

RELI 360 RELIGIONS OF CHINA (3 credits) 2016

LECTURE : MoWe 10:15 - 11:30

Location: FG B055 SGW

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

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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. Emails are not meant to recapitulate topics dealt in class.

Office Hours: Mondays 12:00 – 13:00 or by appointment

This course will examine the development of the Chinese religious traditions. It will follow the chronological development of the three main religious and philosophical traditions of Confucianism, Daoism and Buddhism together with the development of popular cults. This scheme will also alternate between historical developments and thematic studies.

Requirements:

1. **Four quizzes Sep 21 (10%), Oct 19 (10%), Nov. 9 (10%), Nov 30 (10%).**
Only the best three marks will be entered for the final grade. Students can miss one, however, there will not be any test outside assigned dates. Students are recommended to “bank” these in order to cover any unforeseen absence due to emergencies, sickness or any other reasons. **No exceptions.** 30%
2. **Essay outline and bibliography Nov 16 (4 pages maximum with 8 relevant sources) 20%**
3. **One research project focusing on a specific aspect of the Chinese traditions on the theme of your choice. The following two themes are examples:**

A) The practice of religion: ritual, social functions, belief and meaning.

B) Scripture: Exegesis, interpretation and orthodoxy. This section has to be based on a primary source in translation together with a traditional commentary. Please, do not rely on your own take on the meaning of the primary source! Always refer to traditional sources, ancillary literature and commentaries.

Due date: Dec 6 without fail 40%

By University regulation, final grades have to be entered in the system no later than 5 open days after the last class. Late assignments handed in during the day of the final submission of grades may not be corrected in time to be included in the final grade.

Responsibility to submit the essay on time will rest ultimately in the hands of the student.

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

Essay outline and bibliography

The Essay outline (no longer than 4 pages) will consist of:

1. a provisional descriptive title (can be change after submission for the final essay)
2. an abstract in one paragraph describing the main theme of the future final essay, its main arguments, content and conclusion(s).
3. A point by point or bullet form table of content describing enough the parts of the essay so that I can surmise your intention, the relevance of the discussion and where you are going in your discussion
4. A bibliography of at least 8 titles directly relevant to your topic. Avoid too broad sources unless one chapter or section is very relevant to your future essay. In such case, please, specify.

Aim at a future essay between 10-15 pages excluding the final bibliography

Essay:**READ THIS!**

All essay topics have to be reviewed and confirmed by the instructor.

Essays must have 1) a coherent thesis, 2) be supported by evidence, and 3) be constructed using objective and balanced arguments. The length should be approximately 10-15 pages excluding bibliography and endnotes. You must provide documentation for all references and quotations. Social Sciences format (APA) is highly recommended. Ideally, only peer-reviewed literature (journals and academic publications) should be used. You must include a bibliography of at least 8 items **EXCLUDING textbooks used in this class.** For many topics the **Encyclopaedia of Religion** is a good starting point. **ALL STUDENTS MUST PROVIDE A DIGITAL COPY OF THE SUBMITTED PAPER ON DEMAND! FAILURE TO COMPLY MAY RESULT IN DISMISSAL FROM THE COURSE AND FURTHER SANCTIONS. THE ESSAYS ARE DUE THE LAST DAY OF CLASS AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS.**

Do not use textbooks for this class as a reference.

Do not use class notes as reference.

Do not use WebPages (such as Wikipedia, etc...) as references. These can, however, help you to choose a research topic as well as give you a quick overview of keywords. Use with caution and rely on standard academic publications. Wikipedia and other internet non-scholarly references are fraught with errors.

Structure of the essay will follow this general outline:

- a. Introduce the essay with a question which will be the thread of your discussion.
- b. Highlight the issues and why it is important to research them.
- c. Conduct a good exposition of the problematic and its ramifications.
- d. Explain the topic and its relations with society, the environment, history, *et cetera*, according to the relevance to your topic. Focus on one or two of these and do not try to be too exhaustive in your argument.
- e. Bring forth your views and support them with evidence and corroborations.
- f. Examine other's points of view.
- g. Highlight their errors, or contributions.
- h. Conclude by answering your central question(s).
- i. Statements need to be supported with valid references.

Do not forget to put the title of the essay, your name and ID, the course number and title. Also, page numbers and alphabetically organised bibliography, and to spell check your essay.

All essays can be written either in French or English.

If you follow all these guidelines, you should get a B for a reasonable paper. If your arguments and general exposition are done with tact, resourcefulness, obvious knowledge of the topic, well researched and carefully written, you should get an A.

Late Assignments: Students may only submit assignments late with a good reason and must provide a note explaining these reasons to the Instructor in advance of the due date. Students submitting late work without following this protocol will be penalized 5% per day, including weekends.

Textbooks (available at the university bookstore)

Textbooks:

Poceski, Mario. *Introducing Chinese Religions*. Routledge. ISBN: 978-0-415-43406-5

Kohn, Livia. *Introducing Daoism*. Routledge. ISBN: 978-0-415-43998-5

Yao, Xinzhong. *An introduction to Confucianism*. Cambridge University Press. 2000. ISBN: 0-521-64430-5.

