



REL 2510: Chinese Religion

2023 Summer Session	
Total Class Sessions: 25 Class Sessions Per Week: 5 Total Weeks: 5 Class Session Length (Minutes): 145 Credit Hours: 4	Instructor: Staff Classroom: TBA Office Hours: TBA Language: English

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to Chinese religion and explores the diversity and unity of Chinese traditions. Focus will be on aspects of the cultural background, art, literature, philosophy, and institutional development of each tradition. Topics covered include ancient mythology, cosmology, shamanism; Confucianism and the traditional state cult, Taoist mysticism, immortality; Buddhism and Chinese religious transformation.

Course Goals:

A student who satisfactorily completes this course should:

1. Acquire solid information of the religious traditions and Chinese religions.
2. Read the primary texts in English translation.
3. Describe, analyze, and define the major characteristics of Chinese religions.
4. Relate the ideas of the course to each other in a meaningful way.

Required readings will be handed out in class.

Course Materials:

Course Pack

The course pack is the only mandatory course materials. Students are not required to buy textbooks. All required readings will be covered in the course pack.

Optional Textbooks

Chinese Religion: An Anthology of Sources,

Deborah Sommer, 1st edition

Asian Religions: A Cultural Perspective,

Randall L Nadeau, 1st edition

Course Assignments:

Quizzes:

There will be 6 quizzes administered through the whole semester and the lowest one will be dropped. Quizzes will always be completed in the first ten minutes of class. The quiz problems will be similar to homework problems and in-class examples. There will be no make-up quizzes.

**Papers:**

There will be three paper assignments. Each paper should be between 1370 and 1500 words long. The papers together will count for 45% of your grade for the course. Each paper will count equally to 15%.

Topics will be made available two weeks before papers are due. All papers must be double spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font, with 1” margins all around.

Exams:

This course will have an in-class closed-book mid-term exam and an in-class closed-book non-cumulative final exam. Each exam will cover course materials taught until the day before the exam. Exam questions include multiple choices, short-answer and essay questions, covering material from the lecture and all assigned course materials.

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory. More than three unexcused absences will result in an automatic reduction in your participation grade, for instance from A- to B+. Your active participation in the class is expected and constitutes part of your grade.

Course Assessment:

Quizzes	5%
Paper 1	15%
Paper 2	15%
Paper 3	15%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

Grading Scale (percentage):

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
98-	93-	90-	88-	83-	80-	78-	73-	70-	68-	63-	60-	<60
100	97	92	89	87	82	79	77	72	69	67	62	

Academic Integrity:

Students are encouraged to study together, and to discuss lecture topics with one another, but all other work should be completed independently.

Students are expected to adhere to the standards of academic honesty and integrity that are described in the Chengdu University of Technology’s *Academic Conduct Code*. Any work



suspected of violating the standards of the *Academic Conduct Code* will be reported to the Dean's Office. Penalties for violating the *Academic Conduct Code* may include dismissal from the program. All students have an individual responsibility to know and understand the provisions of the *Academic Conduct Code*.

Special Needs or Assistance:

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.

Course Schedule:

Class 1

Go through syllabus;
Introductions to Chinese Religion

Class 2

Deities and Ancestors
The Youguan
Introduction on Essay 1

Class 3

The Youguan (Cont.)
The Chuyu, xia

Class 4

Quiz 1
The Chuyu, xia (Cont.)
Instructor's comments on Essay 1, Peer Review & Feedback

Class 5

The Daodejing

Class 6

The Daodejing (Cont.)
In-class Discussion on Essay 1

Class 7

Quiz 2
The Daodejing (Cont.)

Class 8

Essay 1 Due
The Analects



Class 9
The Analects (Cont.)

Class 10
The Analects (Cont.)
Introduction on Essay 2

Class 11
Quiz 3
The Art of War

Class 12
The Art of War (Cont.)

Class 13
Instructor's comments on Essay 2, Peer Review & Feedback
Midterm Examination Review

Class 14
Midterm Exam

Class 15
The Shenxian Zhuan
In-class Discussion on Essay 2

Class 16
The Shenxian Zhuan (Cont.)

Class 17
Quiz 4
Buddhism
Essay 2 Due

Class 18
Scripture in 42 Sections

Class 19
Scripture in 42 Sections (Cont.)
Introduction on Essay 3

Class 20
Quiz 5
Scripture in 42 Sections (Cont.)
Linji



Class 21
Linji (Cont.)
Instructor's comments on Essay 3, Peer Review & Feedback

Class 22
Document 19

Class 23
Quiz 6
Document 19 (Cont.)
In-class Discussion on Essay 3

Class 24
Movie: Judou (movie)

Class 25
Final Examination Review
Wrap-Up
Essay 3 Due

Final Exam (Non-Cumulative)