Group: General Education

Group X Indigenous and Global Perspectives

Dept/Program: Liberal Studies

Course #: LS/RELS 238

Course Title: Japanese Religions

Prerequisite: none

Credits: 3

Endorsement/Approvals

[Signature]

Instructor: Bradley Clough
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Program Chair: Stewart Justman

Dean: Dean Chris Comer

Date: 9/11/09

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II. Description and Purpose of the course: General Education courses must be introductory and foundational. They must emphasize breadth, context, and connectedness; and relate course content to students' future lives. See Preamble:
http://www.umt.edu/faculty senate/archives/minutes/ged/G_E_preamble.aspx

This course will examine the history of Japanese religions as a continuous stream of interactions between the Shinto, Buddhist, Daoist, and Confucian religious traditions, as well as prominent folk traditions like shamanism, mountain asceticism, and divination. The course will cover major religious developments in Japanese history, such as the early clan mythologies of the Jomon and Yayoi peoples, Shinto-Buddhist syncretism and the union of Buddhism with imperial law in the Asuka and Nara periods, the establishment of sectarian Buddhism in the Heian period and under the Kamakura and Ashikaga shogunates, the influence of Neo-Confucianism and Christianity in the Tokugawa era, the establishment of Shinto as the state religion and persecutions of Buddhism by the Meiji regime, and the triumph of non-elite "new religions" following World War II. In addition to issues of interrelations between religion and state which so pervade this field of study, we will also investigate several other ongoing themes, such as aesthetic expressions of religious thought and notions of embodiment in religious practice.

IV. Criteria: Briefly explain how this course meets the criteria for the group. See:
http://www.umt.edu/faculty senate/documents/forms/G_E_Criteria-1508.aspx
This introductory course meets the global perspectives/studies criteria well, as it exposes students to the variety of ways that members of Japan’s multi-religious culture have distinctively viewed the world and acted in it, over the country’s long and globally important history. Students study the very wide variety of Japanese religious forms, the worldviews and behavioral norms of which are certainly quite different from their own.

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<tr>
<th>Student Learning Goals</th>
<th>Briefly explain how this course will meet the applicable learning goals. <a href="http://www.ctl.msu.edu/facultyenate/documents/forms/GradingInstructorEval.rtf">http://www.ctl.msu.edu/facultyenate/documents/forms/GradingInstructorEval.rtf</a></th>
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<td>1. Study of various forms of indigenous and imported Japanese religious forms certainly offers students opportunities to “place behavior and ideas in a wider (global) framework,” and the course’s continued focus on how Japanese religions influenced and were influenced by their many East Asian neighbors surely “enhances understanding of the complex interaction of nations and societies.”</td>
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<td>2. As stated above, the courses explores diverse ways that different forms of Japanese religion and the ways that adherents of different systems of religious thought and practice in this country structure varieties of cultural life.</td>
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<td>3. The course has a major section on Japan’s so-called “new religions” of the 20th and 21st centuries. So, issues of how the Japanese view citizen responsibility in the 21st century are also explored. Furthermore, students are asked to reflect on how Japanese responses to modern problems compare with those of their own society.</td>
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<th>VII. Syllabus</th>
<th>Paste syllabus below or attach and send digital copy with form. Please syllabus should clearly describe how the syllabus is aligned with the assessment criteria. <a href="http://teaching.berkeley.edu/bod/syllabus.html">http://teaching.berkeley.edu/bod/syllabus.html</a></th>
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<tr>
<td>A pdf file of the syllabus accompanies this proposal.</td>
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Please note: As an instructor of a general education course, you will be expected to provide sample assessment items and corresponding responses to the Assessment Advisory Committee.
II. The Introduction of Buddhism to China and Chinese Religions

A. Early Imperial Period

1. The Spread of Buddhism to China
   - Introduction and Early Period
   - Impact of the Han Dynasty
   - Early Monasticism

2. The Development of Chinese Buddhism
   - The Six Schools
   - Mahayana and Hinayana

B. Later Periods

3. The Golden Age of Chinese Buddhism
   - The Tang Dynasty
   - The Rise of Zen Buddhism

4. The End of the Tang Dynasty and the Descent of Buddhism
   - The Song Dynasty
   - The Southern Song and Yuan Dynasties

C. The Influence of Buddhism on Chinese Culture

5. Cultural Integration
   - Art and Architecture
   - Literature and Philosophy
   - Social and Political Impacts

6. The Modern Reawakening of Buddhism
   - Revival in the 20th Century
   - Contemporary Buddhism

Note: This outline provides a general overview of the history of Buddhism in China. For a detailed study, additional resources are recommended.
Final Exam

28. Wed 12/16
A Reflection Journey in Modern Japan (continued)

27. Mon 12/14
Kane-kun et al. 175-206
A Reflection Journey in Modern Japan: The Spiritual

26. Wed 12/9
VI. The Modern Period

26. Mon 12/7
Hashi and Hashi 69-164
Zen Buddhism (continued)

25. Wed 12/2
Bitte: Papers Due

24. Mon 11/30
Bitte: Registration Day

24. Wed 11/22
Exams: 11:15 AM

24. Mon 11/18
Reflection in the Presence of Many Peoples