prevent any inconveniences in this regard is to find a buddy with whom to share lecture notes. Use email properly, abusive and improper language will be reported. For general inquiries regarding papers, exams, research topics and assignments, please first read this Syllabus or contact your Teaching Assistant.

Teaching Assistants

Students' surname starting with A to K

Ms Karima Parviz; tba
Office Hours: tba;
Email address: tba

Students' surname starting with L to Z

Ms Linh Mai Bui
Office: 2050 MacKay, Room R-07, Thursdays from 4-5 p.m.
Email: linh_maibui@yahoo.com

Course requirements

1. **Four quizzes (Jan 29, Mar 2, Mar 18, Apr 6). The three highest scores ONLY will count for the final grade. These are based on the readings, lecture notes or the particular text/article under study. (10% X 3) 30%**

   (Three quizzes out of Four must be attended. Only medical or other documented cases may be granted immunity provided the instructor has been warned 48 hours prior to the quiz or exam's date)

2. **Two Annotated bibliography of 10 sources each (excluding course textbooks and assigned sources) on two distinct focused research projects. Due February 19 and March 23. (2 X 20%) 40%**

3. **One Research Project Outline (RPO) derived from your annotated bibliographies focusing on a specific aspect of One Asian religious tradition. Due last day of class, April 8. 20%**

4. **Class participation (mandatory) 10 %**

Quizzes

Each Quiz will comprise two sections:

A. A short Definition of key vocabulary with explanations of defining characteristics.
B. A focused Essay question on the material at hand.

Annotated bibliographies

The two annotated bibliography will consist of the review of Ten (10) sources directly related to a research question on two Asian religious traditions (one bibliography per religion). Each bibliography will follow the guidelines below:

1. A provisional title which will resume the focus of this research
2. An abstract which will explain the central question with explanations guiding the bibliography
3. The bibliography proper, in alphabetical order organized along the surnames of authors, formatted properly along the APA, Chicago or MLA styles. See our library's resource for guidance at: http://library.concordia.ca/help/writing/annotated-bibliography.php
4. It is important in the annotation part to mention why this source is relevant to your topic and how it helps answer the central or other related questions
5. Formatting will be along 1.5 line, 12 points fonts (Roman Times is preferred), with page number on the lower right hand side, and the entire work stapled.
6. No digital copies send by email will be corrected. You need to submit hard copies of your work. However, if requested by the instructors, you will have to submit a digital copy. Again, only upon specific request do you submit a digital copy of your work. All hard copies must be submitted in class to the Teaching Assistant. If this cannot be done, you must drop your copy in the mailbox of the instructor at the Department of Religion, 2060 MacKay. No copies should be left under the door or on the door of the office of the instructor.
7. Late submission will suffer a 5% penalty per day.

All the above points are part of the grading and must be followed. In the event of a proper formatting and compliance to all the above points, an average submitted work will be graded with a B. The submitted work which will show higher skills in research, choice of topics and quality of sources will be graded above this benchmark.

Research Project Outline (RPO)

The goal of this exercise is to familiarize students with research process and the writing of its results. This RPO will consists in the following:

1. A provisional title describing the central focus of the research paper
2. An abstract which will review the central question which runs through the paper as well as related questions and topics with prospective conclusions
3. A section by section explanations with references to the sources of one of the annotated bibliography (with supplemental sources if desired).
4. Each section will have a subtitle, a short paragraph describing its would-be content with references (use in-text references such as those use by APA, MLA or Chicago). Do not use endnotes. Use footnotes only to add comments (with references) that might be useful to expand or connect the material to other studies in that particular paragraph.
5. The annotated bibliography can be used or expanded or changed but only the bibliographical references without annotations will be added at the end of the RPO.
6. Do not add webpage references for articles or books in the bibliography. It is not a part of standard bibliographies. Again, you can visit Webster's library website to find example of how to plan a research paper at: http://library.concordia.ca/help/writing/research-paper.php

All the above points are part of the grading and must be followed. In the event of a proper formatting and compliance to all the above points, an average submitted work will be graded with a B. The submitted work which will show higher skills in research, choice of topics and quality of sources will be graded above this benchmark.

