840:211 Religions of the Eastern World
Summer Session 2016

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Course Description
This course examines the main religious traditions of the Eastern World. We will concentrate on those traditions with continuing significant philosophical, sociological, political, aesthetic, literary and spiritual 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, Jainism, Confucianism, Taoism, Chinese Buddhism 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 20 and the final exam on July 7.

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 July 1. 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 31-June 1**: Introduction, Hinduism, *Bhagavad-Gita*, (1st – 9th teachings)
- **June 2, 6**: *Bhagavad-Gita*, (10th – 18th teachings)
- **June 7-8**: Buddhism, *What the Buddha Taught*, I-IV
- **June 9, 13-14**: *What the Buddha Taught*, V-VIII
- **June 15**: Jainism
- **June 16**: Japanese Religions, *Shinto: The Way Home*
- **June 20**: **Mid-session Exam**
- **June 27-28**: Taoism, *Tao Te Ching*, I-XXXVII
- **June 29, July 4**: *Tao Te Ching*, XXXVIII-LXXXI
- **July 1**: **Book Report due (Sakai)**
- **July 5**: Chinese Buddhism
- **July 6**: Reading day
- **July 7**: **Final Exam**