

## **East Asian Religious Perspectives Religion 30523**

Fall 2004 / TR 1100-1220 / TBH 204

Instructor: Julius Tsai (Beasley Hall 110 / x6442 / [j.tsai@tcu.edu](mailto:j.tsai@tcu.edu))

Office hrs: T 1400-1500, by appointment, or through Virtual Office

### Course Description

Examines the development of Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism and Shinto in China and Japan. The course concludes with an examination of Christianity in China and Japan as well as the history of Asian traditions in America. The course will explore the religious worldviews of these traditions in historical and cultural context, as well as issues relating to the comparative study of religions.

### Course Objectives

1. to develop a historical understanding of major religious traditions in China and Japan (Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism, Shinto, and to a lesser extent Christianity, new religions, and Asian religions in America), and the ways in which humans have attempted to creatively deal with matters of ultimate human concern over time;
2. to develop an understanding of religious traditions as they move through space, through different populations cultures as they developing in multi-faceted ways in a pluralistic world.

### Texts

There are two texts required for this course:

1. Course Reader, available at Frog Prints
2. H. Fingarette, *Confucius: The Secular as Sacred* (reissued by Waveland, 1998), available at TCU Bookstore

## **Course Requirements**

### eCompanion

This course utilizes an online course companion called eCompanion, which is accessed through eCollege. This course's eCompanion includes syllabus, course schedule, a virtual office, paper dropbox, and selected web links.

Logging on to eCollege: Go to [www.tcuglobal.edu](http://www.tcuglobal.edu). At the Login ID box enter your TCU ID number. Tab to the Password box. Students who are NEW to eCollege, will use their birthdate (format mmdd) as their password. Students who exist on eCollege already will continue to use their same eCollege passwords. If you are unable to login, select the link titled "Login Help" located under the password box and complete the form by entering your first and last name and then using the tab to go to the User ID box and where you enter your TCU ID number. You will receive an email to your TCU mail account providing you with your login credentials. You can also contact the tcuglobal helpdesk by sending an email to [helpdesk@tcuglobal.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tcuglobal.edu) or by calling **1-800-826-1665**.

### E-mail Communication

All e-mail communication will be sent to your TCU mailbox. It will be your responsibility to have your e-mail mail forwarded from your TCU mailbox if you use a different e-mail account as your primary account

### Attendance.

Your regular attendance and thoughtful participation are assumed and are integral to the quality of everyone's experience in this class. You will be responsible for signing in on an attendance sheet that will be circulated at each class. Each absence will result in a deduction of 5% from a student's final grade; four absences will result in a student's failing the course. Please note that an absence does not excuse you from any work required for the course. I will work with you to make up work in case of Official University Absences (see TCU Student Handbook) and cases of serious illness, catastrophic accident, or family emergency verified with medical documentation and/or by the Office of Campus Life.

### Presentations

Click on **Presentations** under **Course Home** on eCollege for Presentation Guidelines and Presentation Schedule. Each week I will give two to three students 20 minutes for a seminar presentation. Seminar presentations should include two components: a) a brief; b) the facilitating of class discussion of those issues through the raising of provocative questions. You may use handouts, Powerpoint, images, and any additional material you think will help set a context for lively class discussion based on issues and themes in the readings for that week. Be creative!

### Papers

I will ask you to write four different kinds of papers (listed below), for which I will provide paper guidelines. These will be turned in to the e-college Drop-box. Late papers will be subject to a letter grade penalty, with the grade going down by a letter grade for each subsequent day late. See also **Papers** under the **Course Home** on eCollege.

### **Grading**

<u>Elements of grade</u>		<u>Grading scale</u>		
10%	Seminar Presentation One	A	90-100	Excellent
10%	Seminar Presentation Two	B	80-89	Good
20%	Paper One: Primary Text Analysis	C	70-79	Satisfactory
20%	Paper Two: Book Review	D	60-69	Poor
20%	Paper Three: Visitor's Guide to Fort Worth Japanese Gardens	F	0-59	Failing
20%	Paper Four: Film Review			

### **TCU Policies and Resources**

#### **Disabilities Statement**

Texas Christian University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 regarding students with disabilities. If you require accommodations for a disability, please contact the **Coordinator for Students with Disabilities in the Center for Academic Services, located in Sadler Hall 11.** Further information can be obtained from the Center for Academic Services, TCU Box 297710, Fort Worth, TX 76129, or at 817-257-7486. Adequate time must be allowed to arrange accommodations and accommodations are not retroactive; therefore, students should contact the Coordinator as soon as possible in the academic term for which they are seeking accommodations. *Each eligible student is responsible for presenting relevant, verifiable, professional documentation and/or assessment reports to the Coordinator.* Guidelines for documentation may be found at <http://www.acs.tcu.edu/DISABILITY.HTM>. Students with emergency medical information or needing special arrangements in case a building must be evacuated should discuss this information with their instructor/professor as soon as possible.

## TCU Campus Resources for Students

Campus Life Office (257-7926, Sadler Hall 101); Mary Coats Burnet Library (257-7117); Center for Academic Services (257-7486, Sadler Hall 11); the William L. Adams Writing Center (257-7221, Rickel Bldg. 244); Student Development Services (257-7855, Student Center Rm. 220); and University Ministries (257-7830, Student Center Rm. 111).

### **Class Schedule**

Week 1 (8/26)	Introduction to East Asian Religions and Cultures
Week 2 (9/2)	The Age of the Hundred Philosophers: Warring States China
Week 3 (9/9)	Religion and Empire: Confucianism and Daoism in the Han and Medieval Periods
Week 4 (9/16)	Heroes, Kings, and the Problematic Ideal of Unity in China
Week 5 (9/23)	The Sinification of Buddhism
Week 6 (9/30)	Neo-Confucianism and Traditional Religious Patterns
Week 7 (10/7)	Ritual in East Asian Religions
Week 8 (10/14)	NO CLASS
Week 9 (10/21)	The Way of the Gods: Shinto in Japan
(10/27)	Sacred Journeys: The Art of Hinduism and Buddhism <u>Field Trip</u> : Kimbell Art Museum (2:00 pm - 5:00 pm)
Week 10 (10/28)	Buddhism in Japan
Week 11 (11/4)	Christianity in China and Japan
Week 12 (11/11)	The Japanese Garden: The Aesthetics of East Asian Religions <u>Field Trip</u> : Fort Worth Japanese Gardens (meet there at 3:30 pm)
Week 13 (11/18)	New Religious Movements in China and Japan
Week 14 (11/25)	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Holiday)
Week 16 (12/2)	Religions of China and Japan in America, Religion in Asian America