

Great Books in Asian Religions
Religious Studies 1J03
Term 1 – 2018/19

- Instructor: Dr. Mark Rowe
- Lectures: Mon/Wed. 2:30 – 3:20

Description

This course provides a broad introduction to certain foundational texts in several Asian religious traditions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism, and Shintō. We will rely on translations of primary source material with some use of secondary scholarship, amazing film, and multi-media. Subjects will include the purpose of a meaningful life, the creation of the world, the intersection of gods and humankind, suffering, enlightenment, poetry, past lives, war, revenge, love, and death. Students will not only gain broad knowledge of the religions of Asia but will also be encouraged to think critically about the role of religion, human history, and the meaning of life more generally. You will also be interviewing someone about the meaning of life! No previous knowledge of Asian religions is required for this course.

Requirements

Two in-class quizzes 50%

Online Assignment – 5%

Interview someone about the meaning of life 15%

Write about the Interview – 30%

There will be no final exam in this course.