

Arts and Science/Religious Studies 3S03
The East Asian Religious Tradition
 McMaster University, Term 2 (2019–20)
 {Last Updated November 13, 2019}

Lectures—Mondays and Wednesdays 10:30–11:20. KTH B132.
Tutorials—Tuesdays 1:30–2:20 BSB 119

Religious Studies Undergraduate Administrator—Jennifer Nettleton, ext. 23109.

Instructor—**Dr. James A. Benn**

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Office—University Hall 120

Office Hours—Mondays 11:30–12:30 and by appointment

Teaching Assistants—

There are none.

Course Description and Objectives

This course is designed to acquaint students with some of the major religious and cultural themes of East Asia as they have manifested themselves in the past and present in the societies of China, Japan and Korea. The course will place particular emphasis on the key ideas and systems of thought that underlie religion as it has been, and continues to be, practiced in everyday life. This means that we must consider religion and culture not as abstract, monolithic and ahistorical phenomena, but as the expressions of individuals as they engage in the social realm. A substantial amount of the reading for this course will be of primary texts in translation as we strive to understand the underlying principles of the religious traditions of East Asia and how they continue to influence the individual, the family, and the state.

Course Requirements and Grading

Attendance & participation in Tutorials, Lectures and on line (10%)

Regular preparation, attendance and participation are essential to understanding new material and acquiring knowledge. Your TA will determine this portion of your mark. Specific activities in tutorials (e.g., presentations, brief reports, leading discussion) may be required. You are also required to post online evidence of participation in discussions that occur during the lecture.

Make sure to read the assigned passages prior to attending Lectures and Tutorials and bring the relevant books to both!

Tests (30%)

Three online tests, 10% each. You will take three tests on Avenue. The tests are designed to ensure that you are attending lectures and completing assigned readings. The tests are not timed and you are encouraged to consult your notes and books.

Test 1: February 3–5
Test 2: March 2–4
Test 3: March 30–April 1

Essay (30%)

Details of the essay (6-8 pages) will be circulated separately via Avenue. It is due on March 17 via Avenue, so you should not need to print anything.

Work submitted late will not be accepted.

Final Examination (30%)

Date, time and place of the examination TBA. Expect to write three essays that require analysis and interpretation as well as a solid grasp of the facts.

NB. We will practice our writing in class regularly. Please bring something to write with (pen, paper, laptop, tablet, phone, etc.) to the Lecture and Tutorial meetings.

Policies

- **Don't Cheat**
- **We will be using Avenue to Learn. Your rights may be affected.**
- **Use your McMaster email account.**
- **Check the MSAF policy.**

DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC

Staff in the office of the Department of Religious Studies will not date-stamp or receive papers and other assignments. (This policy should not affect you since all your work is submitted online.)

**UNIVERSITY MANDATED
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials 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 academic credit 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, located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

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

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 e-mail 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.

AUTHENTICITY/PLAGIARISM DETECTION STATEMENT

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., on-line search, other software, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.

POLICY FOR MODIFYING A COURSE:

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 **their** McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes. Announcements will be made in class and by using the course email distribution list.

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 e-mail 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.

MCMASTER STUDENT ABSENCE FORM (MSAF):

The McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF) (<http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>) is a self-reporting tool for Undergraduate Students to report MEDICAL absences that last up to 3 days and provides the ability to request accommodation for any missed academic work (that is less than 25% of the course grade). Please note, this tool cannot be used during any final examination period. You may submit a maximum of ONE Academic Work Missed request per term. It is YOUR responsibility to follow up with your instructor immediately regarding the nature of the accommodation. If you are absent for more than 3 days, exceed one request per term, are absent for a reason other than medical, or have missed work worth 30% or more of the final grade, you MUST visit your Faculty Office. You may be required to provide supporting documentation. This form should be filled out when you are about to return to class after your absence.

Arts and Science MSAF statement

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF):

In the event of an absence, students should review and follow the Academic Regulations in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work.” Please consult the MSAF statement on our website (<https://artsci.mcmaster.ca/forms-requests/>) and direct any questions or concerns to Shelley Anderson or Madeline Van Impe in the Arts & Science Program Office as appropriate.

