MMW 12: CLASSICAL AND MEDIEVAL TRADITIONS
WINTER QUARTER 2014

This course covers the period from roughly 200 BCE to 1200 CE by focusing on several case studies where universal religions evolved as defining features of imperial bureaucracy. Incorporated as vital institutions in the governing of a state or empire, religions witnessed profound transformations. Not only did they develop into faiths with mass followings and diverse sects, but they also took on functions that became increasing political, economic, and social. To a large extent, religions could facilitate state formation and reinforce central authority, but at the same time they could also create subversive forces to undermine that same authority. We will examine these global, historical trends in their full complexity and variability in the following order: 1) Challenges early Christianity posed to the Roman Empire, 2) The centralizing role of Islam in the Ummayad and Abbasid expansion, 3) The pursuit of religious pluralism in Gupta India, 4) The formation of Chinese Buddhism during the Tang Dynasty, and lastly, 5) The integration of Buddhism as a pivotal aspect of Korean and Japanese statecraft.

An equally important component of this course is its emphasis on developing your critical reading and scholarly writing skills to a level that is commensurate with university requirements. As such, on top of lectures, the writing and research instruction you receive from your TAs in section represents a crucial component of the course.

Required Course Texts:
Jerry Bentley, et al., Traditions and Encounters, Combined volumes (5th edition)
Bhagavad-Gita, trans. Barbara Stoler Miller (Bantam Classics)
Matthew Gordon, The Rise of Islam (Hackett)
Arthur Wright, Buddhism in Chinese History (Stanford)
Andrea Lunsford, Easy Writer: A Pocket Reference (4th edition)
Course Reader (University Readers)

All books are available for purchase at the UCSD bookstore or on reserve at the library. The course reader is available through University Readers Printing Service (order by phone: 800-200-3908 or online: http://www.universityreaders.com)

Course Requirements:
Midterm Examinations (20%) Final Examination (35%)
Writing Assignments (35% combined) Section participation and quizzes (10%)
5 section absences = fail the section
7 section absences = fail the course

Any absence from section will impact your section grade, as it reflects your level of participation

To pass the course, you must satisfy all course requirements; i.e., you must take all exams, submit all writing assignments to section instructor and www.turnitin.com, as well as attend all section discussions. Your instructors require you to complete assigned readings for the day of lecture; furthermore, they expect you to come prepared to discuss the week’s readings and lectures.

Examinations:
There will be a midterm and a final exam in this course. Each will be designed to gauge your grasp of the reading and lecture material. They will generally consist of a variety of objective questions, so if you have attended the lectures consistently, read and critically engaged the course material, you can expect to do quite well on these assessments. The essay portion of the final exam will be cumulative in scope. The objective portions will cover course material since the midterm.

Make-up exams will only be granted in extreme and exceptional emergencies, in which case, valid documentation will need to be provided. Make-ups may be given in a different format and will comprise of different questions.

**Reading Assignments:**
The true gem of any MMW course, I believe, is in the readings that instructors assign. Not only will you get more out of the lectures and discussions completing the readings by the dates indicated, but you will also assure yourself a more meaningful and personal experience with the diverse human cultures covered in the course.

You are required to complete assigned readings for the day of lecture; furthermore, you are expected to come to section prepared to discuss texts and issues related to the week’s readings and lectures. Reading quizzes will help to make sure you are caught up on the week’s readings.

**Academic Integrity:**
It is your responsibility to know and observe all of the UCSD rules concerning academic integrity and plagiarism. You should familiarize yourself with your responsibilities and rights under the UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship [http://senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/appendix2.pdf](http://senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/appendix2.pdf) and MMW policies governing academic integrity included in the MMW Style Sheet. Any student found to have committed a substantial violation of the university rules concerning academic integrity will fail the entire course and the professor will initiate a charge of academic misconduct that may be noted on your academic record. A second offense will generally result in suspension or permanent expulsion from the university. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, how to credit the work of others properly, or how to evaluate sources for quality and reliability and how to avoid it, please talk to your TA and/or me to discuss the matter.

**Office for Student Disabilities Accommodations:**
Students requesting accommodations and services for this course due to a disability need to provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) prior to eligibility for requests. Receipt of AFAs in advance is necessary for appropriate planning for the provision of reasonable accommodations. OSD Academic Liaisons also need to receive current AFA letters if there are any changes to accommodations. For additional information, contact the Office for Students with Disabilities: 858-534-4382 (V); 959.534.9709 (TTY) – reserved for people who are deaf or hard of hearing; or email: osd@ucsd.edu. OSD Website: [http://disabilities.ucsd.edu](http://disabilities.ucsd.edu).
COURSE SYLLABUS

ROME AND THE RISE OF CHRISTIANITY

Week One
1/7  Introduction to Religion and Empire
    **Bentley:** pp.210-225
    **Reader:** Polybius “The Constitution of the Roman Republic”
    Augustus “Res Gestae”
    “Acts of the Apostles” Ch.21-28
1/9  The Challenge of the Jesus Movement
    **Bentley:** pp.225-229
    **Reader:** “Matthew” Ch.4-7
    “Mark” Ch.13-16
    Flavius “History of the Jews” and “The Jewish War”
    Gibbon “The Conduct of the Roman Empire towards Christians”

