Religions of Asia
THEO 199 / 3 Credit Hours
Offered Fall and Spring Semesters
Instructor: Julio Giuletti

Meeting Time & Location
Wednesday, 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm
University of Social Sciences and Humanities, HCMC

Course description
This is a survey course that will introduce students to the major tenants of the major religions in Asia, and the religious practices of the peoples of China, India, Korea, Japan, and Vietnam. The religions examined will include the various forms of Confucianism, Taoism, Shamanism, Christianity, Buddhism, Shinto and Zen Buddhism, Hòa Hảo, Cao Đài, and Hinduism as practiced in different countries.

Course objectives
- Improve students’ knowledge of Asian religions
- Sharpen students’ thinking about religious issues, both from personal and sociological perspectives
- Give students the knowledge required to analyze, compare and contrast religious practices of the same religion in different countries
- Give students an understanding of factors that affect the development of religions in Asian countries

Class schedule
Week 1: Introduction to the course. What is religion?

Week 2: Chinese Traditional Religions: Confucianism.
Readings:
- Laurence G. Thompson, Chinese Religion, chapter 1,
- Xin Zhong Yao, An Introduction to Confucianism, chapter 1

Week 3: Chinese Buddhism
Readings:
- Laurence G. Thompson, *Chinese Religion*, chapter 6

Week 4: Chinese Taoism
Readings:
- Red Pine, *Lao-Tzu's Taoteching, introduction and chapter 1, 2, 3, 4*

Week 5: Japanese Shinto and Zen Buddhism
Readings:
- H. Byron Earhart, *Japanese Religion, part one-chapter 3, 4, 5*
- H. Byron Earhart, *Religion in the Japanese Religion: Sources and Interpretations, chapter 42, 43, 44*

Week 6: Japan’s New Religions (*shinko shukyo*)
Readings:
- H. Byron Earhart, *Japanese Religion, part one-chapter 19*
- H. Byron Earhart, *Religion in the Japanese Religion: Sources and Interpretations, part 16*

Week 7: Korean Religions (Confucianism, Shamanism, and Christianity)
Readings:
- Earl H. Philips & Eiu Young Yu, *Religions in Korea: Beliefs and Cultural Values, chapter 6*

Week 8: Vietnamese Religions (Cao Dai, Hoa Hao Buddhism, and the Cult of Mother Goddess)
Readings:
- Cuong Tu Nguyen, *Zen in Medieval Vietnam, chapter 1 and 2*

Week 9: Tibetan Buddhism (Tantrism)
Readings:
- J. Powers, *Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism: chapter 5*
- John R. Carter, *Understanding Buddhists: chapter 1*

Week 10: Hinduism and Jainism in India
Readings:
- Padmanabh S. Jaini, *The Jaina Path of Purification, chapter 1*

Week 11: Theravada Buddhism in India and South-East Asia
Readings:

Week 12: Mahayana Buddhism in India and Tibet
Readings:
- Paul Williams, *Mahayana Buddhism, chapter 1*
Week 13: Asian Religions and Ethnic Conflicts  
Readings TBA

Week 14: Asian Religions and their Relationships with the State  
Readings TBA

Week 15: Asian Religions, Secularization, and Globalization.  
Readings TBA

**Student Assessment**

Students are required to take a class exam and submit a research paper (15 pages max.) one week after the course has been finished. The class exam would cover everything we have discussed in class. For the topic of research, students should consult the instructor. Final scores will be based on:

- Full attendance------------------------10%
- Discussion in class-------------------15%
- Class exam---------------------------25%
- Research paper----------------------50%

**Marking**

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<th>Grade</th>
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<td>A</td>
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**Academic integrity**

Any practice of academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating, plagiarism, obstructing the work of other students) perpetrated in a Loyola Vietnam Center course will result, at a minimum, in a grade of zero for every assignment in which the dishonesty was practiced. Instructors may impose penalties up to and including failure of the course. Hearing boards constituted by the chairman or the academic dean of the student's college may determine more serious penalties are also appropriate. Expulsion may be recommended if the seriousness of the misconduct warrants it. All instances of academic dishonesty must be reported by the instructor to the chairperson of the department involved, to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and to the academic dean of the college in which the student is registered. In the case of multiple instances of academic dishonesty, the academic dean of the student's college may convene a hearing board. Students have the right to appeal the decision of the hearing board to the academic dean of their college. The decision of the dean is final in all cases except expulsion. The sanction of expulsion for academic dishonesty may be imposed only by the Provost upon recommendation of a dean. Students have a right to appeal
any finding of academic dishonesty against them. The procedure for such an appeal can be found at [www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicgrievance.shtml](http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicgrievance.shtml).