

Religions of East Asia in Practice



RELI 244 / EAST 244
TR 2:30–3:52 p.m. COLEMAN 021
Spring 2006 Department of Religion

Professor: James Mark Shields • #71336 • jms089@bucknell.edu
Office hours: MWF 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., also by appointment

After a few centuries of lagging behind the West in terms of political power, economic development and cultural influence, the nations of East Asia, led first by Japan and more recently by a resurgent China, are rapidly taking their places as major world powers. In some ways, this is to be expected, since for much of recorded history the ‘Middle Kingdom’ was the cultural, political, and economic center of East Asia. While Japan’s civilization developed comparatively late, and borrowed much from China (and Korea), the Japanese developed a unique culture and religious identity, one which in modern times has had a significant impact on East Asia and the world. Though perhaps less obvious, Korea—sandwiched between the two larger nations—also has an important place in the study of East Asian culture.

This course provides an introduction to the various religious traditions of East Asia—here meaning primarily China, Korea and Japan—through study of their origins, basic beliefs, practices and values, historical development, as well as their interaction and involvement with politics, culture and society, and one another. We will deal with the four major religious traditions of East Asia—Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, and Shinto—while noting the significant impact of various folk traditions. Given that this is a 200-level course, we will not attempt to ‘survey’ each and every religion of East Asia, but will rather use a guiding theme—material culture and ritual—in order to highlight the continuities and differences between various East Asian traditions, and to try to understand these traditions as much as possible as they have been lived ‘on the ground’.

Course Objectives:

The primary objectives of the course are to: a) familiarize students with some of the texts, beliefs, values and practices of the major East Asian religions, b) provide an introduction to the historical development of those traditions in key periods of East Asian history; c) discuss the role of religion in shaping and transmitting East Asian arts (sculpture, architecture, painting, and so on); and d) allow the student to reflect in both a personal and critical manner on the ideas and themes presented in the course via lectures, readings, and media.

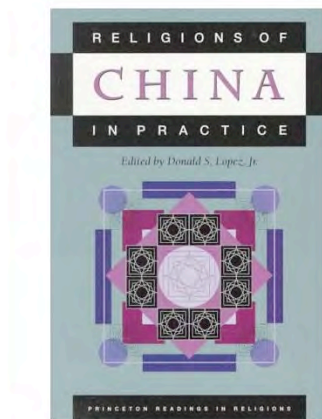
Course Format:

The course will follow a lecture-discussion format, with three lectures of roughly 60 minutes each on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Generally each week of lectures will encompass a new theme, as dictated by the Schedule of Topics and Readings (see below). Each lecture is accompanied by at least one reading, familiarity with which will greatly enhance comprehension of the lecture. Please be prepared. The final 15-20 minutes at the end of each class will be left open for questions of clarification and, it is hoped, an open discussion of the ideas and issues presented.

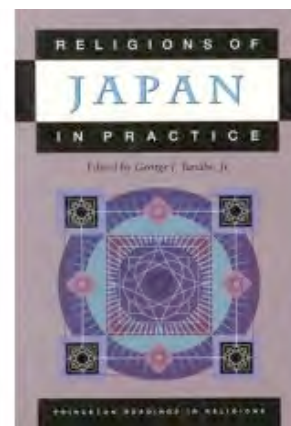
Pedagogical Note:

Though much of my past teaching in North America has been in the context of huge undergraduate classes, I am excited to have a small group to work with for a change. I hope that the class will work, in some respects, more like a 'graduate seminar' than a typical undergraduate lecture course, in that each of you can bring your own identity and viewpoints to the course. I want to create at all times a comfortable, enjoyable, and at times provocative environment for learning. Like all my classes, this is meant to be an interactive course; the student will be asked to respond and engage with the course material, and with the ideas and opinions of the instructor and other students—though, it is hoped, always in a civil and polite fashion. Evaluation for the course will be based partly on the demonstration of critical engagement with course material.

Required Reading Material:



- *Religions of China in Practice*
(Donald S. Lopez, Jr.)



