HRS 152: GREAT MYSTICS OF THE WORLD

Fall 2008

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 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 Loori, The Zen of Creativity
Daniel Matt, trans. The Essential Kabbalah
Patrick Olivelle. The Upanisads
Recommended Texts

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
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
  - *The Kabbalah*
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
(Recall: Do not be late)
Weeks 10-11

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
(Recall: Do not be late)

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

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