

## 840:324 CHINESE RELIGIONS

Spring 2013

Tu 10:55-1:55 pm

Hickman 115, D/C

Dr. Thomas Selover

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### 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 of 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) ISBN 0-13-091163-1

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

ISBN 1-931483-00-0

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

ISBN 0-19-508895-6

### Course Requirements and Evaluations:

This course is designed to meet the requirements for Arts and Humanities (requirements o and p) as well as writing and communications goals (requirements s1, t, u, and v) in the SAS Core Curriculum guideline. **There will be three papers for this course**, on Confucianism, Daoism and contemporary Chinese religions respectively, to be submitted to **sakai.rutgers.edu** by the due date (**2/19, 3/26, 4/26**). Each paper should be 5-7 pages (times new roman font, size 12, double-spaced, in word or pdf format), with proper citations and discussions of primary source materials and secondary literature. Assessment will be based on your performance in the papers and will make use of the Core Curriculum standard assessment form and the standard rubrics for these requirements.

### Course Requirements

- |                                       |                |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Three Papers                       | 75% (25% each) |
| 2. Quizzes, etc.                      | 15%            |
| 3. Class Attendance and Participation | 10%            |

### 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>.

## **Course Schedule:**

1/22 Week 1:

1. Orientation and Introduction
  2. Early Chinese Religion
- READING; Adler 11-29, CR 3-30

1/29 Week 2:

1. Early Confucianism: Five Classics
  2. Confucius and the Analects
- READING Adler 30-37; CR 41-48

2/5 Week 3:

1. Secular and Sacred
  2. Mencius & Xunzi
- READING Adler 37-42; CR 49-70

2/12 Week 4:

1. Cycles of Renewal (Yin/Yang Cosmology and the 5 Phases)
  2. Imperial Confucianism
- READING Adler 58-67; Kohn, 43-48, 149-152; CR 31-40, 105-112

2/19 Week 5:

1. Neo-Confucian reflections
  2. Learning of the Heart-and-Mind
- READING Adler 90-97; CR 169-173, 183-198, 227-32

**First paper on Confucianism due on 2/19**

2/26 Week 6:

1. Laozi and the Dao
  2. Non-doing and Undoing
- READING Adler, 42-51; Kohn, 1-26; CR 71-75

3/5 Week 7:

1. Zhuangzi: Free and Easy Wandering
  2. Reason and Spontaneity
- READING Adler 51-57; Kohn, 27-42; CR 77-83

3/12 Week 8:

1. Daoist Religious Movements
  2. Daoist Scriptures and traditions
- READING Adler 67-73, 97-99; Kohn, 61-99, 100-113, 153-168; CR 199-210

## **BREAK WEEK**

3/26 Week 9:

1. Longevity and Immortality
  2. Daoist Physical and Ritual Practices
- READING Kohn, 117-149, 153-186; CR 145-151

**Second paper on Daoism due on 3/26**

4/2 Week 10:

1. Background on Buddhism
  2. Chinese Buddhist movements
- READING Adler 74-83; CR 127-135

4/9 Week 12:

1. Guan Yin and Pure Land
  2. Chan/Zen
- READING Adler 83-89, 100-102; CR 119-125, 137-142, 155-164

4/16 Week 13:

1. Christianity in China
  2. Other Religious Traditions in China
- READING Adler 102-109; CR 281-292

4/23 Week 14:

1. Religion in Modern China
  2. Religion in China Today
- READING Adler 110-123; CR 303-316; Kohn, 187-203

**Third paper on contemporary Chinese religions due by 4/26 on sakai**

4/30 Week 15:

1. Gods, Ghosts and Ancestors
  2. Summary & Reflections
- READING: Adler 123-125; CR 331-342

No Final Exam