

Arts and Science/Religious Studies 3S03
The East Asian Religious Tradition
 McMaster University, Term 2 (2020–21)
 {Last updated November 26 2020}

All course materials, lectures, tutorials are online via Avenue for Winter 2021. Lecture delivery is asynchronous with one synchronous meeting per week, in the tutorial slot, on Fridays from 1:30-2:20pm.

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

Instructor—**Dr. James A. Benn**

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

Teaching Assistants—**Lan Li**

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Office Hours—Tuesdays 12:30–1:30

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.

Note

This course an asynchronous online course delivered through Avenue. There is one synchronous meeting per week, in the tutorial slot, on Fridays from 1:30-2:20pm. The meeting will be on Zoom. Please check your email for the invitation.

First Zoom tutorial meeting: Friday January 15. No meetings on Friday February 19th and Friday April 2nd.

Course Requirements and Grading

1. Participation in online discussion forums 15%
2. Regular Quizzes 30%
3. Essay 30% (Due March 24)
4. Final Exam 25% (Due April 21)

Participation in online discussion (15%)

Students will be graded based on their regular participation in Zoom tutorials and on the Avenue discussion boards for this course. It is your responsibility to answer the posted discussion questions, and participate in conversation with others in the course. Students must answer the posted question directly, and provide a thoughtful and respectful response to other students in their discussion group. Answers must engage with the course readings. You are not graded on grammar, but you are still expected to write coherently and clearly.

Tests (30%), due by the end of each module

Each of the seven modules contains “knowledge check” quizzes which must be completed in order to advance through the module, or to the next module. The quizzes contain multiple choice questions, fill-in-the-blanks, and short answer questions. They must be completed within a set time limit

Essay (30%)

Details of the essay (6-8 pages) will be circulated separately via Avenue. It is due on March 24 via Avenue, so you should not need to print anything. 😊

Work submitted late will not be accepted.

Final Examination (30%)

The Final exam will be a take home examination that assesses your understanding of and engagement with the course material across the whole course. It is due on April 21.

Policies

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don't Cheat• We will be using Avenue to Learn. Your rights may be affected.• Use your McMaster email account.• Check the MSAF policy. |
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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.

Class starts Monday January 11th. First online meeting is Friday January 15th.
Tutorials meet every Friday from January 15th, except for February 19th and April 2nd

Module 1 (Opens Tuesday January 5th, Closes Friday January 22nd)
Orientation to the Course, and Earliest Times.

Readings: *East Asian Traditions*, 1—28

Assessments: Knowledge Check Quiz, Discussion posts

Module 2 (Opens Monday January 18th, Closes Friday February 5th)
Warring States thinkers, Confucius, Mozi, Laozi

Readings *East Asian Traditions*, 29—40

Assessments: Knowledge Check Quiz, Discussion posts, Tutorials.

Module 3 (Opens Monday February 1, Closes Friday February 19th)
Daoist ideas: *Daode jing* and Zhuangzi

Readings: *East Asian Traditions* 51-68, 211-216

Assessments: Knowledge Check Quiz, Discussion posts, Tutorials.

Midterm Recess February 15-19

Module 4 (Opens Monday February 15th, Closes Friday March 5th)
Daoist Religion

Readings: *East Asian Traditions* 217--237

Assessments: Knowledge Check Quiz, Discussion posts, Tutorials.

Module 5 (Opens Monday March 1st, Closes Friday March 19th)
Chinese Buddhism

Readings: *East Asian Traditions* 223-256

Assessments: Knowledge Check Quiz, Discussion posts, Tutorials.

Module 6 (Opens Monday March 15th, Closes Friday April 2nd)
Religion and Modern East Asia

Readings: *Religion and Making*, 1–122

Assessments: Knowledge Check Quiz, Discussion posts, Tutorials.

Module 7 (Opens Monday March 22nd, Closes Wednesday April 14th)
Religion in Contemporary East Asia

Readings: *Religion and Making*, 141–223; *Souls of China*

Assessments: Knowledge Check Quiz, Discussion posts, Tutorials.

SENATE-APPROVED ADVISORY STATEMENTS

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

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. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>.

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.

AUTHENTICITY / PLAGIARISM DETECTION

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. **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 details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

COURSES WITH AN ONLINE ELEMENT

Some courses may use online elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, 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 a course that uses online elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

ONLINE PROCTORING

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

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](#) (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.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (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](#) policy.

REQUESTS FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC TERM WORK

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): 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”.

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 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.

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.

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.

NOTES FOR ALL ARTS & SCIENCE COURSES

1. Some of the statements above refer to a “Faculty Office”; please note that the Arts & Science Program Office serves in this capacity.
2. It is the responsibility of students to check their McMaster email regularly. Announcements will be made in class, via A2L, and/or via the course email distribution list.