

Fall 2009

HRS 152: GREAT MYSTICS OF THE WORLD

Tuesday & Thursday 12:00 – 1:15 pm Mendocino 4004

Dr. Maria Jaoudi

Office: Mendocino 2018

E-mail: jaoudim@csus.edu

Telephone: 278-7483

Office Hours: TR 1:30-2:30 pm, on-line, and by appointment

Special Note: The information in this syllabus is subject to change as issues related to furlough planning are updated and resolved.

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

*A.J. Arberry. Mystical Poems of Rumi Volume 1 & 2
(Not required for GE – See Recommended Texts below)

Coleman Barks. The Essential Rumi

Gai-fu Feng and Jane English. Tao Te Ching

*Chichung Huang. The Analects of Confucius

(Not required for GE – See Recommended Texts below)

Mary Pat Fisher. Living Religions 7th edition

Maria Jaoudi. Christian and Islamic Spirituality

John Daido Looi. The Zen of Creativity

Daniel Matt, translator. The Essential Kabbalah

Patrick Olivelle. The Upanisads

Recommended Texts

*A.J. Arberry. Mystical Poems of Rumi Volumes 1 & 2

(Important for HRS majors)

David Ariel. The Mystic Quest: An Introduction to Jewish Mysticism

Ewert Cousins, editor. Bonaventure (includes The Life of Saint Francis)

Wm. Theodore de Bary, editor. Sources of Chinese Tradition Volume I

John Esposito. World Religions Today, 2nd Edition

Mary Ford-Grabowski. Sacred Voices: Essential Women's Wisdom

*Chichung Huang. The Analects of Confucius

(Important for HRS majors)

Maria Jaoudi. Christian Mysticism: East and West

Steven Katz. Mysticism and Sacred Scripture

James Legge, translator. Confucius

Clive Marsh, editor. Explorations in Theology and Film

Jawid Mojaddedi, translator. Rumi: The Masnavi Book One

John Muir. Travels in Alaska

A. F. Price & Wong Mou-Lam, translators. The Diamond Sutra and The Sutra of Hui Neng

N-G Singh. The Name of My Beloved: Devotional Poetry from the Guru Granth and the

Dasam Granth

Wallace Stace. Mysticism and Philosophy

Burton Watson, translator. The Complete Works of Chuang Tzu

Richard Wilhelm, translator. The I Ching or Book of Change

R. C. Zaehner. Mysticism Sacred and Profane: An Inquiry into some Varieties of
Preternatural Experience

No electronics:

This includes cell phones and laptops which must be Off and out of sight during class.

Schedule of Classes

Week 1-2

Introduction
A Working Description of Mysticism
The World's Religions
The Academic and the Personal
The Stages of Spiritual Growth
Fisher: Chapters 1, 2, 13

Weeks 3-4

Judaism
The Kabbalah
Pages 1-163
Fisher: Chapters 8 & 11

In-class

Thursday 24 September

ON-LINE FIRST EXAM
Including Fisher Chapters 1, 2, 11, 13

Thursday 24 September 12:30am -
Friday 25 September 11:00pm

Weeks 5-6

Christianity: Francis of Assisi
Christian & Islamic Spirituality
Pages 1-99
Fisher: Chapter 9

Weeks 7-9

Islam
The Essential Rūmī
As many pages as you dare!
Fisher: Chapter 10

NO CLASS

Thursday 15 October

ON-LINE MIDTERM EXAM
Including Fisher Chapters, 8, 9, 10

Thursday 15 October 12:30am –
Friday 16 October 11:00pm

Weeks 10-11

Hinduism
The Upanisads
Pages 3-290; also reading The

Introduction is helpful, pp. xxiii-lvi
Fisher: Chapter 3 & 4

Weeks 12-13

Buddhism
The Zen of Creativity
Pages 1-242
Fisher: Chapter 5 & 7

No class

Tuesday 24 November

Weeks 14-15

Taoism & Confucianism
Tao Te Ching
Fisher: Chapter 6

No class

Thursday 10 December

ON-LINE EXAM
Including Fisher Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Thursday 10 December 12:30am -
Friday 11 December 11:00pm