



Religion 211: Introduction to Religion in Asia
Fall 2016
Scott Hall 135, Tues & Thurs 1:10pm-2:30pm

Professor D.C. Lammerts
Office: Loree 130
Office Hours: Wednesdays 3:30-4:30pm
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Course Description

This course presents an introduction to the study of religion(s) in various Asian historical and cultural contexts. Lectures and supporting readings explore the development, spread, and transformation of religious traditions, the conjunctures of religion and power, and the production and circulation of varieties of religious literature, knowledge, and practice.

Course Requirements

i) Reading and Participation

Please read closely and reflect on all readings assigned for the day before coming to class. Please bring the day's readings with you to class, as either a printout or on some type of e-device that is not a phone.

Nearly all readings for this course constitute **primary sources**, composed at different times and in different places across Asia over an approximately 3000-year period. Readings have been kept short, since you are advised to read them before lecture and preferably at least once again after lecture, for full comprehension.

Close attention to the content of lectures is absolutely crucial to success in this course. It will not be possible to properly understand and contextualize the readings, and therefore to pass the course, if you do not listen carefully and take detailed notes on each lecture.

ii) Attendance

Due to the large size of this class, attendance will not be taken regularly, but may be monitored occasionally throughout the semester. **Do not email Prof. Lammerts about absences or "self-report" your absence on <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>.** Students are permitted two unexcused absences (though **not** on an exam day). Each additional unexcused absence will result in a ½ letter grade deduction from your final grade (e.g. if you were to receive a B, you will receive a C+). Students with five or more unexcused absences will receive a nonnegotiable F for the course.

If you are absent from class please ensure that you have completed the assigned readings and carefully reviewed the slides from lecture, which are typically posted on Sakai within one week following each class meeting. (There will be no slides from the first meeting on Sept 6). If you have any questions about material missed due to absence, please meet with Dr. Lammerts during his office hours, Wednesdays, 3:30PM–4:30PM, in Loree 130.

Attendance is mandatory on exam days. If you will be absent on an exam day your absence must be excused. All excused absences require an official note from Office of the Dean of Students (<http://deanofstudents.rutgers.edu/locations/>), which is only issued when a student presents appropriate documentation for the absence (e.g. a signed note from a physician). Make-up exams will not be permitted without such a note. There are no exceptions to this policy.

iii) Exams (75%)

There will be three exams throughout the semester, each worth 25% of your final grade. The exams will cover the full content of lectures and readings. Content from the readings not explicitly covered in lectures, and content from the lectures not included on the lecture slides, may appear on an exam, therefore it is essential to keep up with all readings and take notes during lectures.

iv) Final Exam (25%)

A final cumulative exam for this course will be held at 12pm on Dec 19th. The location will be announced toward the end of the semester.

Course Policies

i) Academic Integrity

Familiarize yourself with Rutgers policies and materials concerning academic integrity and plagiarism at the following sites:

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/resources>

Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses. Any student found to have committed or aided the offence of plagiarism is subject to penalties in accordance with the policies of the University.

ii) Use of electronic equipment

Please turn off all mobile phones, computers, and other electronic devices before class. Laptops, tablets, or e-readers may (and in fact are encouraged to be) used in class for readings. The use of electronic equipment for any other purpose will result in expulsion from the day's lecture, and may carry further penalties. **Recording devices are not permitted.** Any student found recording lectures will fail the course.

iii) Digital transmission of course-related content and work

You may not reproduce or transmit lecture notes, readings, audio, video, lecture slides, or any course-related content via the internet. Discussion of this class online (e.g., on Facebook) requires the prior approval of Prof. Lammerts. Failure to obtain prior approval may constitute a violation of academic integrity as well as copyright policies.

iv) 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.

v) Office hours and appointments

If you would like to speak about any aspect of the course, please attend Dr. Lammert's office hours, which are held each Wednesday throughout the semester (except Sept 28) between 3:30–4:30pm in Loree 130.

vi) Contacting me via email

Prof. Lammerts will not discuss readings, lectures, grades, exams, attendance, student performance, or any other matters related to the course via email. If you have questions about any aspect of the course, please visit Dr. Lammerts during office hours. **The only reason you should email Dr. Lammerts is to make an appointment for a meeting if you cannot attend scheduled office hours.**

Student-Wellness Services on Campus:

Just In Case Web App / <http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professionals within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

The Office of Disability Services works with students with a documented disability to determine the eligibility of reasonable accommodations, facilitates and coordinates those accommodations when applicable, and lastly engages with the Rutgers community at large to provide and connect students to appropriate resources.

Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.

Texts and Syllabus

All course readings are, or will shortly be, available in PDF format on Sakai > Resources > Readings. This syllabus will also be archived on Sakai > Resources > Syllabus. Please note that further supplementary texts may be assigned during the semester or presented in class for discussion. The syllabus may be modified or changed based on student interest and comprehension as the semester unfolds.

Course Outline and Readings

PART ONE

TRAJECTORIES OF BRĀHMAṆISM/HINDUIISM IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

Sept 6. Introduction to the Course

Sept 9. Veda and Ritual

~Stephanie W. Jamison and Joel P. Brereton, *The Rigveda: The Earliest Religious Poetry of India* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014): I.1 Agni, pp. 88-89; IV.29 Indra, pp. 603; VIII.48 Soma, pp. 1128-1130; VIII.79 Soma, pp. 1177-1178; X.90 Puruṣa, pp. 1537-1540; X.163 Against Disease, pp. 1644-1645; X.173 Royal consecration, pp. 1651-1652.

~Herman Kulke and Dietmar Rothermund, *A History of India* (New York: Routledge, 2004): 35–45.

Sept 13. Upaniṣadic Orientations

Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad 1.4, in Patrick Olivelle, *The Early Upaniṣads: Annotated Text and Translation* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998): 45-51 [disregard the pages in Sanskrit].

Sept 15. Dharma, Society, and Legal Cosmology

Patrick Olivelle, *The Law Code of Manu* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004): "Prologue" and "Creation" (pp. 13-15), "Occupations of the Social Classes," "Excellence of the Brahmin," "Treatise of Manu" (pp. 19-20), "Grievous Sins Causing Loss of Caste" (pp. 172-173) "Rules of Action for Vaiśyas and Śūdras" (pp. 178-179), "The Four Classes," "Mixed Classes: First Discourse," "Cāṇḍālas and Śvapacas" (pp. 180-181, p. 183), "Sin and Rebirth" (pp. 214-216).

Sept 20. Bhakti I

Barbara Stoler Miller, *The Bhagavad-gītā* (New York: Bantam, 2004): Selections 1 (from Chapters 1–6).

Sept 22. Bhakti II

Miller, *Bhagavadgītā*, Selections 2 (from Chapters 7–18).

Sept 27. Hindu Tantra and Political Patronage

~Alexis Sanderson, "Śaivism and the Tantric Traditions," in *The World's Religions*, edited by S. Sutherland, L. Houlden, P. Clarke and F. Hardy, (selections:) 660–663. (London: Routledge, 1988).

~Douglas Renfrew Brooks, "The Ocean of the Heart: Selections from the *Kulārṇava Tantra*," in *Tantra in Practice*, ed. D.G. White, (selections:) 347-360 (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000).

~Gavin Flood, "The Tantric Polity," in *The Tantric Body: The Secret Tradition of Hindu Religion* (London: I.B. Tauris, 2006): 76–81.

Sept 29. **NO CLASS**

Oct 4. Hinduism in Southeast Asia

J.G. De Casparis and Ian Mabbett, "Religion and Popular Beliefs of Southeast Asia before c. 1500," in *The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia*, Vol. 1, ed. Nicolas Tarling, 276–291 (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1994).

Oct 6. Review

Oct 11. **EXAM #1**

PART TWO
BUDDHISMS

Oct 13. Buddhas and Gotama Buddha in Theravāda Buddhism

Kate Crosby, *Theravāda Buddhism: Continuity, Diversity, and Identity* (Chichester: Wiley Blackwell, 2014): 15–30.

Oct 18. Merit and Cosmology

~Kate Crosby, *Theravāda Buddhism: Continuity, Diversity, and Identity* (Chichester: Wiley Blackwell, 2014): 112–137.

~I.B. Horner, N.A. Jayawickrama, and H.S. Gehman, *The Minor Anthologies of the Pali Canon: IV* (Oxford: Pali Text Society, 2005):

from *Vimānavatthu* ("Stories of Heavenly Mansions")—

"The Chaste Wife Mansion" (pp. 20-21), "Slave Woman's Mansion" (pp. 41-43), "Frog-Deva's Mansion" (pp. 102-103), "Almsfood-Giver's Mansion" (pp. 130-131).

from *Petavatthu* ("Ghost Stories")—

"The Story of Nandā" (pp. 36-37), "The Story of Fraudulent Decisions" and "The Story of Contempt for Relics" (pp. 80-83).

