

**TITLE: RS 206R/EASIA 206R JAPANESE RELIGIONS**

Fall 2015 Renison University College

**Class hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10am-11:20am in Renison classroom 1918

**Office hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:45am-12:45pm, and by appointment in Renison office 1412

**Professor Jeff Wilson:** jeff.wilson@uwaterloo.ca, 519-884-4404 x28625

**A helpful link to consult before sending email to your professors:**

<http://www.wellesley.edu/socialcomputing/Netiquette/netiquetteprofessor.html>

**Link to UW Religious Studies Society:** <https://www.facebook.com/pages/UW-RS-Society/569260749758923?fref=ts>

“At the outset, we must realize that Japanese religion has a long history and that it possesses its own internal unity. The primary guide, then, is to place Japanese religion within its own historical context and, above all, to understand it within its own basic assumptions. This means we must avoid using the basic assumptions of our own tradition to interpret Japanese religion.”

—H. Byron Earhart, *Religion in the Japanese Experience*, p. 3

**Description:**

This course examines the religious traditions of Japan. We will explore ideas and practices from Daoism, Confucianism, Buddhism, Shinto, Christianity, and folk traditions.

**Course Objectives:**

By the end of the course students will understand diverse aspects of these traditions, their place in the unfolding history of Japan, and their contribution to various elements of Japanese culture.

**Required texts:**

There is one *required* textbook for this course: *Religion in the Japanese Experience* by H. Byron Earhart. It is available in the UW bookstore. A copy has also been placed on reserve in the Renison Library. Students are expected to bring the textbook to class.

Students should do the readings before the day for which they are assigned, and re-read the primary source readings after lecture in preparation for writing their papers.

**Marking:**

Course marking for RS 206R/EASIA 206R consists of two in-class tests (25% each), short papers (30%), attendance (10%) and participation (10%), i.e. involvement in class discussions. Students are highly encouraged to come to the professor’s office hours with questions or for further discussion of the materials.

**Attendance:**

Students are expected to attend every scheduled class, and attendance will be taken (this includes the in-class exam days). Failure to do so without an acceptable excuse will result in a lower grade. Each missed class that is counted against the student will result in

a loss of half of one mark off their final mark for the course; every two late arrivals to class will also result in a loss of half of one mark off the final mark. There are two types of excusable absences. Anticipated excused absences include the following: 1) The student is away from campus representing an official university function, (e.g., participating in a professional meeting, as part of a judging team, or athletic team). A note from a University faculty or staff member (such as your coach) must be provided PRIOR to the absence. 2) Required court attendance. A note certified by the Clerk of Court must be provided. 3) Religious observances. The student must notify the professor and obtain permission **prior** to the holiday. 4) Required military duty. A note from the student's commanding officer is required.

Emergency absences include the following: 1) Serious illness or injury. A note must be provided by an attending physician. 2) Death or serious illnesses in the family when documented appropriately. An attempt to verify deaths or serious illness may be made by the instructor. In all cases the reason for the unexpected absence must be reported to the instructor within one week of the student's return to class.

### **Written assignments:**

There is no research paper required for this course. Instead, students will write ten response papers to the required readings that examine aspects of those readings in depth. **YOU MAY ONLY WRITE PAPERS BASED ON CERTAIN ASSIGNED READINGS;** these readings are clearly marked on the syllabus. Papers will be 650-1000 words in length (i.e. approximately 2-3 full pages), double-spaced, with 12-point type, black ink, and one-inch margins. Papers are due the week after the sources they are based on were assigned, on Tuesdays, at 10am. No late papers will be accepted, so you are advised to plan ahead and consider turning in papers early so as to avoid last minute crises. Papers are to be submitted using the dropboxes on Learn.

You may only hand in one paper per week, but you may write about more than one reading in each paper (for instance, if two qualifying readings are assigned for one week, you may discuss both of them). However, papers that discuss more than one reading are expected to be three full pages and to say something substantial about each reading. You may also refer to any previous readings, films, lectures, or guest speakers if relevant, but this is in addition to discussing the current readings.

Papers are marked on a 100 point scale that considers style, use of sources, adherence to the assignment, insight, and creativity. Failure to follow the guidelines established here will result in automatically lower marks.

