This “grad school style” seminar traces the history of various Asian traditions (especially Buddhism, Hinduism, and Daoism), as they become part of the American religious landscape. Modes of transmission to be examined include immigration, mission work, literature, and mass media. Students will learn about the history of specific Asian nationalities’ experience in the U.S. and about the assimilation and appropriation of their religions. We will read excerpts from primary works by missionaries, gurus, and monks, as well as by basketball coach Phil Jackson, martial artist Bruce Lee, and hip-hop pioneers the Beastie Boys. Along the way, students will be introduced to important concepts in the study of religion and will have the opportunity to research a local Asian religious group.

**Required Texts:**


There are also required short readings on OAKS. Please print these out!

Please always bring the relevant book or printout to class.

**Assignments:**
We will review and discuss each assignment before it is due. There may also be various opportunities to gain bonus marks by attending relevant lectures and writing short papers about them.

* Participation and attendance including small group discussion, random attendance checks, and in-class writing assignments: **15%**
  *Lead discussion for one class, by introducing all of the readings for that day, asking the class questions, and facilitating discussion: **5%**
* Four 3-4 pp. papers (two will be presented in class): 10% each x 4= **40%**
* A rewrite and expansion of one of the four short papers, making it a 7-8 pp. thesis-driven essay, due on 11/29: **20%**
* Take a comprehensive final exam on 12/11: **20%**

NOTE: Failure to hand in any one component of the course will result in a failing grade for the class. The fourth unexcused absence will result in being dropped from the class.

Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. Students can find a complete version of the Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook, available online.

**Grading Scale:**
A: 93-100; A-: 90-92; B+: 87-89; B: 83-86; B-: 80-82; C+: 77-79; C: 73-76; C-: 70-72; D+: 67-69; D: 63-66; D-: 61-62 F: 60 or below.

**SCHEDULE OF CLASSES**

Tues 8/21: Opening Perspectives
Read: Handout-- “Why I Am a Heathen”

Thurs 8/23: Defining “Asia,” “America,” and “Religion”
Read: Tweed 1-10, 13-14; Seager (9-17), 39-50

Tues 8/28: Two Key Concepts: Representation and Transnationalism
Read: OAKS- Iwamura; Palmer 9-26

Thurs 8/30: Introduction to Buddhism in America: Who Is a Buddhist?
Read: Tweed 16-18; Seager 18-38; OAKS—Nattier

Tues 9/4: Asian Religions in America until 1924
Read: Tweed 25-27, 35-38, 61-64, 70-78, 98-100; (OAKS—Maffly-Kipp)

Thurs 9/6: The World’s Parliament of Religions
Read: Tweed 127-131, (131-137), 137-140, (371-376); OAKS— Seager

Tues 9/11: Japanese Shin Buddhism and the Internment Camps
Read: Seager 73-91; Tweed 324-328, 159-177; OAKS — Okihiro

Thurs 9/13: Zen and the Beginnings of a Counterculture
Read: Tweed 191-193, 218-221, 261-264, 342-345, 353-357; Seager 112-114, 119-124

Tues 9/18: Vietnamese and Nichiren Varieties of Buddhism

“Buddhist Identity” Editorial Paper Due
Thurs 9/20: The Tibetan Milieu
Special Guest: Dr. Zeff Bjørken
Read: ARADH 264-268, 319-322, 349-351; (Seager 137-157); OAKS-- Lopez

Tues 9/25: Sex & Gender in American Buddhism
Read: Seager 217-225; Tweed 274-277; OAKS—Oppenheimer

Thurs 9/27: Asian Religions and African-Americans
Special Guest: Dr. Mari Crabtree
Read: TBA

Tues 10/2: Daoism in America
Read: Tweed 21-22, 339-341; Palmer 64-79, 82-100

Thurs 10/4: Asian Religions in America go back to Asia
Read: Palmer 146-165, 173-178

Tues 10/9: How scholarship influences Asian religion in America

Thurs 10/11: Introduction to Hinduism and Yoga in America
Read: Tweed 14-16, 289-294; Jain 1-19

Tues 10/16: Asian Religions and Refugee Resettlement
Special Guest: Dr. Shyam Sriram
Read: OAKS—Borja: OAKS- Sriram

Thurs 10/18: Authenticity and Fakery in American Hinduism
Read: Tweed 178-181; OAK-- “Kumare Reviews”; Jain 20-41

Tues 10/23: Guru Movements in America
Read: Tweed 181-185, 241-248, 251-256; Jain 42-72

Thurs 10/25: The Ethics and Economics of American Postural Yoga
Read: Jain 73-129

Tues 10/30: Dialogue and Hybridization I— Jewish Buddhists
Read: Seager 257-262; Tweed 369-371; OAKS-- Cadge

Thurs 11/1: Dialogue and Hybridization II— Christianity and Asian Religions
Read: Seager 253-257; Tweed 303-306, 362-365, 376-377; Jain 130-157

Tues 11/6: Fall Break (Storm Make Up Day)

Thurs 11/8: The Hmong
Read: Fadiman Chapters 1-6 (Chapter 7)
Tues 11/13: Shamanism in America
Read: Fadiman Chapters 8-9 (10) 11-12

Thurs 11/15: Religion and Healing in Asian America
Read: Fadiman Chapters 13-14 (15-16) 17- Afterword; OAKS— Fox
“Hospital Policy” Paper Due

Tues 11/20: Paper workshop
Read: (Palmer 265-273)

Thurs 11/22: Thanksgiving!

Tues 11/27: Possible Futures
Read: Seager 264-280, 61-71; Jain 158-173; Palmer 238-250

Thurs 11/29: What Have We Learned?/ Final Exam Review
Read: Palmer 251-263
Final Paper Due

Tues 12/11: 9-11AM: Final Exam

Note: Students with documented disabilities who have been approved to receive accommodation through SNAP should feel free to discuss this during office hours. For more information, contact Disability Services at 953-1431.

The Center for Student Learning has writing labs and can arrange individual tutoring for these particular assignments at http://www.cofc.edu/~csl/ or 953-5635

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How to Act Like You’re in Grad School

Come to every class, despite the absence of an attendance policy.

Don’t text, email, twitter etc., during class (in fact, put away all cell phones and laptops).

Participate in discussion (with high quality, informed comments that show engagement with the reading).

During discussion, don’t be afraid to sharply (but respectfully) disagree with your classmates’ and your professor’s opinions.

Do all the reading, despite the absence of quizzes and tests. Read carefully, and take notes while you read.

Meet with the professor during office hours.