Course Description
This course examines the main religious traditions of the Eastern World. We will concentrate on those traditions with continuing significant spiritual, philosophical, sociological, political, aesthetic and literary influence. Emphasis is on classical traditions, since this provides a solid foundation upon which students are then able to pursue further independent study in more recent developments. More specifically, our focus is on Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Shinto. An important aspect of our study of these religions is the exploration of their central scriptures.

Required Texts

Course Requirements
1. Attendance (15% of final grade)
   Attendance is required. You will lose two points on every day you miss class unless a medical proof or a written proof of an emergency is provided.
   The format of the course would be a combination of lectures and class discussions. It is very important that you complete the reading assignment for each class. Since some materials in the lecture are not necessarily covered in the required texts, it is highly recommended that you take notes during the lecture. Of course, questions are always welcome.

2. Two exams (70% of final grade)
   There will be two exams: a mid-session exam on June 16 and the final exam on July 2.

3. Book Report (15% of Final grade)
should be entirely based on this book. Do not use any other material (e.g. material from internet) to write this book report. It should be about four pages long (MS word or pdf format, font size 12 and double-spaced). The report has to be submitted on sakai.rutgers.edu by 11 p.m. on June 26. There will a penalty for late-submission.

Grading System
A=100-90, B+=89-87, B=86-80, C+=79-77, C=76-70, D=69-65, F=64 and below. Incompletes, i.e., “T” grades, will not be given under normal circumstances.

Schedule and Readings
May 26-28  Introduction, Hinduism, Bhagavad-Gita, (1st – 9th teachings)
June 1-2    Bhagavad-Gita, (10th – 18th teachings)
June 3-4    Buddhism, What the Buddha Taught, I-1V
June 8-10   What the Buddha Taught, V-VIII
June 11     Japanese Religions, Shinto: The Way Home
June 15     Mid-session Exam
June 16-18  Confucianism, Mencius, Book 1, A&B
June 24-25  Taoism, Tao Te Ching, I-XXXVII
June 26     Book Report due (Sakai)
June 29-30  Tao Te Ching, XXXVIII-LXXXI
July 1      Reading day
July 2      Final Exam