



Religion 211: Religions of the Eastern World
Spring 2016
Hardenbergh Hall A5, Tues & Thurs 1:10am-2:30pm

Dr. D.C. Lammerts
Office: Loree 130
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30-2:30pm (by appointment only)
Email: DCL96 (at) rutgers.edu

Course Description

This course presents an introduction to the study of religion(s) in different Asian cultural and historical contexts. Lectures and supporting readings explore the development 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, Participation, and Attendance (20%)

Please read closely and reflect on all readings assigned for the day before coming to class, and be prepared to participate actively in classroom discussion. 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.

We will begin with the assumption that you take an active interest in your education and in the content of this course. I will not take attendance unless it appears that students are routinely absent from class. You are allowed two unexcused absences throughout the semester. 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 six or more unexcused absences will receive a nonnegotiable F for the course.

Excused absences (including on quiz days) require an official note from Office of the Dean of Students (<http://deanofstudents.rutgers.edu/locations/>), which is only issued when a student presents medical or other documentation for the absence. Make-up quizzes will not be permitted without such a note. It is not necessary to email me about absences or "self-report" your absence on <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>.

ii) Quizzes (60%)

There will be three quizzes throughout the semester, each worth 20% of your final grade. The quizzes will cover the full content of lectures and readings. Content from the readings not explicitly covered in lecture may appear on a quiz.

iii) Final Paper (20%)

Students will write a final five- to six- page paper for this course, due May 6 at 5pm. We will discuss further guidelines and strategies for this project in class.

To submit: please upload your final paper as an attachment in .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf format to the "assignments" folder in Sakai whereupon it will be screened for originality by TurnItIn. Note that you should not need to visit the TurnItIn site and create an account for this purpose, although you may receive an email asking you to do so. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Please prepare all written assignments in 12-pt Times New Roman font and double-spaced US Letter page format with one-inch margins.

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 offense 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.

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 Dr. 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

Please email Dr. Lammerts if you intend to come to office hours, or if you would like to schedule an appointment to meet at another time or location.

vi) Contacting me via email

Developing skill in crafting formal emails and letters is essential for effective communication in professional contexts. If you contact me via email, kindly ensure that your email is composed properly as a formal letter. That is, your email should include a concise and descriptive subject line, appropriate salutation (Dear Dr./Professor Lammerts), body, and closing (Best Regards, Sincerely, etc.) followed by your name. Do not use "Hi Dr." or "Hey Prof." (or similar) as a salutation. The body should fully explain your question or comment in clear and correct prose. Note that I typically check my email only several times per week. That is, do not expect me to respond if you send me an email about a quiz the night before. Plan ahead!

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 professional 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.

Required Texts

Barbara Stoler Miller, trans. *The Bhagavad Gita: Krishna's Council in a Time of War* (New York: Bantam Classics, 1986).

Additional readings are, or will shortly be, available in PDF format on Sakai > Resources > Readings. Please note that further supplementary texts may be assigned during the semester or presented in class for discussion.

Course Outline and Readings

PART ONE

TRAJECTORIES OF HINDUISM IN ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL SOUTH ASIA

Jan 19. Introduction

* {Recommended (not required) reading:

Richard King, *Orientalism and Religion: Postcolonial Theory, India, and 'the Mystic East'* (London: Routledge, 1999): 82-95.}*

Jan 21. 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.

Jan 26. Upanisadic 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]

Jan 28. 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).

Feb 2. Bhagavad-gītā (BhG) I

Miller, *The Bhagavad Gita*, 1-6.

Feb 4. BhG II

Miller, *The Bhagavad Gita*, 1-6.

Feb 9. BhG III

Miller, *The Bhagavad Gita*, 7-18.

Feb 11. Ritual, Devotion, and Hindu Tantra

- A) Douglas Renfrew Brooks, "The Ocean of the Heart: Selections from the *Kulārṇava Tantra*," in *Tantra in Practice*, ed. D.G. White, 347-360 (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000).
B) Anant Pai, ed. *Tales of Durga* (Mumbai: Amar Chitra Katha, 1978): 1-31.

