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| Osaka Gakuin University 2012-13 Fall Semester | |
| Japanese Religion | |
| Instructor : | |
| Jason Bartashius E-mail: jaybarts@hotmail.com Lesson : Tuesday, Thursday 14:30- 16:00 Office Hours : N/A Subject code : 1038 | |
| Course Description: | |
| <p>This course offers an introduction to the religious traditions in Japan including Shinto, Buddhism, Christianity as well as a sampling of the New Religions by surveying the history, myths, beliefs and rituals of each. The latter is especially important for students to not only reach a fuller understanding of the religious devotion that they may witness at the temples and shrines the class will visit, but also to see how the Japanese tend to place more emphasis on practice rather than belief, which popularly tends to be the Western defining element of religion.</p> <p>The course concludes with special topic lectures discussing American Buddhism and Buddhist-Christian Studies. These lectures give students the chance to compare and contrast Japanese and American Buddhism as well as Buddhism and Christianity.</p> | |
| Resources | |
| 1. Ian Reader, <i>Shinto</i> (Simple Guides, 2007) 2. Byron Earhart <i>Japanese Religion: Unity and Diversity</i> (4 th ed, 2003) 3. Handouts (See Course Schedule for handout titles) | |
| Evaluation | |
| 20% Participation | |

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| <p>Participation grades are measured according to the student's attendance, preparation for class and engagement in class discussions.</p> <p>30% Research Paper (8-10 pages)</p> <p>A handout will be given in class with due dates and additional information.</p> <p>20% Midterm Exam 30 % Final Exam</p> |
| Notes: |
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| Course Schedule: |
| <p>9/11 Characteristics of Japanese Religions / Early Religion in Japan</p> <p>9/12 Shinto: Defining Features Readings: Reader, <i>Shinto</i> pp. 16-63</p> <p>9/18 Shinto Ritual Life Readings: Reader, <i>Shinto</i> pp. 94-121</p> <p>9/19 Introduction to Buddhism and Confucianism</p> <p>9/25 Mahayana Buddhism: (Film <i>Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter, and Spring</i>)</p> <p>9/26 The Nara Schools Readings: Earhart, <i>Japanese Religion</i> pp. 41-51</p> <p>10/2 Heian Buddhism: Shingon Readings: Earhart, <i>Japanese Religion</i> pp. 83-90</p> |

10/3 Heian Buddhism: Shingon / Shugendo

10/9 Heian Buddhism: Tendai

Readings: Earhart, *Japanese Religion* pp. 91-96

10/14 Tour of Mt. Hiei

10/16 Midterm Exam

10/17 Kamakura Buddhism: Pure Land

Readings: Earhart, *Japanese Religion* pp. 98-104

10/23 Kamakura Buddhism: Nichiren

Readings: Earhart, *Japanese Religion* pp. 104-106

10/24 Kamakura Buddhism: Zen

Readings: Earhart, *Japanese Religion* pp.106-113

10/30 Bodhisattva Cults and Iconography: Jizo and Kannon

Readings: Handout "Kshitigarbha (Jizo) *Monk As Earth Mother*"
Handout "Artist Creates Yokohama Bodhisattvas"

10/31 Tokugawa Religion: Christianity and the Danka System

Readings: Earhart, *Japanese Religion* pp. 128-135

11/6 Tokugawa Religion: Obaku Zen

11/7 Tokugawa Religion: Neo Confucianism and Restoration Shinto

Readings: Handout "Motoori Norinaga: On the Emperor and Japan"
Earhart, *Japanese Religion* pp. 144- 157

11/13 Meiji Religion: State Shinto

Readings: Earhart pp. 161-176

Handouts: "Imperial Rescript on Education"; "Extract from a textbook on ethics from the 1930s"

11/14 Imperial Japan: State Shinto/ Buddhism

Readings: Reader, *Shinto* 122-129

Handout: "Zen Master Dogen Goes to War: The militarist and anti-Semitic writings of Yasutani Haku'un"

11/20 New Religions: Soka Gakkai

Readings: Earhart, *Japanese Religion* pp. 200-204

11/21 New Religions: Aum Shinrikyo

11/27 New Religions: Aum Shinrikyo (Documentary: A)

11/28 Contemporary Religion in Japan

Readings: Earhart, *Japanese Religion* pp. 214-228
Reader, *Shinto* pp. 130-137

12/2 Tour of Arashiyama

12/5 The Yasukuni Shrine Controversy

Readings: Handout "Introduction A Yasukuni Genealogy"

12/11 Women and Japanese Religion: Soto Zen Nuns

12/12 Japanese Buddhist Traditions in the United States

Readings: Handout "Zen in America"

12/18 Buddhist-Christian Dialogue

Readings: Handout "God is in the zendo"

12/19 Final Exam