Course: THEO 169  
Term: Spring 2016  
Instructor: Prof. Dennis Deng  
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Course Description

Chinese people have had a variety of faiths. During the long course of China’s feudal society, Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism used to serve as the three mainstays for Chinese culture and civilization and pervasively and persistently dominated the traditional Chinese mind. They permeated not only the ruling circles and political institutions of the upper classes, but also the beliefs and customs of the people from the lower social strata. Hence, without an adequate knowledge of Chinese religions as it were, one can hardly obtain a sound knowledge of Chinese tradition, nor can one very well know about the way of life of the Chinese people and Chinese society.

In the process of its rise to its decline throughout the country’s feudal society, religious Daoism established a relationship with China’s Confucianism and the heterogeneous religions of mutual repulsion and mutual assimilation, developing toward syncretism. In each stage of its development, religious Daoism was always closely linked with and exerted profound influence upon the politics, economy, culture, art, natural sciences, and social life.

Course Outcomes

This class is a guide to the spiritual landscape of Daoism. In it the students will encounter events in the history of Daoism, meet the sages who wrote the Daoist texts, be introduced to the various schools of Daoist thinking, and get a feel for what it means to practice Daoism today.

Course Requirements and Form of Assessment

15% to 20% of the class time will be used to have a class discussion on the assigned reading. Several schools organized field trips to religious places of worship and Daoist monasteries as a part of the class activities will provide the students with first-hand experience of the living Daoist practice.

The term grade consist of class attendance 10%, class involvement 10%, mid-
term exam 30% and a term paper 50%. Term paper (10-15 pages) should be submitted no later than the last day of class.

**Attendance Policy**

Unexcused absence is not allowed in this class. Only valid medical or family emergencies qualify as an absence, and documentation of the same must be presented to the professor no later than the next class meeting. All other absences are considered to be unexcused. Late attendance may eventually cause grade detraction.

**Academic Honesty**

Please refer to the following web link for policies on academic honesty: [http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtm](http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtm)

**Required Texts**


**Reserved Readings**


All the above-mentioned readings are available in TBC library.
Class Advancement

Week 1 Introduction: Definitions and Controlling Concepts
Taoism-Growth of a Religion P1-25

Week 2 The Warring States Taoism-The Dao TeJing

Week 3 Zhuangzi
Fung Yu-lan, Chuang-Tzu, A new Selected Translation, Shanghai, Commercial Press, 1933.

Week 4 The Celestial Masters
Taoism-Growth of a Religion P53-78

Week 5 Gehong and His Tradition
Taoism-Growth of a Religion P78-114

Week 6 The Shangqing and Lingbao School Taoism-Growth of a Religion P114-184

Week 7 The Tang Period Taoism-Growth of a Religion P184-212

Week 8 Under Song and the Yuan: Interior Alchemy Taoism-Growth of a Religion P212-257

Week 9 The Decline of The Taoist Religion and the Rise of Secret Societies during the Period of the Ming and Qing Dynasties

Week 10 Seven Taoist Masters

Week 11 Taoist Monastic Life-Monastic Life in Medieval Daoism P87-140

Week 12 Systems of Taoism Taoism-A complete introduction P99-195
Week 13 Taoist Practices-The Secret of Golden Flower