JAOUDI-HRS152-SP15

HRS 152: GREAT MYSTICS OF THE WORLD  Spring 2015

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Office Hours: MW 11:00-Noon, TR 3:00-5:00pm online, and by appointment

Course Description

We will examine the meaning of mysticism as a “direct experience of ultimate reality” in the world’s religions. The history, teachings, belief systems, and scriptures of Hindu, Buddhist, Daoist, Confucian, Judaic, Christian, and Islamic traditions will be studied to illuminate the lives and works of each religion’s great mystical thinkers.

HRS 152 fulfills undergraduate General Education Area C4.

Learning Outcomes

Students should explain, organize, discuss, and interpret the topics listed in the syllabus. The comprehension of a tradition’s mystical literature offers a unique opportunity to understand the inner workings of a culture. Students increase their knowledge of world religions and the cross-cultural connections between diverse cultures. The multicultural topics of the course also fulfill the department and university’s mission of educating students into globally informed citizens.

Required Texts

OPEN BOOK EXAMS
Be sure to have your books and downloaded essays annotated and available for each exam

Gai-fu Feng and Jane English. Tao Te Ching; the edition must have the Jacob Needleman Introduction to understand the book and be able to answer the exam questions.

Mary Pat Fisher. Living Religions. All exam questions are based on the 7th and any edition after the 7th. This keeps student cost down.

Maria Jaoudi. Christian Mysticism: East & West
Medieval and Renaissance Spirituality

John Daido Loori. The Zen of Creativity

Check HRS 152 SacCT for Reading and Note-taking Strategies

Required Films

Students are responsible for films assigned. Available to purchase/ rent through Netflix, e.g.

A selection of films is available at the Library Media Center.

Schedule of Classes

| Week 1 | Introduction  
The World’s Religions  
Fisher: Chapters 1, 2, 13 |
| --- | --- |

| Week 2 | Film: *Baraka*  
Directed by Ron Fricke  
Lecture on SacCT  
*Medieval & Renaissance Spirituality*  
Introduction & Final Chapter |
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THE SCHEDULE OF THE FRIST EXAM AND MIDTERM IS IN ORDER FOR STUDENTS TO HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO STUDY DURING THE EARLIER WEEKS OF CLASS; TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS EXTRA TIME TO STUDY

| Week 3 | Judaism  
*Medieval & Renaissance Spirituality*  
Chapter 3 *The Jewish Mystical View: The Kabbalah* |
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<th>Week 4</th>
<th>Fisher: Chapters 8 &amp; 11</th>
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| Week 5 | Christianity  
*Christian Mysticism: East & West*  
Pages 1-50 |
Print & study the articles under the link, A God-Centered Ecology on http://www.gratefulness.org/t/motherearth_links.htm

Week 6

*Christian Mysticism: East & West*
Pages 51-102

*Medieval & Renaissance Spirituality*
Chapter 6 Religion and Ecology: Hildegard of Bingen

On SacCT, print and study the link, Hildegard of Bingen: The Many Realities of Consciousness

Week 7

**FIRST EXAM** OPEN BOOK
Wednesday 11 March 12:30am – Thursday 12 March 11:00pm
On *Baraka* & Fisher Chapters 1, 2, 11, 13

Fisher: Chapter 9

*Christian Mysticism: East & West*
Pages 103-157

Weeks 8-9

Islam
*Medieval & Renaissance Spirituality*
Chapter 7 Islamic Love Mysticism: Rabi’a and Rumi

Fisher: Chapter 10

**MIDTERM EXAM** OPEN BOOK
Fisher Chapters, 8, 9, 10
Wednesday 1 April 12:30am – Thursday 2 April 11:00pm

Weeks 10

Hinduism
Film: *Gandhi* Directed by Richard Attenborough
Lecture on SacCT

Fisher: Chapter 3 & 4

Weeks 11-12

**THIRD EXAM** OPEN BOOK
Wednesday 15 April 12:30am – Thursday 16 April 11:00pm
Daoism

Tao Te Ching
Including Jacob Needleman’s Introduction

Fisher: Chapter 6

Weeks 13-15  Buddhism
Film: Speciesism: The Movie  Directed by Mark Devries
Student written notes necessary for exam questions on: Speciesism: The Movie

The Zen of Creativity

Fisher: Chapters 5 & 7

Week 16

FINAL EXAM DAYS & DATES are different than the earlier exams
FINAL EXAM  OPEN BOOK  Monday 18 May 12:30am -
Including Fisher Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6, 7  Wednesday 20 May 11:00pm

Course Policy for Dr. Jaoudi’s HRS Courses

Intellectual exploration is encouraged: The professor is available for additionally scheduled Office Hours for student reflections, discussions, and questions on the reading and film assignments.

Students are responsible for reading assignments, lecture materials, exams, and films, depending on the class syllabus.

Reminder: An online class demands even more self-motivation and discipline than a face-to-face class. For example, there is no professor standing in person reminding students about an exam; students have to remind themselves of the details of the class conveyed through the syllabus and SacCT. Because many of us are frequently online, there may be an automatic reflex to peruse written instructions. Therefore, be mindful, the online class is different from browsing the net. Enjoy your studies, and be aware of the fact that student success is determined online primarily by student commitment and circumspection.
There are four open book online exams; see the Syllabus Schedule. The exams are not cumulative. For example, exam #2 begins where the previous exam ends.

Each online exam contains multiple choice and true/false questions based on ideas and vocabulary obtained from notes on lectures, class discussions, hand-outs, reading assignments, and films, depending on the course content. Each exam contains 30-35 questions. Please check your Syllabus on SacCT for the exact on-line exam times and dates.

For one-on-one walk-in and by appointment tutoring help with SacCT, contact the Student Technology Center at stc@csus.edu/telephone (916) 278-2364/Academic Computing Resources building Room 3007.

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PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:
Students are required to take exams in a University Computer Lab http://www.csus.edu/irt/Labs/locations.html insuring assistance with any technology issues. If a student does not take the exams in a University Computer Lab, he/she takes full responsibility to resolve any technical issues on their own. Keep in mind that this means the student is responsible for following instructions and a reliable Internet connection. If a student’s connection fails, there is no second chance to take the exam. To repeat, please take the exams on campus to insure you do not receive a zero on an exam.

Do not contact the professor concerning any technological problems - please contact the Service Desk (ARC 2005) at servicedesk@csus.edu or 278-7337.

It is the student’s responsibility to note answers given to the online test questions, in order to benefit from the responses after the exam.

There are no make-up exams; if an exam is not taken, the student is automatically assigned an F grade. Therefore, make sure the exact dates and times of exams are duly noted.

There is no extra credit.

At no time is it appropriate to ask the professor to increase a grade in order to accommodate an individual desire for a higher GPA without matching grade performance.

A student may drop themselves from the class during the official student drop period. After the official drop period ends, any drops, withdrawals, or incompletes, will only be considered for faculty signature, if there is documented evidence of an unforeseen emergency, death, or surgery. Invalid reasons include: Not being able to keep up with the reading, receiving a poor grade on an exam(s), work schedule, moving to an apartment, or going on vacation.
Students with disabilities who require special accommodation must provide disability documentation at SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008 (916) 278-6955. Students with special testing needs must provide the appropriate forms at least two weeks prior to an exam in order to schedule with the Testing Center.

In HRS 152, HRS 155, and HRS 183, each exam is 1/4 of the grade.