ARTSSCI/SCAR 3S03

*The East Asian Religious Tradition*

McMaster University, Term 1 (2021–2022)

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# Course Description and Objectives

In this course, we will explore the critical concepts and systematic thoughts of major religious and cultural themes in the societies of China, Japan and Korea, which underlie religion as it has been, and continues to be, practiced in everyday life. Hence, we must consider religion and culture not as abstract, monolithic and ahistorical phenomena but as the expressions of individuals as they engage in social life. I hope the historical scope, the sources materials, and questions from the discussions in this course will encourage a comprehensive understanding of the diverse religious traditions in East Asia.

This course will be unfolded in two dimensions: chronological and thematic. I will first present the different religious traditions in East Asia according to the historical sequence. Then I want to dive into some specific topics and conduct further discussions with students, including the death and rebirth, material culture and ritual objects, gender and family, health and healing in East Asian religions, as well as the modernization of traditional religions and “western” religions in contemporary East Asia.

Readings of this course will focus on the translated primary texts and the latest secondary studies of East Asian religions.

# Required Materials and Texts

* Wm. Theodore de Bary, ed. *Sources of East Asian Tradition*, Vol. 1. New York: Columbia University Press, 2008.
* Other weekly readings will be made available on Avenue.

# Class Format

This is an asynchronous online course in which all the teaching materials and references will be delivered through Avenue.

# Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Discussion Posts and Responses 30%
2. Knowledge Check Quizzes 30%
3. Midterm Assessment 15%
4. Final Research Paper 25%

# Course Evaluation – Details

## Discussion Posts: 30%

There will be six discussion post assignments. Students will be asked to write 250-400 words on a given theme or question for each discussion and provide two feedbacks to their peers every two weeks. Their discussions and feedbacks must reference the class readings and will be graded on content and completion. All the discussion posts and responses will be submitted to Avenue in two weeks after they are assigned.

## Quizzes: 30%

There will be six knowledge check quizzes. Each quiz must be completed in two weeks after its release date. The quizzes contain true or false questions, multiple-choice questions, full-in-the-blanks, and short answer questions. They must be completed within a set time limit.

## Midterm Assessment: 15%, due October 31

Students will submit a research proposal that includes: a brief summary of their topic and argument, an outline, and an annotated bibliography, including at least ten sources. It is suggested that the topic of the proposal should be the same or closely related to the final research paper. A tutorial video will be posted to Avenue to help students navigate the library and its online resources.

## Final Assessment: 25%, due December 17

Students will submit a research paper (6-8 pages) that describes and analyzes one or several specific topics in East Asian religions. Details of the research paper will be circulated separately via Avenue.

**Work submitted late will not be accepted.**

# Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

**Week One: September 7 to 12**

Lecture: Orientation to Course and Earliest Times

Readings: Palmer, “Religion in Chinese Social and Political History,” 19 pages; *East Asian Traditions*, 1–28;

Assessments: Discussion Posts and Responses 1

**Week Two: September 13to 19**

Lecture: Chinese Religions (I): Daoism

Readings: *East Asian Traditions*, 49–68, 217–222; Kohn, “Introduction: the nature of Daoism,” *Daoism*, 1–11.

Assessments: Knowledge Check Quiz 1

**Week Three: September 20 to 26**

Lecture: Chinese Religions (II): Confucianism

Readings: *East Asian Traditions*, 29–40, 69–76, 178–187, 336–338 & 351–355.

Assessments: Discussion Posts and Responses 2

**Week Four: September 27 to October 3**

Lecture: Chinese Religions (III): Buddhism

Readings: Yü Chün-Fang, “Introduction” & “Chapter One: Major Buddhists Sutras and Treatises of Chinese Buddhism,” *Chinese Buddhism*, 1–69.

Assessments: Knowledge Check Quiz 2

**Week Five: October 4 to 10**

Lecture: Japanese Religions (I): Shintō

Readings: *East Asian Traditions*, 630–639; Hardacre, “The Kami in Myth,” “Shinto and Imperial Japan” *Shinto*, 47–70, 403–441.

Assessments: Discussion Posts and Responses 3

**Week Six: Midterm Recess, October 11 to 17**

**Week Seven: October 18 to 24**

Lecture: Japanese Religions (II): Buddhism

Readings: *East Asian Traditions*, 672–678; 698–708; 782–800;

Assessments: Knowledge Check Quiz 3

**Week Eight: October 25 to 31**

Lecture: Korean Religions: Buddhism & Neo-Confucianism

Readings: *East Asian Traditions*, 497–506,558–562.