Textbooks:
Oxtoby, Amore and Hussain (eds) *World Religions: Eastern Traditions*. Fourth Edition. Oxford University Press. 2014. ISBN: 978-0-19-900281-8

Recommended Readings

Jack Miles (General Editor), Wendy Doniger (Editor), Donald S. Lopez, Jr. (Editor, University of Michigan), James Robson (Editor), Et Al. *The Norton Anthology of World Religions VOLUME 1: HINDUISM, BUDDHISM, DAOISM*. ISBN 978-0-393-06253-3

This collection of translation of seminal texts from Asian religious traditions has not been ordered through Concordia Bookstore. For those, interested in reading material from the traditions we are studying, I personally strongly recommend. I will issue a list of recommended readings per week at the beginning of the term. Students are strongly urged to read widely on the traditions of their choice for knowledge which will be beneficial ultimately to this class and their general education.

Readings:

ALL READINGS HAVE TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE START OF CLASS FOR WHICH THEY ARE ASSIGNED. STUDENTS ARE INDIVIDUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS. COURSE LECTURES WILL CONSISTS OF ADDED

MATERIAL RELEVANT TO THE READINGS WHICH WIL BE INCLUDED IN THE QUIZZES.

Winter

1. **Week 1 (Jan 6, 8) Introduction to the course and to the subject matter**
   Jan 6 Introduction to the course material and Course Requirements

   Jan 8 Oxtoby: 1:4-24

2. **Week 2 (Jan 13, 15) Hindu traditions**
   Jan 13 Oxtoby: 2:26-53

   Jan 15 Oxtoby: 2:53-69

3. **Week 3 (Jan 20, 22) Hindu traditions**
   Jan 20 Oxtoby: 2:69-98

   Jan 22 Sanderon, Alexis, "Tolerance, Exclusivity, Inclusivity, and Persecution in Indian Religion During the Early Mediaeval Period." 2015:155-192 Find it on Moodle

4. **Week 4 (Jan 27, 29) Hindu Traditions and Quiz 1**
   Jan 27 Sanderon, Alexis, "Tolerance, Exclusivity, Inclusivity, and Persecution in Indian Religion During the Early Mediaeval Period." 2015:192-214 **and** review for upcoming Quiz 1

   Jan 29 <u>Quiz 1</u>

5. **Week 5 (Feb 3, 5) Sikh Traditions**
   Feb 3 Oxtoby: 3:104-131

   Feb 5 Oxtoby: 3:131-142

6. **Week 6 (Feb 10, 12) Sikh Traditions**
   Feb 10 TBA & review

   Feb 12 Oxtoby: 4:149-171

7. **Week 7 (Feb 17, 19) Jainism**
   Feb 17 Oxtoby: 4:171-180

   Feb 19 TBA & review. **<u>Annotated Bibliography 1 Due</u>!**

8. **Week 8 (Feb 22-26)** *Mid-term break begins*

No class

9. **Week 9 (Mar 2, 4) Quiz 2 and Buddhism**
   Mar 2 Quiz 2

   Mar 4 Oxtoby: 5:184-217

10. **Week 10 (Mar 9, 11) Buddhism**
    Mar 9 Oxtoby: 5: 217-239

    Mar 11 Oxtoby: 5: 239-258

11. **Week 11 (Mar 16, 18) Buddhism and Quiz 3**
    Mar 16 TBA and Review

    Mar 18 Quiz 3

12. **Week 12 (Mar 23, 25) Chinese and Korean traditions and Annotated Bibliography 2**
    Mar 23 Oxtoby: 6:262-306; **Annotated Bibliography 2 due!**

    Mar 25 Good Friday University Closed No Class

13. **Week 13 (Mar 30, Apr 1) East Asian Traditions**
    Mar 30 Oxtoby: 6:306-333

    Apr 1 Oxtoby: 7:340-374

14. **Week 14 (Apr 6, 8) Quiz 4, Current Issues and RPO**
    Apr 6 Quiz 4

    Apr 8 Last day of Class! Current Issues Oxtoby: 380-398
    Research Project outline Due in class!

Wednesday, April 12, Last day of classes - Regular Session 2015-16