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 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.

Books

Required:

Wm. Theodore de Bary, ed. *Sources of East Asian Tradition*, Vol. 1. New York: Columbia University Press, 2008.

Thomas Dubois, *Religion and the Making of Modern East Asia*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011.

Ian Johnson, *The Souls of China: The Return of Religion After Mao*, London: Penguin, 2017.

The schedule outlined below may be modified at the discretion of the instructor. The instructor will notify students in class and will post any changes to the course website.

Schedule

Assigned Readings are given for each topic, but students will also read over the duration of the course Johnson’s *Souls of China: Religion After Mao* which will be the basis for the essay.

Week One: Orientation

****No Tutorial this week****

1. January 6th. Introduction and overview.
2. January 8th. The Magnetic Compass, Gunpowder, Printing, and Tea. Or, what have East Asian Religious Traditions ever done for us?

Reading

Look at the assigned books. Marvel at their size, length, and weight. Admire the cover designs.

Week Two: Earliest Times

1. January 13th. Oracle Bone Inscriptions (*East Asian Tradition*, 13–22).
2. January 14th. Tutorial
2. January 15th. Documents and Odes (*East Asian Tradition*, 22–28).

Week Three: Warring States

1. January 20th. Introducing Confucius (*East Asian Tradition*, 29–32).
2. January 21st. Tutorial
3. January 22nd. Mozi, Laozi (*East Asian Tradition*, 41–51).

Week Four: The *Analects* of Confucius

(*East Asian Tradition*, 32–40)

1. January 27th. *Analects* I
2. January 28th. Tutorial
3. January 29th. *Analects* II

Week Five: The Way and its Power **TEST NUMBER 1**

(*East Asian Tradition*, 51–60)

1. February 3rd. *Daode jing* I
2. February 4th. Tutorial
3. February 5th. *Daode jing* II

Week Six: Zhuangzi

1. February 10th. Zhuangzi (*East Asian Tradition*, 60–68)
2. February 11th. Tutorial
3. February 12th. Learning of the Mysterious (*East Asian Tradition*, 211–216)

Week Seven: No classes—Midterm Recess Daoism

1. February 17th. No class meeting
2. February 18th. No tutorial
3. February 19th. No class meeting

Week Eight: Daoism

1. February 24th. Daoist Religion I (*East Asian Tradition*, 217–222)
2. February 25th. Tutorial
2. February 26th. Daoist Religion II (*East Asian Tradition*, 219–237)

Week Nine: Chinese Buddhism **TEST NUMBER 2**

1. March 2nd. Introduction of Buddhism (*East Asian Tradition*, 223–237)
2. March 3rd. Tutorial.
2. March 4th. The *Lotus Sutra* in China (*East Asian Tradition*, 244–256)

Week Ten: Religion and Modern East Asia

1. March 9th. Religious Foundations of Late Imperial China (*Religion and Making*, 1–36)
2. March 10th Tutorial
3. March 11th. Buddhism in sixteenth-century Japan (*Religion and Making*, 53–72)

Week Eleven: Christianity and Buddhism in East Asia **Essay Due March 17th**

1. March 16th. Missions to East Asia (*Religion and Making*, 72–93)
2. March 17th Tutorial
3. March 18th. Buddhism in East Asia 17th to 19th centuries (*Religion and Making*, 94–122)

Week Twelve: Religion and Modernity in East Asia

1. March 23rd. Religion and the Encounter with the West, (*Religion and Making*, 141–193)
2. March 24th. Shintō and the Modern Japanese State (*Religion and Making*, 194–223)
3. March 25th. No class meeting. Instructor away at conference

Week Thirteen: Religion in the Present **TEST NUMBER 3**

1. March 30th. Christianity and Islam in China today. (*Souls of China*)
2. March 31st. Tutorial.
3. April 1st. Buddhism and Daoism in China today. (*Souls of China*)

Week Fourteen: Review

1. April 6th Religion in East Asia today.
2. April 7th. Tutorial. last class meeting. Exam review.