Assessments: Discussion Posts and Responses 4, Midterm Assessment (due October 31)

**Week Nine: November 1 to 7**

Lecture: Death, Rebirth and the Unseen Realm

Readings: *East Asian Traditions,* 725–727; Stone, “Death,” *Critical Terms for the Study of Buddhism*, 56–76; Kohn, “Immortality,” 190–201; Miracle Tales (selected).

Assessments: Knowledge Check Quiz 4

**Week Ten: November 8 to 14**

Lecture: Material Culture in East Asian Religions

Readings: Kieschnick, “Chapter One: Sacred Power,” *The Impact of Buddhism on Chinese Material Culture*, 24–82; Huang, “Chapter Four: Materiality of Daoist Sacred Space,” *Picturing the Ture Form*, 190–244.

Assessments: Discussion Posts and Responses 5

**Week Eleven: November 15 to 21**

Lecture: Gender, Sexuality and Family in East Asian Religions

Readings: Balkwill, “The Sūtra on Transforming the Female Form,” 22 pages; Yü, “Buddhism and Gender,” *Chinese Buddhism*, 218–239; Kohn, *Daoism*, “Women and the Family,” 99–109.

Assessments: Knowledge Check Quiz 5

**Week Twelve: November 22 to 28**

Lecture: Health, Healing and East Asian Religions

Readings: Engelhardt, “Chapter Four: Longevity Techniques and Chinese Medicine,” *Daoism Handbook*, 74–108; Salguero, “Varieties of Buddhist Healing in Multiethnic Philadelphia,” 21 pages; Winfield, “Esoteric Ritual Remedies: Kūkai’s Cures for Emperor Kōnin,” *Buddhism and Medicine*, 222–225.

Assessments: Discussion Posts and Responses 6

**Week Thirteen: November 29 to December 5**

Lecture: Modernizations of East Asian Religions

Readings: Fenggang Yang, “Part 1: The Three Markets of Religions in China,” *Atlas of Religion in China*, 11–69; Ian Reader, “Turning to the Gods in Times of Trouble,” 22 pages; DuBois, *Religion and the Making of Modern East Asia*, 72–93, 194–230.

Assessments: Knowledge Check Quiz 6

**Week Fourteen/Final Week: Review and Q&A, December 6 to 12**

Lecture: Review

**Final Exam (Due December 17)**

# Course Policies

## Submission of Assignments

All assignments should be submitted electronically to the appropriate file folder on Avenue to Learn on the date the assignment is due. Do not submit the assignment via email! Please review the policies on “Avenue to Learn,” “Turnitin.com,” and “Late Submission of Assignments” included on this syllabus.

## Late Submission of Assignments

All reasonable requests for extensions will be considered prior to the assignment’s deadline. Late assignments submitted without extension will be penalized by 5% a day. Please request extensions in advance of the deadline.

## Absences, Missed Work, Illness

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work.”

## Avenue to Learn

In this course, we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster email accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

## Turnitin.com

In this course, we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via Avenue to Learn (A2L) plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work through A2L and/or Turnitin.com must still submit an electronic and/or hardcopy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com or A2L. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., online search, other software, etc.). For more information, please refer to the [Turnitin.com Policy](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

# University Policies

## Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academiccredentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academiccredit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty, please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity)**.**

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty

* Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
* Improper collaboration in group work.
* Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

## Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](https://sas.mcmaster.ca/) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [*Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities*](http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicAccommodation-StudentsWithDisabilities.pdf)policy.

## Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students requiring a [RISO](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/app/uploads/2019/02/Academic-Accommodation-for-Religious-Indigenous-and-Spiritual-Observances-Policy-on.pdf) accommodation should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar’s Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

## Conduct Expectations

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/app/uploads/Code-of-Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities.pdf) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, whether in person or online.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

## Copyright and Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

## Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all email communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University email account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

## Course Modification

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

## Extreme Circumstances

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.

## Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

| **MARK** | **GRADE** |
| --- | --- |
| 90-100 | A+ |
| 85-89 | A |
| 80-84 | A- |
| 77-79 | B+ |
| 73-76 | B |
| 70-72 | B- |
| 67-69 | C+ |
| 63-66 | C |
| 60-62 | C- |
| 57-59 | D+ |
| 53-56 | D |
| 50-52 | D- |
| 0-49 | F |