**Recipe for successful papers:** Be focused. It is not possible to address all of the ideas in all of the assigned readings in a two or three page essay. Consider addressing one specific quote or idea to focus your essay. Also, avoid summarizing or reiterating an article—**this is not a book report**. You should concentrate on analyzing a specific point related to the text. Perhaps you'll want to connect a quote to larger themes of the lectures or textbook—for example, the forms of analysis discussed during the first week of the course can often be usefully applied to your primary source readings. Students should

make an argument and supply evidence for your claim. Successful papers indicate engaged thinking. **Do not simply state your opinion about the correctness of an idea or practice or compare it to your own ideas/experiences**—this is not a theology course. We are not here to judge the merits of Buddhist traditions but to understand them as fully as possible. If you consult outside sources, cite them properly using an accepted reference style. If you are uncertain about a paper, you can always show it to the instructor before handing it in and we can discuss whether it needs to be changed or improved to qualify as an acceptable paper.

I urge you to make use of the following link for writing resources: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/resources>. It has many resources to assist you as you work to improve your paper-writing craft. Students are especially pointed to the sections on “College Writing,” “Passive Voice,” “Conclusions,” and “Argument.” After your paper has been marked, it will be helpful to again consult the resources at this link to learn more about the mistakes that were flagged.

**Etiquette:**

If you register for the course after lectures have already begun, you are responsible for finding out what you missed. There is no make-up work allowed in this course.

If the textbook or courseware sells out, you should borrow copies off your classmates while you wait for the bookstore to restock. You can also ask the instructor about borrowing materials or getting photocopies in the meantime.

Laptops and all other electronic devices are to be turned off and stowed away during class time. You may use paper to take notes if you wish. Studies conclusively demonstrate that laptops cause distraction for students and their classmates, and that handwritten notes result in better comprehension and retention than electronic ones. Students who violate the electronics policy will be asked to turn off their devices, and will have their final mark decreased. NOTE: students who need access to electronic devices for approved accessibility issues or one-time family emergency situations may ask for possible relaxation of this policy.

Students may eat and drink during class so long as it does not distract anyone else in the classroom. Therefore you should avoid smelly foods or noisy packaging. Note, however, that university policy does not allow eating during tests, and only beverages in clear, unlabeled containers are allowed during tests.

Class begins at 10am and ends at 11:20am. Students who are not seated by 10am will be marked late; students who leave before 11:20am will be docked in their attendance mark. If you are unable to be in class by 10am or unable to stay until 11:20am, you should register for a different course instead.

Late assignments are not accepted.

Please read this syllabus very carefully. Nearly any question you may have about student responsibilities is covered here. While this course outline is not a contract, it is the guideline that we will use to manage our course, and changes will only be made in necessary circumstances and in consultation with the class.

## SCHEDULE

September 15: Introduction

**No assigned reading**

September 17: Japanese religious background

**Required reading: 1-4, 157-164**

Readings that qualify as material for papers due Tuesday Sept 22 at 10am:

“The Will of a Tenth Century Nobleman”

“Letter to the Viceroy of the Indies”

“The Pill of the Three Religions”

September 22: Shinto Myths and Beliefs

**Required reading: 6-19, 28-34**

Readings that qualify as material for papers due Tuesday Sept 29 at 10am:

“The Age of Kami”

September 24: Shinto Practices and Shrines

**Required reading: 19-22, 34-38, 196-200**

Readings that qualify as material for papers due Tuesday Sept 29 at 10am:

“Great Exorcism of the Last Day of the Sixth Month”

September 29: Ise Jingu

**Required reading: 23-25**

Readings that qualify as material for papers due Tuesday Oct 6 at 10am:

“A Pilgrimage to Ise”

October 1: State Shinto

**Required reading: 25-28, 252-255, 236-242, 38-44**

Readings that qualify as material for papers due Tuesday Oct 6 at 10am:

“A Chronicle of Gods and Sovereigns”

“Imperial Rescript on Education”

“Cardinal Principles of the National Entity of Japan”

“Abolition of State Shinto”

“The Imperial Rescript of January 1, 1946”

