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## WEDNESDAY EVENING SEMINAR

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*Education Program Presents*

# Confucianism and a Changing Cultural Order

Dr. Roger T. Ames

Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

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Wednesday, March 10, 2010

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Keoni Auditorium, Imin International Conference Center

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With China rising over the past three decades, a dramatic sea change has occurred in the economic and political world order that affects us all in an age of global interdependence. Since the founding of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation in 1989, growth in this region has grown by 400% and GDP has tripled. In September 2009, the G20 replaced the G8 as the main economic council of the world’s wealthy nations. Economic and political change is relatively easy to track. But what about culture? Under these rapidly evolving conditions, will the family-centered Confucian values of the Sinitic countries—that is, China, Korea, Japan, and Vietnam—precipitate a new cultural world order? Relationally constituted Confucian persons are to be understood as embedded in and nurtured by unique, transactional patterns of relations, a conception of person that contrasts starkly with the model of discrete individuals defined by common traits that we associate with liberal democracy. Will Confucian “role ethics” that locates moral conduct within a thick and richly textured pattern of family and community relations change our cultural world?

**Roger T. Ames** received his PhD at the University of London (SOAS) and has held teaching positions at Beijing University, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Wuhan University, and National Taiwan University. This year he has been awarded the College of Arts and Humanities Excellence in Scholarship Award at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. His recent publications include translations of Chinese classics including *Sun Pin: The Art of Warfare* (1996) and *Tracing Dao to its Source* (1997). Dr. Ames has undertaken several projects that entail the intersection of contemporary issues and cultural understanding. The book entitled *Democracy of the Dead: Dewey, Confucius, and the Hope for Democracy in China* (with D.L. Hall) (1999) is a product of this effort.

Refreshments will be served. Please bring your own cup.

**The community is welcome to attend this lecture.**