

REL 204 - UNDERSTANDING JAPANESE RELIGIONS

Spring 2014
T/Th 9:00-10:15 am
Webster 101

Professor: Helen J. Baroni
Office: Sakamaki A303
Phone: 956-4203
Hours: Tuesday 1:30-3:00 p.m. and by appointment

Required Texts:

Robert Ellwood, *Japanese Religion- The Ebook* to be purchased on line at <http://www.jbeonlinebooks.org/japanese/order.htm>

Additional readings posted on Laulima
<https://laulima.hawaii.edu/portal/site/>

Course Requirements:

- 1) Reading assignments as listed on syllabus, to be completed before class.
- 2) Attendance. Exams will be based approximately 70% on lecture and 30% on readings. More than three unexcused absences will result in a lowered grade. Excessive absences will result in failure.
- 3) Work sheets (20 points each; 200 points total). Available on-line on Laulima. Late work will be graded down, except with an excused absence. **Please turn in a hard copy.**
- 4) Midterm Exam (100 points). The midterm will be given as a take-home with two parts, short answer identification and essays.
- 5) Final Exam (100 points). The final will be given as a take-home exam, due during the exam period.

Grading policy: This course will be graded on a percentage basis, without a standardized curve, using the plus and minus options.

Student Learning Objectives:

1. Students acquire basic knowledge and understanding of the history, scriptures, doctrines, rituals and other practices of Japanese religious traditions.
2. Students read and analyze primary source material in translation
3. Students begin the process of learning to write scholarly materials in genres appropriate to the field of Religious Studies

Class Schedule

<u>Week 1</u>	Class Topic	Assignments
Jan 14	Introduction	Ellwood Ch. 1
Jan 16	Prehistoric Religion	Chronicle of Wei Worksheet #1
<u>Week 2</u>		
Jan 21	Shinto	Ellwood Ch. 3
Jan 23	Shinto	Kojiki excerpt Worksheet #2
<u>Week 3</u>		
Jan 28	Introduction of Buddhism	Ellwood Interlude
Jan 30	Introduction of Buddhism	Sutra excerpts Worksheet #3
<u>Week 4</u>		
Feb 4	Chinese Religion: Confucianism	Ellwood Ch. 2
Feb 6	Chinese Religion: Taoism	Koshin
<u>Week 5</u>		
Feb 11	Nara Buddhism	Ellwood Ch. 4
Feb 13	Nara Buddhism	Shotoku Constitution Worksheet #4
<u>Week 6</u>		
Feb 18	Heian Buddhism: Tendai	Ellwood Ch.5
Feb 20	Heian Buddhism: Tendai	Saicho excerpt and Precepts Worksheet #5
<u>Week 7</u>		
Feb 25	Heian Buddhism: Shingon	Kukai excerpt
Feb 27	Heian Buddhism: Shingon	Take-home distributed
<u>Week 8</u>		
Mar 4	Kamakura Buddhism: Pure Land	TAKE-HOME DUE
Mar 6	Kamakura Buddhism: Pure Land	Ellwood Ch. 6 Pure Land excerpts
<u>Week 9</u>		
Mar 11	Kamakura Buddhism: Nichiren	Nichiren excerpt
Mar 13	Kamakura Buddhism: Zen	Ellwood Ch. 7 Worksheet #6
<u>Week 10</u>		
Mar 18	Kamakura Buddhism: Zen	Dogen essays
Mar 20	Ashikaga: Christianity	Worksheet #7

SPRING BREAK MARCH 24-28

<u>Week 11</u>		
Apr 1	Tokugawa: Buddhism	Ellwood Ch. 8
Apr 3	Tokugawa: Buddhism	<i>Iron Eyes</i> excerpt; Tetsugen Worksheet #8

SPRING BREAK MARCH 25-29

Week 12

Apr 8	Tokugawa: Confucianism	Kaibara Ekken exerpts
Apr 10	Tokugawa: Shinto Revival	

Week 13

Apr 15	Meiji: State Shinto	Ellwood Ch.9
Apr 17	Meiji: Buddhist Persecution	Meiji documents; Uchimura Kenzo Worksheet #9

Week 14

Apr 22	Shōwa: Religion and War	Kokutai no Hongi Showa documents
Apr 24	New Religions	Ellwood Ch. 10

Week 15

Apr 29	New Religions	New Religions readings
May 1	Contemporary Religion	Ellwood Ch. 11 Worksheet #10

Week 16

May 6	Contemporary Religion	Final Exam Distributed
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Exam Week

May 15	Thursday FINAL EXAM DUE
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