

**San José State University**  
**Department of World Languages and Literatures**  
**RELS/HUM/ASIA 144 Chinese Traditions, Spring 2021**

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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:20-5:20 pm
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Tuesdays and Thursdays 15:00-16:15 pm
<b>Classroom:</b>	Online

**Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging**

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, assignment handouts and supplementary materials may be found online via Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking the Canvas course website.

**Course Description**

The course covers the religious thought and practice of China's major traditions (Confucian, Daoist, and Buddhist), with an emphasis on the original texts, classical literature, historical developments, social significance, and self-cultivation practices.

**Course Goals**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

CLO 1: Summarize basic scholarly debates over central issues in the study of the three traditions.

CLO 2: Present a general outline of Chinese religious ideas and practices related to Confucianism, Daoism and Chinese Buddhism in historical contexts.

CLO 3: Explain how religions interact with other dimensions of culture--influencing them and being influenced by them.

CLO 4: Explain how and why Confucians and Daoists have engaged in self-cultivation and toward what ultimate goals.

CLO 5: Analyze how films and literary works incorporate and represent the three traditions.

**Required Texts/Readings**

Poceski, Mario. *Chinese Religions: The Ebook*. Providence: Journal of Buddhist Ethics Online Books, 2009. **(King Lib. E-book)**

Sommer, Deborah. *Chinese Religion: An Anthology of Sources*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.

Students need to pay movie streaming services to watch the assigned films *Hero* (2002) and *Red Cliff* (2008).

### **Library Liaison**

Peggy Cabrera, Librarian, King Library: 408 808-2034; Peggy.Cabrera@sjsu.edu  
Canvas

### **Canvas**

This is a learning management system that contains course assignments and notes, as well as other materials related to this course, such as a copy of the course syllabus. To access the site, go to: <http://sjsu.instructure.com/>

### **Student Technology Resources**

The Department of World Languages computer lab is located in Clark Hall 208. Additional computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Clark Hall and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Student Union. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital, such as DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

### **Course Requirements and Assignments**

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 3 hours per unit per week, with one of the hours used for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities. (See SJSU Academic Senate Policy S12-3.)

In 3-unit courses, students are therefore expected to devote a minimum of nine hours per week preparing for and attending classes or completing equivalent out-of-class, online course assignments or projects. Careful time management is needed to keep up with readings and assignments in these courses. Certain assignments may require meetings outside of class with other students and the instructor (see course calendar for further details). More details about student workload can be found in

[University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>

**One Paper:** Students are required to write one paper to analyze the religious/philosophical ideas represented in the film(s). Detailed instructions will be posted on the Canvas course website.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes on readings are possible on any class days. Please finish the assigned readings before the meetings. The instructor will not provide any makeups for the missed quizzes.

**Discussions:** Students need to post their interpretations of the assigned readings on the Discussion Forum. Detailed instruction will be posted on Canvas course website.

**You Find It Presentation:** At the end of the semester, students are expected to present a scholarly article or book chapter on a topic relevant to this course. Detailed instructions will be posted on Canvas course website.

**Participation: PARTICIPATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESS.** In the case of an unavoidable absence, the student is responsible for obtaining the class notes and homework assignments of previous meetings from a classmate.

**Final Exam:** The final exam will be held on May 24 from 14:45-17:00

### Classroom Protocol

1. Students are expected to come to class on time and actively participate in class activities, including discussions and debates.
2. Students are expected to come to class well-prepared. Participation in discussions on shared reading assignments is an essential part of the course.
3. Turn in your paper/discussion posts on time as a late submission will be penalized, and assignments more than three days late will not be accepted for grading.
4. Take scheduled exams. There will be no makeups for the exams.
5. There will be no makeups for the quizzes on assigned readings.
6. No eating during the class time.

### Assignments and Grading Policy

Categories	Percentage	CLOs
One Paper (5%)	5%	CLO 1, 2, 3,4, 5
Discussions (5%)	5%	CLO 1,2
Activities/Quizzes	15%	CLO 1,2,3
Three Exams (20%+20%+25%)	65%	CLO 1,2,3,4
You Find It Presentation	10%	CLO 1,2, 4

93-100 A      90-92.9 A-  
 86-89.9 B+    83-85.9 B      80-82.9 B-  
 76-79.9 C+    73-75.9 C      70-72.9 C-  
 66-69.9 D+    63-65.9 D      60-62.9 D-  
 Below 60 F

### Zoom Classroom Etiquette

- **Mute Your Microphone:** To help keep background noise to a minimum, make sure you mute your microphone when you are not speaking.
- **Be Mindful of Background Noise and Distractions:** Find a quiet place to “attend” class, to the greatest extent possible.
  - Avoid video setups where people may be walking behind you, people talking/making noise, etc.
  - Avoid activities that could create additional noise, such as shuffling papers,

listening to music in the background, etc.