- *Religions of Japan in Practice*
(George Tanabe, ed.)
- E-Reserves (see page 3 of Schedule of Topics and Readings)

Course requirements:

1. ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory. Since the class requires student interaction and discussion, it is absolutely necessary for the student to attend each and every class. Only sickness with a note is considered a valid excuse. Each absence without excuse will result in a 2-point deduction from the participation grade. Being late without an excuse will count as half an absence, thus a 1-point deduction. Five absences without a note will result in automatic failure.

2. PARTICIPATION

15%

Significant class participation is a requirement. Participation is a matter of quality not quantity. Thus you do not have to speak every class, but rather show that you have done the readings and are willing and able to engage, in a thoughtful way, with the topics under discussion. Of course, good questions are also an aspect of participation.

3. MID-TERM QUIZ

20%

There will be an in-class mid-term quiz on Thursday, October 19. The specific format will be specified in advance, and, if required, extra class time will be provided for questions and discussion prior to the quiz day.

4. MUSEUM REPORT

10%

At a certain point within the semester, we will be taking a 'field trip' to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York to see the East Asian collection. A 5-page report will be submitted after the visit, providing detailed descriptions, analysis and thoughts on one or several works of art seen at the Museum. The museum report will be due one week after the visit.

5. RESEARCH PAPER

30%

Each student will write a 12-15 page research paper on a topic chosen from a list of various themes and issues of Chinese religion. Details will be provided several weeks into the course. The research paper will be due at the end of the semester.

6. FINAL EXAM

25%

GRADING RUBRIC:	94–100%	=	A	4.0	Perfect!
	88–93%	=	A–	3.67	Excellent
	81–87%	=	B+	3.33	Very Good
	75–80%	=	B	3.0	Good
	69–74%	=	B–	2.67	Average
	63–68%	=	C+	2.33	Below Average
	56–62%	=	C	2.0	Acceptable, but...
	50–55%	=	D	1.0	Not Acceptable
	0–49%	=	F	0.0	Not Acceptable

Religions of East Asia



Schedule of Topics and Readings

I. Introduction

R 08/24	1. Why are we here? The Study of Religion	
T 08/29	2. Background: Confucianism	LOPEZ 3–7
R 08/31	3. Background: Daoism	LOPEZ 7–13
T 09/05	4. Background: East Asian Buddhism	LOPEZ 13–37

II. Religions of China I: The Unseen World

R 09/07	5. Oracle Bones	LOPEZ 41–51
T 09/12	6. Laozi & Popular Daoism	LOPEZ 52–63
		LOPEZ 123–148
R 09/14	NO CLASS	
T 09/19	7. Tales of Guanyin	LOPEZ 82–105
R 09/21	8. Visions of Manjushri	LOPEZ 203–222

III. Religions of China II: Rituals and Earthly Conduct

T 09/26	9. Confucian Ritual: Imperial Sacrifice	LOPEZ 251–260
R 09/28	10. Daoist Ritual	LOPEZ 306–326
T 10/03	11. Buddhism & the Elite	LOPEZ 381–389
R 10/05	12. Buddhism & the State	LOPEZ 390–396
T 10/10	13. Retribution and Destiny	LOPEZ 423–436
R 10/12	14. Silk Road Buddhist Cave Art	ERES
T 10/17	FALL RECESS	
R 10/19	MID-TERM QUIZ	

IV. Religions of Korea

T 10/24	15. Korean Religions: Shamanism	ERES
R 10/26	16. Korean Religions: Buddhism	ERES

V. Religions of Japan

T	10/31	17. Tama & Kami in Ancient Japan	TANA	141–152
R	11/04	18. Shinto Polytheism & Politics	TANA	451–467
T	11/07	19. Shinto Practices	TANA	135–140
			TANA	435–450
S*	11/11	20. FIELD TRIP: NYC MET MUSEUM	None	
T	11/14	21. Shugendo: Mountain Asceticism	TANA	343–353
			TANA	246–253
R	11/16	22. Kukai, Koya-san, and the Shikoku Pilgrimage	TANA	354–369
T	11/21	23. Women and the Pure Land	TANA	176–184
R	11/23	THANKSGIVING RECESS – NO CLASS		
T	11/28	24. Buddhism & Abortion: <i>Mizuko Kuyo</i>	TANA	193–196
R	11/30†	25. Grassroots Zen	TANA	487–500
T	12/05	26. Yasukuni Shrine	TANA	334–342
			ERES	

* On this Saturday the class will take a ‘field trip’ to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City to see the East Asian collection.