October 6: Japanese Buddhism

**Required reading: 45-54, 60-65**

Readings that qualify as material for papers due Tuesday Oct 13 at 10am:

“Buddhism: Tribute from Korea”

October 8: Tendai

**Required reading: 81-85, 54-60**

Readings that qualify as material for papers due Tuesday Oct 13 at 10am:

“Regulations to Encourage Tendai Yearly Ordinand Students”

“Enlightenment is Possible for All People”

October 13: Shingon

**Required reading: 85-88**

Readings that qualify as material for papers due Tuesday Oct 20 at 10am:

“A Memorial Presenting a List of Newly Imported Sutras and Other Items”

October 15: Shikoku Pilgrimage

**No assigned reading**

October 20: Pilgrimage in Japan

**No assigned reading**

October 22: Popular Practices

**Required reading: 126-129, 135-139, 205-212**

Readings that qualify as material for papers due Tuesday Oct 27 at 10am:

“Folk Legends of Japan”

October 27: Spirit Pacification and Funeral Practices

**Required reading: 185-194, 201-204**

Note: no paper due November 3

October 29: MID-SEMESTER TEST

**No assigned reading**

November 3: Jodo Shu

**Required reading: 88-91**

Readings that qualify as material for papers due Tuesday Nov 10 at 10am:

“Honen’s Advice on the Repetition of the Nembutsu”

November 5: Jodo Shinshu

**Required reading: 91-94, 65-73**

Readings that qualify as material for papers due Tuesday Nov 10 at 10am:

“Tannisho”

“Devotion to Amida and Repentance”

November 10: Nichiren

**Required reading: 94-98**

Readings that qualify as material for papers due Tuesday Nov 17 at 10am:

“Nichiren’s Advice for Practice of Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo”

November 12: Rinzai Zen and Obaku Zen

**Required reading: 230-233**

Readings that qualify as material for papers due Tuesday Nov 17 at 10am:

“Zen and the Art of Tea”

November 17: Soto Zen

**Required reading: 99-102, 77-80**

Readings that qualify as material for papers due Tuesday Nov 24 at 10am:

“Shobo Genzo”

November 19: NO CLASS OR OFFICE HOURS

**No reading**

November 24: Confucianism and Daoism

**Required reading: 103-125**

Readings that qualify as material for papers due Tuesday Dec 1 at 10am:

“Ruling and Living in Conformity with the Order of Heaven and Earth”

November 26: Christianity

**Required reading: 140-156, 308-312**

Readings that qualify as material for papers due Tuesday Dec 1 at 10am:

“Deus Destroyed”

“Japanese Christianity”

December 1: New Religious Movements

**Required reading: 268-278, 279-288, 288-290**

December 3: FINAL TEST

**No assigned reading**

### **Accommodation for Illness or Unforeseen Circumstances:**

The instructor follows the practices of the University of Waterloo in accommodating students who have documented reasons for missing quizzes or exams. See

[http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/students/accom\\_illness.html](http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/students/accom_illness.html)

### **Academic Integrity:**

**Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>.

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>. In addition, consult <http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes> for the Faculty of Arts’ grievance processes.

**Appeals:** A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72>.

**Academic Integrity website (Arts):**

[http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic\\_responsibility.html](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html)

**Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo):** <http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>

### **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:**

**Note for students with disabilities:** The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.

**Turnitin.com:** Plagiarism detection software (Turnitin) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about the arrangements for the use of Turnitin in this course.

### ***Cross-listed course:***

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

### **A respectful living and learning environment for all**

1. It is expected that everyone living, learning or working on the premises of Renison University College will contribute to an environment of tolerance and respect by treating others with sensitivity and civility.
2. Harassment is unwanted attention in the form of jokes, insults, gestures, gossip, or other behaviours that are meant to intimidate. Some instances of harassment are against the law in addition to Renison University College policy.
3. Discrimination is treating people differently because of their race, disability, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, colour, age, creed, marital status, or other personal characteristics. The Ontario Human Rights Code considers actions and behaviours rather than intentions.
4. If you experience or witness either harassment or discrimination, you may contact the Renison University College Harassment and Discrimination Officer at [c7mcmillan@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:c7mcmillan@uwaterloo.ca) (519-884-4404, ext. 28723).