

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
Department of Religion

840:324 CHINESE RELIGIONS

Dr. T. Selover

Loree 114

Off. Hrs. Th 12:00-1:00 or by appt.

Th 6/7 5:35-8:35 pm

Spring 2010

CDL 109

CHINESE RELIGIONS

Course Description: The “Way” has been sought in China through social, ritual, mystical, metaphysical, and magical channels. This course offers an introduction to Chinese religious thought and practice, focusing on the Confucian and Daoist traditions, as well as Buddhist, folk and other religious practices. We will cover religious concepts and classic texts; the relation of religion to society and self in China; role models and paradigms for transformation; alchemy and meditation. The course explores these interrelated dimensions within the history of Chinese culture and as religious manifestations today.



Textbooks:

Adler, Joseph A. *Chinese Religious Traditions*. Prentice Hall (2002)

Kohn, Livia. *Daoism and Chinese Culture*, 2nd ed. Three Pines Press, (2001)

Sommer, Deborah. *Chinese Religion: An Anthology of Sources*. Oxford University Press (1995)

Yao Xinzong, *An Introduction to Confucianism*. Cambridge University Press (2000)



Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:

1. Be able to recognize key terms in Confucian, Daoist and other Chinese religious thought, and to discuss their historical and religious significance.
2. Be able to discuss major ideas and practices in the various Chinese religious traditions.
3. Be able to critically and constructively compare Chinese religious traditions among themselves and with other religious and cultural traditions.

Course Requirements:

1. Attend classes and participate in discussions
2. Required readings
3. 1st Hourly Exam (February 25)
4. 2nd Hourly Exam (April 8)
5. Final Exam (May 12)

Evaluation:

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|------------------------------|-----|
| Attendance and Participation | 10% |
| 1 st Hourly Exam | 35% |
| 2 nd Hourly Exam | 35% |
| Final Exam | 20% |

Course Policies:

* Attendance will be taken. Missing class will affect the final grade unless a medical proof or a written proof of an emergency is provided.

* You are expected to attend all classes fully prepared: complete the reading assignment for each class with written notes, and be ready to raise specific questions and discussion points.

* The class strictly follows the university policy on academic integrity. It is available at <http://TeachX.rutgers.edu/integrity/index.html>

Chinese Religions: Course Schedule

1/21 Week 1:

1. Orientation and Introduction
 2. Early Chinese Religion
- READING; Adler 11-29; Yao 1-15

1/28 Week 2:

1. Early Confucianism: Five Classics
 2. Confucius and The Analects
- READING Adler 30-37; Yao 16-67; CR 3-39, 41-48

2/4 Week 3:

1. Secular and Sacred
 2. Mencius
- READING Adler 37-42; Yao 68-104; CR 49-61

2/11 Week 4:

1. Cycles of Renewal
 - a. Yin/Yang Cosmology and the 5 Phases
 - b. Chinese New Year Celebration
- READING Adler 58-67; Kohn, 43-48, 149-152

2/18 Week 5:

1. Xunzi and Imperial Confucianism
 2. Neo-Confucian reflection
- READING Adler 90-97; Yao 105-114; CR 63-70, 105-112, 183-198, 227-232

2/25 Week 6:

1. Ritual and Humanity

2. Hourly Exam

READING Yao 139-223

3/4 Week 7:

1. Laozi and the Dao
2. Non-doing and Undoing

READING Adler, 42-51; Kohn, 1-26; CR 70-75

3/11 Week 8:

1. Zhuangzi: Free and Easy Wandering
2. Reason and Spontaneity

READING Adler 51-57; Kohn, 27-42; CR 77-83

===== SPRING BREAK 3/13-3/21 =====

3/25 Week 9:

1. Daoist Religious Movements
2. Daoist Scriptures and traditions

READING Adler 67-73; Kohn, 61-81, 82-99, 100-113, 153-168; CR 199-210

4/1 Week 10:

1. Longevity and Immortality
2. Daoist Physical and Ritual Practices

READING Kohn, 117-149, 153-186; CR 145-151

4/8 Week 11:

- 1. Hourly Exam**
2. Film: A Question of Balance

4/15 Week 12:

1. Chinese Buddhist movements
2. Pure Land and Chan

READING Adler 74-89; CR 119-143, 155-164

4/22 Week 13:

1. Other Religious Traditions in China
2. Gods, Ghosts and Ancestors

READING Adler 107-123; Yao 223-244; CR 113-116

4/29 Week 14:

1. Religion in China Today
2. Summary

READING Adler 123-125; Yao 245-286; Kohn, 187-203, CR 303-316

Final Exam on May 12