† Research paper due

Key:

LOPEZ = Lopez, Jr., Donald S., ed. *Religions of China in Practice*.

TANA = Tanabe, George, ed. *Religions of Japan in Practice*.

ERES = E-Reserves

Student Name: _____

Religions of East Asia



MID-TERM QUIZ

Bucknell University

RELI 244 / EAST 244

Examiner: Prof. James Mark Shields

Thursday, October 19, 2006

2:30 – 3:52 p.m.

Instructions: Of the following 5 questions, you **MUST** answer 4. Each question is worth a possible 5 marks, for a total of 20. For questions #1 and #2, tell me as much as you can about the passage—identifying the tradition from which it comes, the specific form or forms of the tradition, the meaning and significance, and identify the figures involved (e.g. **A** → **P**). Note: In all questions, these letters generally indicate EITHER a personal name, a person's title, or a type of being. Exceptions: **C** refers to a philosophical concept, **E** refers to a location, and **G** & **H** to types of rites.

Answer all questions directly on the exam paper. Please keep in mind the relative worth of each question, and budget your time and effort accordingly. Calculators and dictionaries are prohibited. Please write your name on this cover page.

Good luck. Buena suerte. Bonne chance. Viel Glück. 好运气。頑張って。

This exam comprises 6 (six) pages, including this cover page.

Religions of East Asia
Metropolitan Museum Visit Report

DUE: *Tuesday, November 21*
LENGTH: *5 pages, double-spaced, typed*
WORTH: *10% of final grade*

This report depends upon our class trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, on Saturday, November 11, leaving from the 7th Street Parking Lot at exactly 9:00 am. Once we arrive at the museum, we will go directly to the 'Asian Art' wing, which houses hundreds of works of painting, calligraphy, statue and other artefacts from south, central and east Asia. Given the nature of this course, we will focus our attention on specifically East Asian works (i.e., Chinese, Japanese & Korean), though the Buddhist statues from Gandhara and Central Asia are also related, as they provide a sense of the templates from which Chinese Buddhist art and devotion evolved along the Silk Road. Thus you might choose to compare a non-East Asian work to an East Asian one. You *must* however focus your attention on at *least one* work that has a connection to one or more of the religious traditions of East Asia. Finally, you may choose to write about the 'Confucian Scholar's Garden'; if so, it should be enough in itself to fill the report.

Once we enter the Asian wing of the museum, you are on your own to view the collection and seek out one or several works that catch your eye. You should spend at least 1 or 2 hours in the museum, making notes and trying to get an impression of the works you see. Once you have done this, you are free to go where you please, either inside the museum or in the City (please inform me, however, if you do NOT plan to return with the bus, which will leave from the museum at exactly 7:00 pm).

You will need to write a 5-page (roughly 2000 words) report on your visit, which should include but is not limited to the following parts:

1. **CONTEXT:** provide a short discussion of the context of the work or works (what type of art is it? when was it made? who made it? and so on.)
2. **DESCRIPTION:** describe as carefully as possible the medium, technique, subject, and treatment of the subject.
3. **EXPLANATION:** explain the specific connection to one or more of the East Asian religions, and speak of how the work may have been 'used' in a religious context.
4. **IMPRESSIONS:** explain your impressions, feelings, and how the works you focus on compare or contrast to other works in the exhibit or to other works you have seen in class or elsewhere.

Finally, if you can, try to include pictures of the works (or similar works) you are discussing.

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RELI 244 / EAST 244
Fall 2006 • Professor Shields

RESEARCH PAPER ASSIGNMENT

Due Date: *Thursday, November 30*

Length: *12-15 pages, typed, double-spaced, reasonable font-size (11-12)*

Worth: *30% of final grade*

Each student will be required to write a 12-15 page research paper on a specific topic within the broad field of East Asian religious practice. This research paper will be due on Thursday, November 30, giving you a total of 7 weeks to complete the assignment. Be forewarned: I will not accept a late assignment for any reason (other than an extremely serious one).