Oct 20. Bodhisatt(v)a and Jātaka

~Padmanabh S. Jaini, *Apocryphal Birth Stories (Paññāsa-Jātaka)* (Oxford: Pali Text Society, 2003): "Paṭṭipadānājātaka" (Vol II, 85–91).

~E.B. Cowell, *The Jātaka, or Stories of the Buddha's Former Births*, 6 Vols. (Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 2005 [1st. edition, Cambridge 1895]): "Sasa-jātaka" (Vol 3, 34–37); "Tuṅḍila-jātaka" (Vol 3, 180–183).

Oct 25. The Disappearance and Renewal of the *Sāsana* I
Bonnie Pacala Brereton, *Thai Tellings of Phra Malai: Texts and Rituals Concerning a Popular Buddhist Saint* (Tempe: Arizona State University, 1995): 187-203.

Oct 27. The Disappearance and Renewal of the *Sāsana* II
Bonnie Pacala Brereton, *Thai Tellings of Phra Malai: Texts and Rituals Concerning a Popular Buddhist Saint* (Tempe: Arizona State University, 1995): 203-226.

Nov 1. Mahāyāna and Mantranāya
~Tsuchunari Kubo and Akriya Yuyama, *The Lotus Sūtra* (Berkeley: Numata Center for Buddhist Translation and Research, 2007): 56–62.

~D.L. Snellgrove, *The Hevajra Tantra* (London: Oxford University Press, 1959): 51-52.

Nov 3. **NO CLASS**

Nov 8. Miraculous Buddhism in China and Japan
~Robert Ford Campany, *Signs from the Unseen Realm: Buddhist Miracle Tales from Early Medieval China* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2012). Selections.

~Kyoko Motomochi Nakamura, *Miraculous Stories from the Japanese Buddhist Tradition: The Nihon ryōiki of the Monk Kyōkai*. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1973). Selections.

Nov 10. Review

Nov 15. **EXAM #2**

PART THREE
CONFUCIAN, DAOIST, ISLAMIC, CHRISTIAN, AND SHUGENDŌ DYNAMICS

Nov 17. Early Chinese Religion and Confucianism
Bryan W. Van Nordern, *The Essential Mengzi* (Indianapolis: Hackett, 2009). Selections.

Nov 22. Heavenly Virtue, Society, and Politics in *Mengzi*
Bryan W. Van Nordern, *The Essential Mengzi* (Indianapolis: Hackett, 2009): Selections.

Nov 24. **NO CLASS (Thanksgiving recess)**

Nov 29. Proto-Daoism, Alchemy, and Religious Diversity in China
James Robson, *Daoism* (New York: Norton, 2015): 77–82, 85–86, 87 (i, ii), 91 (xix), 94–95 (lvii), 96 (lxxv), 188–193.

Dec 1. Daoist Practice, Immortality, and Hagiography
Robert Ford Campany, *To Live as Long as Heaven and Earth: A Translation and Study of Ge Hong's Traditions of Divine Transcendents* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002): "The Holy Mother of Dongling" (p. 146), "Feng Gang" (p. 148), "Li Yiqi" (pp. 228-229), "Luan Ba" (pp. 252-254), "Shen Xi" (pp. 256-258).

Dec 6. Human and Divine Conversion in Java, Japan, and Burma

~M.C. Ricklefs, *Mystic Synthesis in Java* (Norwalk: EastBridge, 2006): 11-32.

~ Kentarō Miyazaki, "The Kakure Kirishitan Tradition," in *Handbook of Christianity in Japan*, ed. Mark R. Mullins, 19-34 (Leiden: Brill, 2003).

~Recommended: Shōei Suzuki, "The Development of *Suijaku* Stories about Zaō Gongen," in *Shugendō: The History and Culture of a Japanese Religion*, edited by Bernard Faure, D. Max Moerman, and Gaynor Sekimori, 141–168 (Kyoto: École française d'Extrême-Orient, 2009).

Dec 8. Review

Dec 13. **EXAM #3**

Dec 19. **FINAL EXAM 12–3PM** (location to be announced)