Introduction to selected religious traditions of Asia. This course will examine various Asian religious traditions including Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism. Rather than provide a comprehensive survey of all of the Asian religions (which is impractical in a ten-week quarter), this course emphasizes in-depth understanding of selected traditions through the study of primary religious texts supported by secondary readings in the relevant scholarly literature. The focus of our examination will be on the philosophical understanding of religious ideas supported by a critical examination of historical context. We will study key ideas within the critical context of various cultural and historical issues such as gender, class, and ritual.

Requirements

1. Attendance: Required. Students can have one unexcused absence without penalty. Each class missed thereafter without prior permission will result in 1/2 grade penalty for the course grade. Attendance at weekly discussion sections is mandatory.
2. Short exams: Two short, in-class exams, based on materials from the readings, lectures, and course web site.
3. Short papers: Three short papers on the readings. More specific instructions will be provided on the course web site.
4. Presentation: Students will make a presentation on the readings for one of the section meetings. The presenter should NOT summarize the reading but should use the presentation to discuss why the selected ideas/passages in question are important for understanding the reading and proceed to explain and well as raise questions about these ideas/passages. The primary purpose of these presentations is to launch the discussion, not to demonstrate breadth of knowledge or to lead the discussion. Each presenter will prepare a handout with 2 questions and brief, corresponding quotations from the readings. More detailed instructions will be provided on the course web site.
5. Medium-length paper: Each student will hand in a medium length final paper of 4-6 pages double-spaced. Suggested topics will be provided. Students may choose to create their own topics with the consent of their section leader. In the case of the latter, a one-paragraph description of the topic must be submitted by email to the instructor one week prior to the due date.
6. Late policy on written assignments: Three grace days total will be allotted excluding the medium-length paper for which no extensions will be given. For all other assignments, a cumulative total of three late days will be allowed without penalty. Thereafter, each late day will result in a two-point deduction from the course grade. Weekends are not counted against the grace days.
7. Email Protocol. Suggestion: Begin the term using one of the following when addressing the instructor:
   Dear, Hello, Hi + Prof. Unno, Mr. Unno
   If you like, you might later change to: Hello Mark, Hi Mark, etc., when you have established a working relationship with the instructor. Do NOT use: "Hey...." either with the instructor or with the GTF.

Grades

- Short exam I 10%, Short exam II 10%
- Short paper I 10%, Short paper II 10%, Short paper III 10%
- Medium-length paper 25%
- Presentation 10%
- Discussion 15%

Required Texts (Information listed here is given in footnote/endnote format.)
5. Course Reader, Religious Studies 101 World Religions-Asia, Fall 2014.
   Available at the Copy Shop, 539 E. 13th Street, Eugene, OR 97401, TEL 485 6253
Course Reader

8. Mark Unno, "Key Ideas: Nagarjuna" and "Key Ideas: Philosophical Schools."
13. Mark Unno, "Key Terms - Philosophical Terms in the Zen Buddhist Thought of Dogen"
15. Mark Unno, "Key Terms - Pure Land Buddhism and the Philosophy of Honen and Shinran."
REL 101 World Religions of Asia - Class schedule
(CR: Course Reader; CR1 = Course Reader Selection No. 1)

Week 1 - Introduction
9/29 Mon. Introduction: Syllabus; The Definition of Religion
10/1 Wed. The Geography of Asian Religions; Vedic Religion. Read: Hymns of the Rgveda, CR1

Week 2 - Indian Religion: Gita, Nikaya, Mahayana
10/8 Wed. Early Indian Buddhism I - Shakayamuni Buddha - Peter Harvey, Introduction to Buddhism, CR 6.
10/10 Fri. Early Indian Buddhism I - Nikaya Buddhism - Key concepts and historical background

Week 3 - Mahayana Buddhism
Read: "Key Ideas: Taitetsu Unno, 'Philosophical Schools," CR7, 10.

Week 4 - Ancient China I: Confucianism
10/24 Fri. Short exam A in class. Also, Introduction to Daoism.

Week 5 - Ancient China II: Taoism

Week 6 - Medieval China: Early Chan/Zen; Medieval Korea: Unified Silla Period; Early Japan

Week 7 - Medieval Japan I: Dogen and Zen Buddhism; Shinran and Shin Buddhism
11/10 Mon. Dogen and Zen Buddhism.
11/12 Wed. Dogen and Zen Buddhism (continued).

Week 8 - Medieval Japan II: Shinran and Shin Buddhism; Modern Tibet: XIVth Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso
11/17 Mon. Shinran and Shin Buddhism.
11/19 Wed. XIVth Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso
Read: Dalai Lama, A Policy of Kindness, CR 19, 33-59.
11/21 Fri. Short exam B in class.

Week 9 - Modern Vietnamese Buddhism
11/28 Fri (Thanksgiving Break)

Week 10 - Modern Manifestations: Japanese and Korean
12/5 Fri. Final Lecture. Final papers due in class.