I am giving you a lot of freedom in this research report, though I am also providing a list of 40 fairly specific topics in both Chinese and Japanese religions (you may also write about Korean, Vietnamese, Singaporean or Taiwanese religion if you so choose). You should first decide which general area interests you the most: religious history, psychology of religion, ethics, cosmology, mysticism, rituals, politics or religion and culture (including both 'high' and 'popular' culture). Please avoid topics in a) philosophy or religious doctrines, since that is not the focus of the course, and b) visual art or architecture, since this area will be covered in your 'Museum Report' assignment and the Met field trip. You may focus your research on one of the four main 'traditions' of East Asian religion: Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism, or Shinto; or you may choose to look more closely at syncretic practices or rituals, shamanism, folk religion, or the influence of foreign religions like Hinduism, Zoroastrianism, Islam or Christianity on East Asian religions. If you choose a topic that is not on the list, you must confirm it with me before undertaking the research.

Since the paper is not very long, keep the details to a minimum, and try to develop an interesting 'argument' on the topic (though it need not be a completely novel one—this is not a Ph.D. thesis). You may also choose a topic touched upon in lectures or texts for the course, though you need to explore a dimension other than what you hear in lectures or read in the course material. In other words, you need to do some of your own 'research'. Finally, I would like you to approach your topic 'critically' (i.e., add your own reflections and arguments, rather than just repeating what others write or suggest). At the same time, do not just tell me what you feel without providing any 'support'. If you have any further questions, or are having problems deciding on a topic, come to see me.

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RESEARCH PAPER ASSIGNMENT: 40 TOPICS

CHINESE RELIGIONS:

AREA 1: Mysticism, Cosmology and Psychology

- Chinese world-system: Qi and Yin-Yang
- Divination in modern China
- Daoism and modern psychology
- Feng shui in the modern age
- Daoism and Chinese medicine

AREA 2: Ritual and Devotion

- devotional aspects of Confucianism
- emergence of 'Religious Daoism' out of 'Philosophical Daoism'
- Daoism and popular millennial cults
- what is 'Chinese' about Mahayana devotion?
- popular Buddhist rituals in modern China

AREA 3: Religion and Culture

- impact of Confucianism/Daoism/Buddhism on Chinese martial arts
- religion in Chinese opera
- religion in Chinese 'popular' culture
- religion in Mao's 'Cultural Revolution'
- religion in modern Chinese film

AREA 4: Myths and Legends

- ancient Chinese myth as reflection of political structures
- women in Chinese myth: goddesses
- transformation of Indian/Buddhist myths in China
- Kuan yin / Kannon: sex-change of a bodhisattva
- animals in Chinese myth & legend (Monkey-King)

JAPANESE RELIGIONS

AREA 1: Mysticism, Cosmology and Psychology

- Zen meditation as psychology
- Divination/shamanism in Japanese religion
- Esoteric/Tantric Buddhism in Japan (Kûkai, Shingon)
- Philosophical Taoism (Yin/Yang; *feng shui*) in modern Japan
- Chinese medicine/alchemy (*kanpo*) in Japan

AREA 2: Ritual and Devotion

- devotional aspects of Shinto practice
- impact of 'Religious Daoism' on Japanese popular religion/Shinto
- devotion and ritual in Japan's New Religions (SGI)
- transformation of Christian ritual in Japan
- popular Buddhist devotion in Kamakura Japan (i.e., Pure Land Buddhism)

AREA 3: Religion and Culture

- impact of Confucianism/Daoism/Buddhism on Japanese martial arts
- religion in Japanese drama: Kabuki & Noh
- religion in Japanese 'popular' culture: manga, anime, video games
- religion as a basis of Japanese horror films: *Ringu*, *Juon*
- Japanese religion in modern Hollywood films: *Last Samurai*, *Memoirs of a Geisha*

