RELIGION 157 GS
Japanese Religions

Mondays & Tuesdays
Lectures & discussions
9:00-12:00pm

Thursday & Friday Excursions

Summer Session II
August 5 – September 6

Global Seminar
UCSD

Professor: Babak Rahimi
Literature Building, 3rd floor: 3324
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DESCRIPTION AND THE PURPOSE OF THE COURSE:

This course examines the religious cultural landscape of Japan. It seeks to understand how through its historical background Japanese religions continue to change and develop into new forms, crossing tradition and popular culture. Themes that will be examined are as follow:

a) sacred space and its ritual histories in urban context
b) pilgrimage cultures
c) ritual life
d) tradition, class, and gender

The basic goals of the course are as follow:

1. To acquire basic understanding of Japanese religions and their cultural practices with a focus on sacred spaces, rituals, but also cultural practices such as anima, cinema and Manga.
2. To understand how the everyday and religious histories can be connected with global processes.
3. To gain familiarity with non-European cultures.
4. To gain knowledge of Japanese history and society in the context of religious traditions and movements.
5. To engage in intensive university-level writing and to improve one’s analytical and critical skills.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

1. Course Reader (Cal Copy)
2. Japanese Religions: Past and Present, Ian Reader and Esben Andreasen

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Assignments:

Assignments and grades will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Group Assignments</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursion reviews</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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EXAMS:

- **Reading Group Assignments:** In the beginning of the summer term the class will be divided up into a number of groups (27 students in total: 3 students in each group; a total of 9 groups). Each group will be responsible for reading, discussing and summarizing the assigned reading during the lecture day, when the readings are due. Each group will also write up a collective essay on the Sunday of that week (submit at 11:59pm to religion101ucsd@gmail.com). We will have a total of 3 Reading Group Assignments for the summer term. For each essay submitted members of the group will receive credit. The essay should not be more than 500 words (excluding the references) and should make reference to the reading assignment. You may use MLA or any other reference style. Write the topic (the assignment you have discussed), your group name and members of that group on top of the paper. As for the name of the group, you can choose any name you like. My suggestion: choose the name of your favorite anime. The essays should be an analytical reflection and a summery of the assignment discussed in class. As for who writes the essay, you can rotate authors on a weekly basis.

- **Sacred Site Project:** 2500 to 3000 words (excluding references) fieldwork essay on a chosen sacred site and its cultural manifestation. A Minimum of 5 references is required for this project. I will expand on this project in class on the first day.

- **Excursion reviews:** 200 to 300 words review of excursion. They can be informal. I simply want to hear about your reflections. No need to make references. Due: everyday Thursday at 11:59pm. religion101ucsd@gmail.com

- You must complete all parts of the writing assignment, attend section, and submit all exams in order to pass the course.

CLASS POLICY & GUIDELINES:

**Attendance and Participation**
Active participation for each week comprises 10% of your grade. Students are expected to come to the lectures and are required to attend the sections. Students are also expected to have read the assigned reading materials and be prepared to talk about the reading material and lectures during discussion sessions. You can certainly ask questions during the lectures.
**Late Papers**
You must complete all assigned papers in a timely manner to pass the course. Late papers will be penalized 1/3 of a grade for each class that they are late.

**Plagiarism**
The major part of your course assignments and exams involves writings based on your assigned reading. So, make sure to cite your sources, either quoted directly or paraphrased, so to avoid plagiarism. In other words, submit your own original work! See me if you have any questions regarding what constitutes plagiarism. If you are caught cheating you will automatically fail the course.

**Assistance**
In case of disability that may require accommodation, please see me.

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**Schedule for the course**

- Monday and Tuesdays: 9:00 pm – 1:00pm in class
- Wednesday and Thursday – Excursion only day.
- There will be no scheduled activity on Fridays and weekends.

**Schedule of Lectures**

**August 5-9**

August 5, Monday: *Orientation
Welcome Dinner*

August 6, Tuesday: *Introduction to class*

August 7, Wednesday: *Encountering the Japanese Religious World*

August 8, Thursday Excursion: *Shinto Shrine: Heian Shrine*

August 9, Thursday Excursion: *Buddhist Shrine: Kiyomizudera Temple*

Excursion reviews #1
August 12-16

August 12, Monday  
*Vignettes of Japanese Spiritual Life*

August 13, Tuesday  
*Swords and Satori: Zen and Its Culture*

August 14, Wednesday, Excursion:  
*Saiho-Ji Temple*

August 15, Thursday  
*Arashiyama Temple*

Excursion reviews #2

August 19-23

August 19, Monday  
*Pilgrimage and ritual walks*

August 20, Tuesday  
*Homeland of the mind:  
Zen Experience*

August 14, Wednesday, Excursion:  
*Fushimi Inari-Taisha*

August 15, Thursday, Excursion:  
*Ryoan-Ji and Kinkaku-Ji Temples*

Excursion reviews #3
August 26-30

August 26, Monday  
*Confucius in Japan*

August 27, Tuesday  
*Japanese Christianity*

August 28, Wednesday, Excursion: Tokyo  
*Ghibli Museum (TBD)*  
*Inokashira Park*

September 1, Thursday, Excursion  
*Kotoku-in (The Great Buddha of Kamakura)*  
*Museum of Japanese Literature*

Excursion reviews #4

September 2-6

September 2, Monday  
*Tradition and “New Religions of Japan” Part I*

September 3, Tuesday  
*“New Religions of Japan” Part II*  
Film: *Ghost in the Shell*

September 4, Wednesday  
Excursions:  
*Kyoto International Manga Museum*

September 5, Thursday  
Excursions: Nara and its temples  
(Todai-ji, Kofuku-ji, etc.)
**Sacred Space Project** is due at 11:59pm (via email)

**September 6, Friday:** Farewell Dinner

**September 7, Saturday:** Pick-up at accommodations & depart for Narita International Airport (NRT) Depart for U.S.