Nota Bene: This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. It is up to the student to keep up with any announced changes in the schedule of assignments and readings.

Readings:

2. R.K. Narayan, *The Ramayana*
3. Other readings: posted on D2L or on line.

1. Course description: “Origins of the Great Traditions” is a systematic examination of four centers of civilization in Eurasia during their defining moments. The course focuses on India’s transcendental world view, China’s classical philosophies, the Judaeo-Christian-Islamic outlook, and the emergence of a Latin-European culture in the West. The content emphasizes cross-cultural influences and connections.

The course aims at enabling students to gain an understanding of the historical circumstances that gave rise to the major traditions of the Eurasian world. It further aims at familiarizing the students with some of the major texts that are at the core of the Great Traditions, and at the development of the skill of historical analysis using primary sources.

The lectures are designed to provide an overview of course themes. However, the reading and understanding of major primary texts is an important objective of this class, and since the discussion of these texts in class occupies such a central place, much of the course content will depend on students and their degree of preparation.

2. Learning outcomes. After taking this course, the student should have achieved

- A deepened and informed understanding of Great Traditions and their genesis fostered by...
- A sustained and intense engagement with key primary texts that inform these Traditions
- An appreciation of the connections, interactions, differences and commonalities of these Traditions
- Improved ability to analyze, assess, and interpret primary sources.

3. Course requirements:

- Most of the handouts for this course will be made available through D2L; it is the student’s responsibility to *print and bring these materials to class*, to keep up with the calendar and possible revisions of the syllabus posted on Vista.
- The students are expected to come to class prepared, i.e. they must be able to discuss the assigned readings. Overall class participation plays a role in the determination of the
The expectation in this course is that students and instructor treat each other with the respect they themselves want to be accorded.

Absence from an exam will result in a zero grade. In case of a medical or other emergency, contact me before or on the day of the exam, and submit the proper documentation.

This is a fast-paced course – each class equals a week of classes in a regular semester. Attendance is therefore imperative. The participation component of your grade (10 points) will be based on regular quizzes on the reading assignments, and attendance.

There will be three exams on the collective readings and the topics discussed in class.

Every student will visit a site relevant to one of the great traditions and write a three page reflection paper on his/her experience. These sites may include churches, synagogues, and mosques (preferably outside the student’s own religious tradition). The reflection paper will count as 20% of the student’s final grade and is due on June 24. Separate instructions will be posted.

Arrive promptly; if you have to leave class early, tell the instructor at the beginning of class. Turn off cell phones – in case of an anticipated emergency, please set to vibrate and inform the instructor. Use laptops judiciously and not for distraction.

Grade distribution: letter grades are assigned as follows: A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=0-59.

Your grade is broken down as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes/participation</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site visit report (reflection paper)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total points</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Academic integrity: 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.

4. Course schedule (readings, exam and other important dates in italics; “HR”=The Human Record).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W May 29</td>
<td>General introduction; use of primary sources; Indian civilization: history – Hinduism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HR P1-P14 (Prologue: “Primary Sources and How to Read Them”); HR 44-48; 65-73; 180-183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH May 30</td>
<td>India: religion and caste; Hindu epic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| M June 3 | Buddhism; Jainism; conclusion  
HR 74-79; 143-149; 183-190; HR 294-301 (Multiple Voices VI, Buddhism in China) |                                                                                                   |
| T June 4 | China’s style of civilization; Daoism, Confucianism, Legalism  
HR 30-37; 133-137; 87-101; HR 87-101; Laozi & Confucius: selections posted |                                                                                                   |
| W June 5 | China’s Great Traditions: conclusion  
HR 116-125 (Multiple Voices II, Healing in China, India, and Greece) |                                                                                                   |
| TH June 6 | Exam 1 (bring Blue/Green Book); The Greco-Roman tradition: backgrounds  
HR 49-54; 101-115 |                                                                                                   |
| M June 10 | Greco-Roman tradition (continued); Family of Abraham: The Judaeo-Christian tradition: genesis and history  
Readings: Plato, Cave Metaphor; Tacitus, Annals of Imperial Rome: See D2L; HR 55-64; 83-86; 194-197 |                                                                                                   |
| T June 11 | Family of Abraham: The Christian Tradition  
Readings: HR 197-207 (#s 41-43); 213-221 (Multiple Voices IV: One or Many Christianities?) |                                                                                                   |
| W June 12 | [Last day to withdraw w/o academic penalty]                                                                 |                                                                                                   |
| TH June 13 | Family of Abraham: The Islamic tradition: backgrounds and history; HR 222-239 |                                                                                                   |
| M June 17 | Islamic tradition cont’d; conclusions  
HR 240-247 (Multiple Voices V: Islam and Unbelievers)  
Exam 2 (bring Blue/Green Book); Exams: HR 302-312; 317-322 |                                                                                                   |
| T June 18 | Medieval christendom: the early medieval tradition  
Readings: Einhard, Life of Charlemagne (on line); Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologica (selection, see D2L) |                                                                                                   |
| W June 19 | Middle Ages-from the Carolingians to the High Middle Ages  
Readings: Einhard, Life of Charlemagne (on line); Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologica (selection, see D2L) |                                                                                                   |
| TH June 20 | High Middle Ages  
Reading: The Story of Abelard’s Adversities (D2L) |                                                                                                   |
| M June 24 | Conclusions: The Great Traditions c. 1500 (readings on D2L) |                                                                                                   |
| T June 26 | FINAL EXAM (bring Blue/Green Book) 2:00 – 4:00 PM |                                                                                                   |