

History 5317: W01: Religions of Asia

Spring 2024: Dr. Mark Saad Saka

Course Objective

The objective of this course is to examine the religious and spiritual traditions of Southern and Eastern Asia (those originating from India, China, and Japan) in a comparative world framework. We will begin by examining the issue of understanding world religions in a global perspective as well as the indigenous basis of Asian religions. We will then examine the three main religious traditions of South Asia (Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism). We will then examine Buddhism, which originated in India but shaped the entire East Asian cultures and religions for thousands of years. Following that, the religions of East Asia (China and Japan) Daoism, Confucianism and Shintoism. Finally, we will delve into Islam as it is practiced in East Asia, something that few Americans have an understanding of, but has also shaped Indian, Southeast Asia (Malaysia, Cambodia, Miramar), and such Pacific Islands as Indonesia and the Philippines. And as a final aspect, we will look at some of the new age faiths emanating from the region as globalization is reshaping the modern world.

I believe this may one of the most important and enjoyable courses you will ever take in your college experience. I have taught it for over thirty years and out of the fifty or more college courses I have taught, I think I enjoy this one the most enjoyable.

Course Structure-Where to Go and How:

This course is a web offered.

You must have regular access to the computer and the internet, the course is to be located on your Blackboard.

Required Readings:

Religions of Asia Today by John Esposito, Darrell J. Fasching, and Todd Lewis. 4th Edition. 2017, Oxford University Press, ISBN # 978-0190642426.

An Introduction to Hinduism: by Gavin Flood, Cambridge University Press, 1996, ISBN 0-521-43878--0

Buddha by Karen Armstrong, Penguin Books, 2001, ISBN # 0-670-89193-2

Course Requirements

There are a number of requirements for this course.

1. Email me within the first week of class and let me know that you have read and understand the syllabus and have located the books.
2. Answer the questions assigned to each of the books, the questions are at the bottom of this syllabus.

Distance Education Statement: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments through Blackboard or SRSU email, which require secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act): Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students who need accessibility services should contact Rebecca Wren at 432-837-8691; Ferguson Hall Room 112.

Marketability Skills of a History Major

SLO 1—The history student will demonstrate historical research skills in a logically organized, written paper that is mechanically correct and supported by relevant documentation of historical content.

Marketable skills---Students can identify useful resources from a pool of data.

Students can select and organize data in a relevant manner.

Students can make written presentations to various audiences.

SLO 2—The history student will demonstrate the ability to write about topics in historiography and how those topics are interpreted.

Marketable skills---Students can utilize data to persuade various audiences.

Students can utilize data to generate and strengthen ideas.

Students can decipher stances adopted by various individuals.

SLO 3—The history student will demonstrate knowledge of American History, World History, and Nonamerican history.

Marketable Skills---Students can meet deadlines in a successful manner.

Students can discharge responsibilities in an adequate manner.

Students can manage the absorption of data.

Requirements for the Research Paper

Due: each of you will submit your proposed final paper topics.

You must consult with the professor about possible paper topics prior to making your final decision. You may choose any subject relevant to the theme and chronology of this seminar. This essay must have a strong, coherent thesis statement, which will be supported by a

minimum of 3 scholarly sources. These may include works from the required, supplemental, and/or recommended reading lists.

Papers must be typed or word-processed in 12-point fonts (Times New Roman, Arial, or Calibri), double-spaced, with one-inch margins all around. All papers will be evaluated on style and content and therefore should be well-written and free of grammatical errors. Papers that are not formatted according to guidelines and requirements will be dropped one letter grade.

Topic selection must occur no later than April 1, 2024. It is expected that each of you will consult with me to discuss possible paper topics prior to making your final decisions. You may choose any subject relative to the theme of this seminar, and your papers must be based on both primary and secondary sources. You will be required to include at least 2 scholarly sources and no more than three internet sources in your final paper.

Papers will be evaluated on the following points:

1. strength of your historical arguments and content
2. how well you have used historical evidence to support your arguments • composition (i.e., spelling, grammar, sentence structure) • form (i.e., correct citation)

Academic Honesty the University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of their classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. "Cheating" includes: 1. Copying from another student's test paper, laboratory report, other report, or computer files, data listings, and/or programs, or allowing another student to copy from same. 2. Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test. 3. Collaborating, without authorization, with another person during an examination or in preparing academic work. 4. Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of a no administered test. 5. Substituting for another student; permitting any other person, or otherwise assisting any other person to substitute for oneself or for another student in the taking of an examination or test or the preparation of academic work to be submitted for academic credit. 6. Bribing another person to obtain a non-administered test or information about a no administered test. 7. Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm. This section does not apply to the typing of a rough and/or final version of an assignment by a professional typist. 8. "Plagiarism" means the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another's work or idea in one's own written work offered for credit. 9. "Collusion" means the

unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit. 10. "Abuse of resource materials" means the mutilation, destruction, concealment, theft or alteration of materials provided to assist students in the mastery of course materials. 11. "Academic work" means the preparation of an essay, dissertation, thesis, report, problem, assignment, or other project that the student submits as a course requirement or for a grade. 12. "Falsification of Data" means the representation, claim, or use of research, data, statistics, records, files, results, or information that is falsified, fabricated, fraudulently altered, or otherwise misappropriated or misrepresented.

All academic dishonesty cases may be first considered and reviewed by the faculty member. If the faculty member believes that an academic penalty is necessary, he/she may assign a penalty but must notify the student of his/her right to appeal to the department chair, the dean and eventually, to the Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs before imposition of the penalty. At each step in the process, the student shall be entitled to written notice of the offense and/or of the administrative decision, an opportunity to respond, and an impartial disposition as to the merits of his/her case. The decision of the Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs shall be final.
