

## *HRS 152: GREAT MYSTICS OF THE WORLD*

Fall 2008

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

*Dr. Maria Jaoudi*

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Office Hours: TR 9:00-10:00am; Tuesday 4:15-5:15; 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 be able by the end of the course, to 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 will increase their knowledge of world religions and the cross-cultural connections between diverse cultures. The multicultural range of topics for the course will also fulfill the department and university’s mission of educating students to be globally informed.

### **Required Texts**

A.J. Arberry. Mystical Poems of Rumi Volume 1 TBA

Coleman Barks, The Essential Rumi TBA

Gai-fu Feng and Jane English, Tao Te Ching

Chichung Huang, The Analects of Confucius TBA

Maria Jaoudi, Christian and Islamic Spirituality

John Daido Looi, The Zen of Creativity

Daniel Matt, trans. The Essential Kabbalah

Patrick Olivelle. The Upanisads

## **Recommended Texts**

A.J. Arberry, Mystical Poems of Rumi Volume 2  
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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition  
Mary Ford-Grabowski. Sacred Voices: Essential Women's Wisdom  
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
Weeks 3-4	Judaism <i>The Kabbalah</i>

Pages 1-163

Weeks 5-6

Christianity: Francis of Assisi  
*Christian & Islamic Spirituality*  
Pages 1-99

Weeks 7-9

Islam  
*The Essential Rūmī*  
As many pages as you dare!

**IN-CLASS WRITING REVIEW**

**(Remember: Do not be late)**

Weeks 10-11

**14 October (Tuesday)**

Hinduism  
*The Upanisads*  
Pages 3-290; also reading The Introduction is helpful, pp. xxiii-lvi

**RESEARCH DAY – NO CLASS**

**20 November 2008  
(Thursday)**

Weeks 12-13

Buddhism  
*The Zen of Creativity*  
Pages 1-242

Weeks 14-15

Taoism & Confucianism  
*Tao Te Ching*

**IN-CLASS WRITING REVIEW  
(Remember: Do not be late)**

**11 December (Thursday)**

**Research Paper Due**

**11 December (Thursday)**

**Undergraduate Research Paper**

Please read carefully the California State University's Advisory Standards for Writing:

[www.csus.edu/acaf/umanual/advstndrds.htm](http://www.csus.edu/acaf/umanual/advstndrds.htm)

Write a total of at least 7 pages on how the Sacred has been envisioned throughout the semester in our class reading assignments. Additional pages are optional and encouraged

to voice your own reflective research. You are responsible for all the reading assignments, even though we may not have time to examine every page during class.

Annotate your paper with quotations from the required texts. Include a title page, footnotes, conclusion, and Bibliography.

Title page

Introduction                      Length is yours to decide

The Kabbalah                      1 page

Christian & Islamic                      1 page

Jalāl al-Dīn Rūmī                      1 page

The Upanisads                      1 page

The Zen of Creativity                      1 page

Tao Te Ching                      1 page

Conclusion                      1 page

Bibliography