REL303 F11 Japanese Religions Syllabus

Religious Studies 303 Japanese Religions, Fall 2011
CRN 16297
Instructor: Mark T. Unno, Office: PLC 812, Tel. 346-4973, Email: munno@uoregon.edu
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Class meetings: 10:00-10:50 MWF, 16 PAC
Office Hours: Wednesdays & Fridays 1:00-2:00 p.m.

This course traces select themes and developments in the history of Japanese religion. Based on an interdisciplinary approach, various aspects of intellectual and social history are examined including: the relation between state and religion; issues of gender, class, and cultural identity; religious experience; and ritual and institutional practices. We will examine representative samples of primary texts in translation supported by secondary scholarly literature. Various forms of Japanese Buddhism including Zen and Pure Land as well as Shinto will be examined through such genres as journals, shamanic oracles, philosophical texts, monastic schedules, poetry, fiction, folk tales, and cooking instructions.

Requirements
1. Attendance: Required. Students can have one unexcused absence without penalty. Each class missed thereafter without prior permission will result in 1/2 grade penalty for the course grade.
2. Short exam: There will be two short, in-class exams, based on materials from the readings, lectures, and course web site. The first exam will also contain questions on writing papers.
3. Short papers: Students will write two short papers based on topics that will be provided by the instructor.
4. Final paper: Each student will hand in a medium length final paper of 5-6 pages (approx 1500 words) double-spaced. Suggested topics will be provided. Students may choose to create their own topics with the consent of their section leader. In the case of the latter, a one-paragraph description of the topic must be submitted by email to the instructor one week prior to the due date.
5. Late policy on written assignments: Three grace days total will be allotted excluding the medium-length final paper for which no extensions will be given. For all other assignments, a cumulative total of three late days will be allowed without penalty. Thereafter, each late day will result in a two-point deduction from the course grade. Weekends are not counted against the grace days.

Email accounts. Students should all have email accounts. Your email address will be used to communicate with you during the course.

Grades

* Short exam 1 10% Short paper I 15% Short paper II 20%
* Short exam 2 10% Final paper 30% Attendance and participation 15%

Note: You must complete all assignments in order to receive course credit. Even if you are too late for an assignment to receive a passing grade, you must hand it in.

Required Texts
Course Reader, REL 303 Japanese Religions, Fall 2006, available at the Copy Shop, 539 E. 13th Street, Eugene, OR 97401, TEL 485 6253.

Weekly Schedule REL 303 Japanese Religions
(Reading assignments are to be completed by the date under which they are listed.)
Part I: The Religion of the Kami and the Development of State Religion
9/26 Introduction: Themes of Japanese Religion and Culture
9/28 Tribal Origins and the Formation of State Religion
9/30 Social and Mythic Patterns of Early Japanese Religion
10/3 Development of State Religion: *Kojiki* and *Nihonshoki*
10/5 Shamanism in Early Japanese Religion
10/7 Shamanism in the New Religions of Modern Japan
10/10 Divine Madness in Modern Japanese Religion
Reading: CR: Mark Unno, "Divine Madness" 96-112.
10/12 Inari - A Case of Contemporary Kami Devotionalism
Reading: CR: Karen A. Smyers, "My Own Inari" 85-95.
10/14 Shamanism, Madness, and Inari - Kami at the Divine Intersection Exam A in class
Reading: CR: Karen A. Smyers, "My Own Inari" 96-106.

Part II: Medieval Japanese Buddhism - Zen and Pure Land Examples
10/17 Zen Master Dogen
Reading: CR: Mark Unno, "Philosophical Terms in the Zen Buddhist Thought of Dogen."
10/21 Reading: CR: Barbara Ruch, "The Other Side of Culture in Medieval Japan" 500-511.
Pure Land Path of Shinran Paper I due in class.
10/24 Reading: CR: Mark Unno, Key Terms: "Pure Land Buddhism of Honen and Shinran"

Part III: Buddhism, Pluralism, Art, and Culture
10/31 Film: *Paprika*
11/2 Myoe and Pluralism
Reading: CR: Robert E. Morell, "Zeami's Kasuga ryujin (Dragon God of Kasuga)" 103-122.
11/4 Way of Tea - Culture, Commerce, Religion, and Art
11/7 Art, Religion and Death
Reading: CR: Stephen Grant, "Thoughts on Rikyu's Death" 1-2; NISHITANI, "Ikebana" 33-35; LaFleur, "Chapter 2: In and Out of the Rokudo." Paper II due in class

Part IV: Buddhism Between America and Japan
11/21 Exam B in class
11/23 Discussion of Paper Topics.
11/25 (Thanksgiving Break)
11/28 Zen Nuns Then and Now
12/2 Final Lecture: What is Japanese Religion? Final papers due in class

Course Reader, REL 303 Japanese Religions
(Readings listed in order included. Entries given below follow footnote/endnote format.)
1. Major Periods and Cultural Epochs of Japanese History (from Paul Varley, see below)
9. Mark Unno, "Philosophical Terms in the Zen Buddhist Thought of Dogen."
12. Mark Unno, Key Terms: "Pure Land Buddhism of Honen and Shinran"