

ASN 210: Buddhism and Taoism through Chinese Literature
Syllabus, Fall 2007

I. Instructor and Time:

Instructor: Chi-chiang Huang, Professor	Class: TR 11:55 am-1:20 pm
Office: Stern Hall 207	Classroom: Stern Hall 101
Office hours: MWF 11-12 am	Contact: huang@hws.edu; x3553

II. Objectives:

This course introduces Taoism/Daoism, Buddhism, and syncretic religion in pre-modern China through discussing some important classical texts including the *Tao Te Ching (Daode jing)*, the *Chuang-tzu (Zhuangzi)*, the *Pure Land Sutras*, and the *Platform Sutra of the Sixth Patriarch*. The discussion will cover major issues surrounding the emergence of the Taoist/Daoist tradition and its relationship with Confucianism and other philosophies in classical China, the development of Taoism/Daoism from antiquity to China's dynastic periods, the encounter of Mahayana Buddhism and Taoism/Daoism, the transformation of both Taoism/Daoism and Buddhism, as well as the integration and influences of both religions.

While discussion generally focuses on historical, ontological, epistemological, soteriological, ethical, and moral aspects of these religions, it also covers Chinese material culture in the past and present which owed much of its formation to both religions. Exemplary works of recent scholarship in this area are used for this purpose: *The Impact of Buddhism on Chinese Material Culture* and *Kuan-yin: The Chinese Transformation of Avalokiteśvara*.

Both Buddhism and Taoism/Daoism are very important constituent elements of spiritual and material culture of traditional and modern China. Despite continuing social and political changes that occurred in the past century in China, Chinese culture remains very much the integration of these two religions and Confucianism. Much of this course is concerned with the relationships between human and nature, this world and other worlds, self and others, good and evil, male and female, elite and populace, faith and reason, spirituality and material goods, as well as pluralism and particularism. It examines how the two different religions dealt with complex social ills and problems that were often caused by people who abused their power, privilege, or who distorted or betrayed their religious faith.

This course aims to help you acquire a fundamental and an accurate knowledge about Buddhism and Taoism/Daoism, learn essential teachings of these two religions, know the similarities and differences between them, understand how their mutual influences and amalgamation have helped form many popular sectarian religions worshiped in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and other Chinese communities. It is to motivate you to explore Chinese religion, society, and culture further. Designed to address goals 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, and to some extent, goal 4, which are among the eight goals that constitute an important portion of the Colleges' educational mission, this humanities course may be counted towards Asian Study major and minor.

III. Books for Purchase:

Gómez, Luis (1996). *The Land of Bliss: The Paradise of the Buddha of Measureless Light* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press).

Prebish, Charles S. and Keown, Damien (2006). *Introducing Buddhism*. (New York and London: Routledge).

Keischnick, John (2002). *The Impact of Buddhism on Chinese Material Culture*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press).

Kohn, Livia (2001). *Daoism and Chinese Culture* (Cambridge: Three Pine Press).

Mair(a), Victor trans. (1990). *Tao Te Ching*. (New York: Bantam Doubleday Dell).

---(b). *Wandering on the Way*. (1994). Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

McRae, John trans. (2000). *Platform Sutra of the Sixth Patriarch*. (Berkeley: Numata Center for Buddhist Translation).

Yü, Chün-fang (2001). *Kuan-yin: The Chinese Transformation of Avalokitesvara*. (New York: Columbia University Press).

IV. Course Requirements:

You are expected to use my ASN210 website and Blackboard course site to learn more about this course and do your assignments, including online quizzes. The online quizzes, mid-term paper (due 10/16), and a final paper (due 12/12) are required for this class. Papers should be typed in double space and handed in according to scheduled time. The mid-term paper must be 5-7 pages long, and the final paper must be 10 or more pages long. Each late paper will be marked down 1/2 of one letter grade per day. The mid-term paper counts 40%, the final paper counts 40%, and quizzes count 20% of the semester grade. Vigorous and informed participation in class discussion will be rewarded when the final grades are determined. Good attendance record is highly recommended, although absences are allowed when acceptable excuses are provided. An unexcused absence will result in a reduction of one full letter grade for the course. Three unexcused absences will result in the failure of the course. Extension will be granted to anyone with learning disability or chronic health problems if he/she submits a letter provided by The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL). He/She is advised to go to CTL to request this letter.