- **Position Your Camera Properly:** Be sure your webcam is in a stable position and focused at eye level.
- **Limit Your Distractions/Avoid Multitasking:** You can make it easier to focus on the meeting by turning off notifications, closing or minimizing running apps, and putting your smartphone away (unless you are using it to access Zoom).
- **Use Appropriate Virtual Backgrounds:** If using a virtual background, it should be appropriate and professional and should NOT suggest or include content that is objectively offensive or demeaning.

## University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

## Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

“Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”

- It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor's process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
- In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.

“Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

## Technical difficulties

Internet connection issues:

Canvas autosaves responses a few times per minute as long as there is an internet connection. If your internet connection is lost, Canvas will warn you but allow you to continue working

on your exam. A brief loss of internet connection is unlikely to cause you to lose your work. However, a longer loss of connectivity or weak/unstable connection may jeopardize your exam.

Other technical difficulties:

Immediately email the instructor a current copy of the state of your exam and explain the problem you are facing. Your instructor may not be able to respond immediately or provide technical support. However, the copy of your exam and email will provide a record of the situation. If possible, complete your exam in the remaining allotted time, offline if necessary. Email your exam to your instructor within the allotted time or soon after.

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## Course Schedule

*The schedule is subject to change with fair notice. Please check our course website regularly.*

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</i>
1	Jan 28	Introducing the course and meeting each other.  Overview of Chinese religions, early forms of religious life Readings: Poceski 13-31
2	Feb 2  Feb 4	<i>Analects</i> Readings: Sommer 41-48  Analects and Confucius Readings: Poceski 32-40
3	Feb 9  Feb 11	Mengzi and Mozi Readings: Sommer 49-61, Poceski 40-46  Xunzi, Readings: Sommer 63-70,
4	Feb 16  Feb 18	<i>The Great Learning</i> Readings: Course Reader (Canvas)  Class Discussion: The film <i>Red Cliff</i>
5	Feb 23  Feb 25	Confucianism as state ideology Readings: Poceski 47-49,  <b>First Exam</b>
6	Mar 2  Mar 4	<i>Daode jing</i> Readings: Sommer 71-76, Poceski 53-59  <i>Zhuangzi</i> Readings: Sommer 77-83, Poceski 59-62
7	Mar 9  Mar 11	Zhuangzi Readings: Sommer 145-151, Poceski 68-72, 83-97  Daoist traditions and practices Readings: Sommer 199-210, Poceski 97-100
8	Mar 16  Mar 18	Daoist traditions and practices Discussion: The film <i>Hero</i>  <b>Second Exam</b>
9	Mar 23	Buddhism as a pan-Asian religion Readings: Poceski 105-115

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</i>
	<i>Mar 25</i>	Spread of Buddhism in China Readings: Poceski 115-128 <b><i>Paper Due</i></b>
<i>10</i>	<i>Mar 30</i> <i>Apr 1</i>	<i>Spring Break</i> <i>Spring Break</i>
<i>11</i>	<i>Apr 6</i>  <i>Apr 8</i>	Popular scripture Readings: Sommer 119-132  Popular Scripture Readings: Sommer 133-148
<i>12</i>	<i>Apr 13</i>  <i>Apr 15</i>	Schools and traditions of Chinese Buddhism Readings: Sommer 155-164,  Schools and traditions of Chinese Buddhism Readings: Poceski 148-154
<i>13</i>	<i>Apr 20</i>  <i>Apr 22</i>	<i>Journey to the West</i> Readings: Sommer 239-246  <i>Journey to the West</i>
<i>14</i>	<i>Apr 27</i>  <i>Apr 29</i>	Assimilation, rituals and devotion practices Readings: 132-141  Later transformations of Confucianism Readings: Sommer 183-196, 227-232
<i>15</i>	<i>May 4</i>  <i>May 6</i>	Confucianism, Daoism and Buddhism in Modern China Readings: Sommer 281-302  Confucianism, Daoism and Buddhism in Modern China Readings: Sommer 303-316
<i>16</i>	<i>May 11</i>  <i>May 13</i>	Conclusion  You Find It Presentation
	<i>May 24</i>	Final Exam at 14:45-17:00