History 2206: Origins of Great Traditions
Spring 2010
Room 3029 Social Science Building
Dr. Ryan Ronnenberg
Mon./Wed. 5pm-6:15pm
Office Hours: Mon/Wed 3:30 pm-4:45pm
Office: 4090 Social Science
Email: pryan4@kennesaw.edu. (Please use the WebCT Vista Mail, however.)
Office Phone: 770-499-3463

Course Description

“A systematic examination of five centers of civilization in Afro-Eurasia during their defining moments. The course focuses on the historical contexts that gave rise to China’s classical philosophies, India’s transcendental world view, the Judeo-Christian-Islamic synthesis, African mytho-religious systems of thought and the emergence of Latin-European culture in the West. Content emphasizes cross-cultural influences and connections.”

Course Aims

This course aims to familiarize students with the five stated “traditions” which still, to a significant extent, continue to shape our world today. It will also place an emphasis in critical reading and thinking, in viewing texts like a historian.

Assessment

You will, in this course, find yourself reading and writing quite a bit. Your first assignment is a three to four page paper representing a close historical reading of several of the documents presented in the first third of the class. The second two assignments will be take-home essay examinations. Each of these will makes up a third of your grade. None of these assignments is comprehensive. The course uses a conventional grading scale (detailed below.)

A=89.5 or better
B=79.5 to 89.49
C=69.5 to 79.49
D=59.5 to 69.49
F=59.49 or below

Academic Integrity Statement

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the University’s policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities
and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, which includes either an “informal” resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct’s minimum one semester suspension requirement.

**Required Texts**


**Course Outline:**

**Week One**

Readings: None.

No Meetings.

**Week Two**

Readings: Online: Geertz, Clifford, “Religion as a Cultural System,” *The Interpretation of Cultures*


Monday, January 11 Introductions, Expectations, Outline of the Course

Wednesday, January 13 Eliot, and what we mean by “Tradition.” Clifford Geertz (introduction)

**Week Three**

Readings: Geertz, The Rig Veda

Monday, January 18 [No Class.]

Wednesday, January 20 Clifford Geertz and religion. Introducing Indian Religious Tradition.

**Week Four**

Readings: The Rig Veda (review), The Upanishads, The Bhagavad Gita
Monday, January 25. The Rig Veda and Early Hinduism
Wednesday, January 27. The Upanishads, The Bhagavad Gita...Caste and Hindu Beliefs

Week Five
Readings: Review Hinduism readings, Setting in Motion the Wheel of Law, The Poison Arrow,
Wednesday, February 3. Buddhism Discussion

Week Six
Readings: The Book of Songs, The Analects
Monday, February 8. Introducing China and the context for Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism
Wednesday, February 10. Confucian Thought Discussion

Week Seven
Readings: The Classic of the Way and Virtue (Dao Dejing). The Writings of Master Han Fei.
Monday, February 15. Daoism.
Wednesday, February 17. Daoism and Legalism. First Take-home available online.

Week Eight
Readings:
Monday, February 22,
Wednesday, February 24. First Take-home examination collected in class.

Week Nine
Readings:
Monday, March 1,
Wednesday, March 3,

Week Ten
Monday, March 8, Spring Break, No Class.
Wednesday, March 10, Spring Break, No Class.

Week Eleven
Readings:
Monday, March 15,
Wednesday, March 17,

Week Eleven
Readings:
Monday, March 22,
Wednesday, March 25,

Week Twelve
Readings:
Monday, March 29,
Wednesday, March 31,

Week Thirteen
Readings:
Monday, April 5,
Wednesday, April 7,

Week Fourteen
Readings:
Monday, April 12,
Wednesday, April 14,

Week Fifteen
Readings:
Monday, April 19, 3\textsuperscript{rd} \textbf{take-home posted online}.
Wednesday, April 21,

Week Sixteen
Monday, April 26,
Wednesday, April 28, 3\textsuperscript{rd} \textbf{take-home exam collected}. 