SCHOOL OF DIVINITY, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

ACADEMIC SESSION 2015-2016

RS2507 Religions of the World 4: Eastern Traditions

15 credits, 11 weeks

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:

The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure.

You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR/COURSE TEAM

Dr Lukas Pokorny
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Office hours upon arrangement

Discipline Administration:

Mrs Claire Hargaden
50-52 College Bounds
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TIMETABLE
Lecture: Thursday, 2-4pm (MR268)
Tutorial: Tuesday, 12-1pm (KCS13)

Tutorials run in Weeks 2-6 and 9-11

Students can view their university timetable at
http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course develops a Religious Studies perspective on religions. Religions of Asia will be explored in their historical, systematic, and practical/ritual dimensions.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES
The aim is to provide students with a basic understanding of how Religious Studies works and how it promotes the academic study of the practices and beliefs of a range of religious traditions.
Students will
• have learnt to distinguish a Religious-Studies perspective from other academic and non-academic perspectives
• understand religious traditions as multi-dimensional constructs
• be able to interpret the basic features of the traditions studied
be able to critically read and analyse primary and secondary sources dealing with religion/s.

LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME
1 two-hour lecture per week plus 8 one-hour tutorials.

INTRODUCTION
[Week 1 – Jan 21]

HINDUISM 1
[Week 2 – Jan 28]
Modern Communities of Hinduism in the Postcolonial Context
Readings:


HINDUISM 2

[Week 3 – Feb 4]
The Historical Background of Hinduism; Vedas – Caste system – Post-Vedic Developments
Readings:

HINDUISM AND SIKHISM

[Week 4 – Feb 11]
Medieval Indic Religion and Sikhism
Readings:


JAINISM

[Week 5 – Feb 18]


BUDDHISM 1

[Week 6 – Feb 25]


**BUDDHISM 2**

[Week 7 – Mar 3]

**CONFUCIANISM 1**

[Week 8 – Mar 10]

**CONFUCIANISM 2**

[Week 9 – Mar 17]

**DAOISM**

[Week 10 – Mar 24]

**SHINTŌ**

[Week 11 – Mar 31]

**READINGS**

Unless otherwise noted, readings will be available online on *MyAberdeen*. Students are required to have read the assigned readings before attending the lectures and tutorials and bring copies of the assigned readings with them at each lecture/tutorial.
ASSESSMENT

PLEASE NOTE: In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

1st Attempt: One 2,500-word essay (40%); 1 two-hour written exam (60%).
Resit: 1 two-hour written exam (100%).

Click to view the University Level Descriptors (ANNEX A).
Click to view the University Assessment Scale Band Descriptors (ANNEX B).

ESSAYS
Essays should be 2,500 words long, including quotations and footnotes; students should note that they will be penalised for work which is either too long or too short (10% rule).

LIST OF ESSAY TOPICS
Choose ONE of the following:
1. If caste is not a feature of Hinduism, what does it belong to? Base your argument on specific examples from the lectures and readings.
2. What is the relationship between asceticism, gender, and monasticism? Use three examples from the lectures and readings to develop a comparative answer.
3. Who made Hinduism into one religion, and when? Base your argument on specific examples from the lectures and readings.
4. Discuss the notion of tiān 天 (‘heaven’) according to Mencius.
6. Discuss the notion of dào 道 according to early Daoist thought.

ASSESSMENT DEADLINES
Essays due by 3:00pm Friday, March 18th
SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

Please submit by the deadline ONE paper copy (cover sheet required) PLUS, ONE official electronic copy (no cover sheet required) as follows:

Hard Copy: One hard copy typed and double spaced, together with an Assessment cover sheet, – this should have your ID number CLEARLY written on the cover sheet, with NO name and NO signature but EVERYTHING ELSE filled in – and should be delivered to the Drop-off boxes located in CB008, 50-52 College Bounds.

Electronic Copy: One copy submitted through Turnitin via MyAberdeen. (for instructions please see http://www.abdn.ac.uk/eLearning/turnitinuk/students/ ) Students are asked to retain the Turnitin receipt so they are able to provide proof of submission at a later date if required.

Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date

Failure to submit both an electronic copy to Turnitin and a hard copy to the school office, by the stated deadline, will result in a zero mark.

N.B Turnitin doesn’t accept Mac documents in Pages. If using a Mac please go to File and export work as a Word document.

EXAMINATION

The exam is a two-hour written examination.

RESIT INFORMATION

One two-hour written examination (100%).

Access to the resit which is provisional on:

- All submitted coursework having been submitted and graded at CGS E3 or higher.
- Student having a valid Class Certificate. Students with C7’s are not eligible for resits.
Past exam papers can be viewed at [http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/).