Extra Credit 1: Write a two-page biography of the goddess Durga, based on the comic, *Tales of Durga*. To receive extra credit (equivalent to +3 points on Quiz #1) please hand in your paper at the beginning of class on Feb 18.

Feb 16. Review #1

Feb 18. Quiz #1 (over Part One, Jan 21-Feb16)

PART TWO BUDDHISMS

Feb 23. What is a Buddha?

I.B. Horner, *Chronicle of Buddhas (Buddha-vamsa)* (Lancaster: Pali Text Society, 2007): 9-25.

Feb 25. Dhamma, Saṅgha, Tipiṭaka

A) I.B. Horner, *Book of the Discipline (Vinaya-piṭaka)* (Lancaster: Pali Text Society, 2007): Part 4, 52-54.

B) Bhikkhu Bodhi, "Setting in Motion the Wheel of the Dhamma" (*Dhammacakkappavattana-sutta*), 1843-1847.

C) Steven Collins, "The Discourse (Containing) a Lion's Roar on the Wheel-turning King" (*Cakkavattisīhanāda sutta*), in *Nirvāna and other Buddhist felicities* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998): 602-615.

Mar 1. Heavenly Mansions and Ghost Stories

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*—

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

from *Petavatthu*—

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

Mar 3. Jātaka Tales

I.B. Horner and Padmanabh S. Jaini, *Apocryphal Birth Stories (Paññāsa-Jātaka)*, 2 vols. (Oxford: Pali Text Society, 2003):

"Birth Story of the Two Headed Swan" (I, 301-306), "Birth Story of Viriyapaṇḍita" (I, 307-316), "Sīlajātaka" (II, 243-246).

Mar 8. Merit-making and the Destruction and Renewal of the *Sāsana* I

A) John Strong, *The Experience of Buddhism* (Belmont: Wadsworth, 2001): 52-56.

B) Bonnie Pacala Brereton, *Thai Tellings of Phra Malai: Texts and Rituals Concerning a Popular Buddhist Saint* (Tempe: Arizona State University, 1995): 187-203.

Mar 10. Merit-making and the Destruction 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.

Mar 15 & 17. Spring Recess.

Mar 22. Mahāyāna and Buddhist Tantra

A) Tsugunari Kubo and Akriya Yuyama, *The Lotus Sūtra* (Berkeley: Numata Center for Buddhist Translation and Research, 2007): 47-78.

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

Mar 24. FILM: *The Monk* (2014), directed by The Maw Naing, written by Maw Naing Aung.

Mar 29. *The Monk* (continued, and discussion)

Extra Credit 2: Write a film review of *The Monk*. To receive extra credit (equivalent to +3 points on Quiz #2) please hand in your paper at the beginning of class on April 5.

Mar 31. Review #2

April 5. Quiz #2 (over Part Two, Feb 23-Mar 31)

PART THREE

CONFUCIAN, DAOIST, ISLAMIC, AND CHRISTIAN DYNAMICS

April 7. Lineages of Religion in East Asia I: *Mengzi* and Confucianism

Bryan W. Van Norden, *The Essential Mengzi* (Indianapolis: Hackett, 2009): *selections*.

April 12. Lineages of Religion in East Asia II: Ge Hong's biography of Daoist Immortals

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)

April 14. Religion, Religions, and the State in Medieval China

Jiang Yonglin, *The Great Ming Code* (Da ming lü) (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2005): *selections*.

April 19. Conversions to Islam in Indonesia

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

April 21. Christianity in Japan and the Philippines

A) Barbara Watson Andaya and Yoneo Ishii, "The Arrival of Christianity," in *The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia*, Vol. 1, ed. Nicolas Tarling, 527-534 (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1994).

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

Extra Credit 3: Write a two-page analysis of the dynamics of conversion to Islam and Christianity in Asia. To receive extra credit (equivalent to +3 points on Quiz #3) please hand in your paper at the beginning of class on April 28.

April 26. Review #3

April 28. Quiz #3 (over Part Three, April 7-26)

May 6. Final essay due via Sakai by 5:00PM. Aim to submit your paper early: online submissions will close at 5:00PM sharp and late submissions cannot be accepted.