Others important and strongly recommended sources:

Sommer, Deborah, (ed.) *Chinese Religion: An Anthology of Sources*. Oxford University Press. 1995. ISBN: 0-19-508895-6.

Articles

Bokenkamp, Stephen. "Sources of the Ling-pao Scriptures," in *Tantric and Taoist Studies*, Michel Strickmann, ed., (Brussels: Mélanges chinois et bouddhiques, XXI, Institut Belge des Hautes Études Chinoises, 1983), V. 2, pp. 434-486.

Bokenkamp, Stephen. "Lu Xiuqing, Buddhism, and the First Daoist Canon," in Scott Pearce, Audrey Spiro, and Patricia Ebrey, eds., *Culture and Power in the Reconstitution of the Chinese Realm*, 200-600, (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001) pp. 181-99.

David N. Keightley. "The Religious Commitment: Shang Theology and the Genesis of Chinese Political Culture" *History of Religions*, Vol. 17, No. 3/4, Current Perspectives in the Study of Chinese Religions. (Feb. - May, 1978), pp. 211-225.

<http://links.jstor.org/>

Daniel L. Overmyer; David N. Keightley; Edward L. Shaughnessy; Constance A. Cook; Donald Harper. "Chinese Religions--The State of the Field: Part I: Early Religious Traditions: The Neolithic Period through the Han Dynasty, (ca. 4000 B.C.E. to 220 C.E.)" *The Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 54, No. 1. (Feb., 1995), pp. 124-160.

Stable URL: <http://links.jstor.org/>

Fall 2014 Schedule

Important: Please, complete your readings BEFORE class.

1. Week 1 (Sep 7) Introduction to the class and to the topic of Chinese religions

Sep 7 Introduction to the class, the topic, assignments and other matters

2. Week 2 (Sep 12, 14) Early history of China and culture

Sep 12: Poceski: Chinese Dynastic History Preface, Introduction.

Sep 14: Poceski: Early Patterns of Chinese Religious Life

3. Week 3 (Sep 19, 21) Zhou (Chou) religion, cosmology, symbolism and of State Cults

Sep 19: Keightley 211-225; Overmyer et al.: 124-160

Sept 21 Quiz 1

4. Week 4 (Sep 26, 28) Confucianism

Sep 26: Poceski: 2. The Classical Confucian Tradition

Sep 28: Yao 1:16-67; Supplemental readings: Sommer: Confucius 41-48;

5. Week 5 (Oct 3, 5) Evolution and transformation

Oct 2-5: Yao 2: 68-114; Supplemental readings: Sommer: Mencius 55-62,

6. Week 6 (Oct 10, 12) The Way of Confucianism

Oct 10 NO CLASS HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Oct 12: Yao 3: 139-189

7. Week 7 (Oct 17, 19) Confucianism and Quiz 2

Oct 17: Yao 4: 190-244; Supplemental readings: Sommer: Zhuxi (Chu hsi) 189-196;

Oct 19: QUIZ 2

8. Week 8 (Oct 24, 26) The formation of Daoism (Taoism)

Oct 24: Poceski: 3. Early Texts and the Emergence of Religious Daoism

Oct 26: Sommer: Laozi (Lao Tzu) 71-76; Zhuangzi (77-84);

9. Week 9 (Oct 31, Nov 2) Emergence of Religious Daoism

Oct 31: Poceski: 3. Early Texts and the Emergence of Religious Daoism

Nov 2: Poceski: 4. Daoist Traditions and Practices

10. Week 10 (Nov 7, 9) The Daoist's ancient classics QUIZ 2

Nov 7: Kohn: Part 1: Foundations; 1. The Dao that Can't be Told; 2. At Ease in Perfect Happiness; 3. From Health to Immortality; 4. Cosmos, Gods and Governance

Nov 9: QUIZ 2

11. Week 11 (Nov 14, 16) Daoist Organizations

Nov 14: Kohn: Part 2: Development; 5. Major Schools in the Middle Ages; 6. Ethics and Community; 7. Creation and the Pantheon; 8. Religious Practices

Nov 16: Sommer: Ge Hong (Ko Hung) 149-154; Bokenkamp: article on Ling Pao (Lingbao);

Nov 16 Essay Outline and Bibliography due!

12. Week 12 (Nov 21, 23) Great Purity and the Numinous Treasure Schools; Imperial Daoism and the rise of Complete Perfection

Nov 21: Kohn: Part 3: Modernity; 9. Modern Daoism; 10. Reaching for the Dao; 11. Daoism in China Today; 12. Western Adaptations; Part 4: Reflections; 13. The Nature and Study of Daoism

Nov 23: Complete Kohn's readings!

13. Week 13 (Nov 28, 30) Chinese Buddhism & Quiz 3

Nov 28: Poceski: 5. Spread and Flourishing of Buddhism in China; 6. Schools and Practices of Chinese Buddhism.

Nov 30: Quiz 3 (10%)

14. Week 14 (Dec 5, 6) Last day of Class

Dec 5: Poceski: 7. Popular religion; 8. Later Transformations of Confucianism
Supplemental readings: Summer 199-210.

DECEMBER 6: Final Essay DUE!!!