Week Two
1/14 The Advent of Theocracy: Imperial Appropriation of Christianity
    **Bentley:** pp. 246-252; 326-332
    **Reader:** “Acts of the Apostles” Ch.1-5
    Grant “Subjects and Slaves”
    “Propaganda against Christianity,” selections from Roman Civilization
    “Pliny to the Emperor Trajan”
    “Romans” Ch.13
    Eusebius “On the Conversion of Constantine”
    **Online:** “The Passion of Saint Perpetua”
1/16 The Gnostic Gospels
    **Reader:** Pagels “God the Father/ God the Mother”
    “The Gospel of Thomas”
    “The Gospel of Mary”

Week Three
1/21 Muhammad and His Teachings
    **Bentley:** pp.258-264
    **Gordon:** Ch.1 “Historical Overview”
    Ch.2 “The Arab-Islamic Conquests and the Medinan State”
    Document 2 “Muhammed and the Quraysh”
    Document 11 “The Rules of Marriage”
    **Reader:** “Scripture and Tradition in Islam—The Qu’ran and Hadiths”
1/23 Conquest and the Umayyad Caliphate
    **Bentley:** pp.264-268
    **Gordon:** Ch.3 “The Umayyad Caliphate and the Crisis of Authority”
    Document 3 “The Conquest of Syria”
    Document 4 “The Spoils of War”

Week Four
1/28 The Abbasid Empire and Sectarian Divides within Islam
    **Gordon:** Ch.4 “Cities in the Early Abbasid Period”

    **Paper #1 Due**
Ch.5 “Religious Practice, Law, and Spirituality in the Abbasid Era”
Document 12 “The Death of al-Husayn ibn Ali”
Document 5 “Harun al-Rashid and the Succession Arrangement”

1/30 Islamic Civilization: *Dar al-Islam*
   **Bentley:** pp.268-278
   **Gordon:** Ch.6 “The Islamic World in the Early Tenth Century”
   Document 8 “The Wealth of the Abbasid Court”
   Document 9 “The Markets of Baghdad”
   Document 14 “A New Capital in Egypt”
   Document 15 “Abd al-Rahman III of al-Andalus”

**Reader:** “Law”

**HINDUISM IN THE GUPTA EMPIRE**

**Week Five**

2/4 Hinduism and Indian Society
   **Bentley:** pp. 173-177; 182-185
   **Bhagavad-Gita:** All

2/6 The Gupta Culture
   **Reader:** Ingalls “Kalidasa and the Attitudes of the Golden Age”
   Kalidasa “The Birth of Kumara”
   Faxian “A Chinese Perspective on Gupta India”

**BUDDHISM IN MEDIEVAL KOREA and CHINA**

**Week Six**

2/11 **********MIDTERM (20%)**********

2/13 Silla Unification in 7th century Korea
   **Bentley:** pp.298-299
   **Course Website:** Harrell “Sokkuram: Buddhist Monument and Political Statement in Korea”
   Grayson “Religious Syncretism in the Shilla Period”

**Week Seven**

2/18 Imperial Unification and Bureaucracy
   **Bentley:** pp. 155-166
   **Wright:** pp. 3-20
   **Reader:** Huang “Behind the Terracotta Army”
   Birch “Biographies of Ssu-ma Ch’ien”
   “Shi Huang Ti of Qin”
   Ebrey “The Debate on Salt and Iron”
   Pan Chao “Lessons for Women”

2/20 Existential Crisis in post-Han China
   **Wright:** pp.21-64
   **Reader:** Hsi K’ang (Xi Kang) “Discourse on Nourishing Life”
   Tao Chien (Tao Qian) “The Peach Blossom Orchard”
   Hui Yuan “A Monk Does Not Bow Down Before a King”

**Week Eight**

2/25 The Tang Bureaucracy
   **Bentley:** pp.239-244; pp.280-294
   **Reader:** “Emperor Taizong on Effective Government”
Wills “Empress Wu”
Selections of Tang Poetry

2/27  Buddhist and the Tang State

Bentley:  pp.294-298
Wright:  pp. 65-85
Reader:  Orzech “The Scripture on Perfect Wisdom”
Welter “Buddhist Ritual and the State”
Wills “Hui Neng: The Sixth Patriarch”
“The Meditation School”

BUDDHISM AND THE STATE IN MEDIEVAL JAPAN

Week Nine

3/4  Early Japanese Mythology and Shinto Ethics

Reader:  Earhart “The Earliest Religious Traditions in Japan”
Lu “The Dawn of Japanese History”
Ebersole “Tama Belief and Practice in Ancient Japan”
Selections from the “Man’yoshu”

3/6  Buddhism and State Building in Nara

Bentley:  pp.299-302
Reader:  Earhart “Early Japanese Buddhism”
“Prince Shotoku and His Constitution”
Holcombe “The Confucian Monarchy of Nara Japan”
“State Sponsorship and Control of Buddhism”
Course Website:  Holcombe “Trade-Buddhism: Maritime Trade, Immigration, and the Buddhist Landfall in Early Japan”

Week Ten  Paper #3 Due

3/11  Heian and Medieval Japanese Sensibility

Reader:  Sato “The Early Development of the Sho’en”
Varley “Canons of Medieval Taste”
Selections from Diary of Lady Murasaki

3/13  The Bushido Ethic of the Samurai Warrior

Reader:  Varley “The Ancient War Tales”
Selection from “Tale of the Heike”
Lu “Dogen and the Meaning of Zen”
Kamo No Chomei “An Account of My Hut”

**************FINAL EXAM THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2014 11:30-2:29 PM**************
If you arrive more than 10 minutes late to an exam, you will forfeit your right to take it