AREA 4: Myths and Legends

- ancient Japanese myth as reflection of political ideologies
- women in Japanese myth: Amaterasu/Tokoyo
- transformation of Chinese/Buddhist myths in Japan
- use of mythology in modern Japanese nationalism
- animals in Japanese myth & legend

Religions of East Asia



RELI 244 / EAST 244
Fall 2006 • Professor Shields

RESEARCH PAPER ASSIGNMENT: 40 TOPICS

CHINESE RELIGIONS:

AREA 1: Mysticism, Cosmology and Psychology

- Chinese world-system: Qi and Yin-Yang
- Divination in modern China
- Daoism and modern psychology
- Feng shui in the modern age
- Daoism and Chinese medicine

AREA 2: Ritual and Devotion

- devotional aspects of Confucianism
- emergence of 'Religious Daoism' out of 'Philosophical Daoism'
- Daoism and popular millennial cults
- what is 'Chinese' about Mahayana devotion?
- popular Buddhist rituals in modern China

AREA 3: Religion and Culture

- impact of Confucianism/Daoism/Buddhism on Chinese martial arts
- religion in Chinese opera
- religion in Chinese 'popular' culture
- religion in Mao's 'Cultural Revolution'
- religion in modern Chinese film

AREA 4: Myths and Legends

- ancient Chinese myth as reflection of political structures
- women in Chinese myth: goddesses
- transformation of Indian/Buddhist myths in China
- Kuan yin / Kannon: sex-change of a bodhisattva
- animals in Chinese myth & legend (Monkey-King)

JAPANESE RELIGIONS

AREA 1: Mysticism, Cosmology and Psychology

- Zen meditation as psychology
- Divination/shamanism in Japanese religion
- Esoteric/Tantric Buddhism in Japan (Kûkai, Shingon)
- Philosophical Taoism (Yin/Yang; *feng shui*) in modern Japan
- Chinese medicine/alchemy (*kanpo*) in Japan

AREA 2: Ritual and Devotion

- devotional aspects of Shinto practice
- impact of 'Religious Daoism' on Japanese popular religion/Shinto
- devotion and ritual in Japan's New Religions (SGI)
- transformation of Christian ritual in Japan
- popular Buddhist devotion in Kamakura Japan (i.e., Pure Land Buddhism)

AREA 3: Religion and Culture

- impact of Confucianism/Daoism/Buddhism on Japanese martial arts
- religion in Japanese drama: Kabuki & Noh
- religion in Japanese 'popular' culture: manga, anime, video games
- religion as a basis of Japanese horror films: *Ringu*, *Juon*
- Japanese religion in modern Hollywood films: *Last Samurai*, *Memoirs of a Geisha*

AREA 4: Myths and Legends

- ancient Japanese myth as reflection of political ideologies
- women in Japanese myth: Amaterasu/Tokoyo
- transformation of Chinese/Buddhist myths in Japan
- use of mythology in modern Japanese nationalism
- animals in Japanese myth & legend

Student Name: _____

Religions of East Asia



FINAL QUIZ

Bucknell University

RELI 244 / EAST 244

Examiner: Prof. James Mark Shields

Thursday, December 7, 2006

11:45 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Instructions: Of the following 6 questions, you **MUST** answer 5. Each question is worth a possible 5 marks, for a total of 25. For all questions, tell me as much as you can about the passage—identifying the tradition from which it comes, the specific form or forms of the tradition, the meaning and significance, and identify the terms involved (i.e., **A** → **D**). Please see the “Guide” to help with identification of the letters. Question #7 is a **BONUS** question worth a possible 2 marks.

Answer all questions directly on the exam paper. Please keep in mind the relative worth of each question, and budget your time and effort accordingly. Calculators and dictionaries are prohibited. Please write your name on this cover page.

Good luck. Buena suerte. Bonne chance. Viel Glück. 好运气. 頑張って。

This exam comprises 8 (eight) pages, including this cover page, and not including the “Guide”.

Religions of East Asia

FINAL QUIZ
GUIDE for Identification

A = name of a ceremony



E = a type of being



H = a place