V. Academic Support:

A note about the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL): Hobart and William Smith Colleges encourages students to seek the academic collaboration and resources that will enable them to demonstrate their best work. Students who would like to enhance their learning and/or academic performance should contact the CTL at ext. 3351 or visit our website. If you are a student with a disability for which you may need accommodations, you must register with Disability Services at the CTL and provide documentation of the disability. Services and accommodations will not be provided until this process is complete. Contact the Coordinator of Disability Services, David Silver, at silver@hws.edu or ext. 3140 for an appointment. Additional information is available at: <http://www.hws.edu/academics/enrichment/ctl/disability.asp>

IV. Lecture, readings, and paper assignments:

(This schedule is subjected to change, particularly new reading materials or films relevant to this course become available. All changes will be announced in class. T=Tuesday; R=Thursday; *=Advising Week)

Date	M/D	Topic	Reading
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T	8/28	Introduction	
R	8/30	The Origin of Taoism, Lao-tzu and the <i>Tao Te Ching</i> (TTC)	Mair(a) xi-xvi; 119-129; Kohn, chapter 10
T	9/4	Tao: the Way	Mair(a), 59-105; Kohn, chapter 1
R	9/6	Te: Virtue (Integrity)	Mair(a), 3-55; 130-140; Mair(b), 102-151, 333-347
T	9/11	Taoism vs. Confucianism	Mair(b), 75-89, 298-311
R	9/13	Chuang-tzu and the <i>Chuang-tzu</i> (<i>Zhuangzi</i>)	Mair(b) xi-iv; Kohn, chapter 2
T	9/18	Nature, Emptiness, Spontaneity	Mair(b), 3-50.
R	9/20	Heaven, Life, and Death	Mair(b) pp. 51-71
T	9/25	Evolution of Taoism	Kohn, chapters 3-4
R	9/27	Taoist Schools	Kohn, chapters 5-6
T	10/2	Taoism, State, and Rituals	Kohn, chapters 7-9
R	10/4	Buddhism: Introduction ; The Three Jewels (I): the Buddha	Prebish, 1-7; Prebish, 75-93
T	10/9	The Three Jewels (II): the Dharma	Prebish, 11-25; 43-59
R	10/11	The Three Jewels (III): the Sangha;	Prebish, 61-69; Keischnick, 1-23
T	10/16	Fall Recess, no class	Midterm paper due
R	10/18	<i>Faith and Salvation: The Shorter Sukhāvataīyāha Sutra (The Smaller Sutra on Amitayus)</i>	Gómez, 125-151 ; Prebish, 95-113
T	10/23	Amitayus and the Land of Utmost Bliss	Gómez, 3-13; 23-59; Prebish, 139-153
R	10/25	<i>Levels of Salvation: The Longer Sukhāvataīyāha Sutra (The Larger Sutra on Amitayus)</i>	Gómez, 153-185; Prebish, 154-175
T	10/30*	Dhamakara, the Forty-eight Vows, and the Pure Land	Gómez, 185-222;
R	11/1	Film: The Sinification of Buddhism: Ch'an Buddhism, the Sixth Patriarch, and the <i>Platform Sutra</i> ; Meditation and Wisdom	McRae, 1-25, 117-134; Prebish, 114-135
T	11/6	Repentance, Encounters, and Encounter Dialogue in the Ch'an Tradition	McRae, 27-60; 61-89
R	11/8	Sudden and Gradual	McRae, 90-116
T	11/13	Kuan-yin(1): the Cult, Early Domestication.	Yu, 93-150
R	11/15	Film; Kuan-yin(2): Further Domestication; Sacred Mountain and Pilgrimage	Yu, 151-222
T	11/20	Kuan-yin(3): Secularization and Impact, <i>Kuan-yin</i>	Yu, 293-352.
R	11/22	Thanksgiving Recess, no class	Yu, 353-406; 407-486
T	11/27	Material Culture, Sacred Objects and Sacred Power	Keischnick, 24-82
R	11/29	Monasteries and Merit Making Associated with Buddhism; Material,	Keischnick, 157-219

		Body, and Health Ritual;	
T	12/4	Ritual Implements and Festivals Associated with Buddhism and Taoism	Keischnick, 281-292
R	12/6	General Review	Course evaluation
F	12/12	Paper due by 12:00 pm	