Syllabus

Religions and Culture in Korea - 46135

Last update 02-09-2018

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Asian Studies

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Uri Kaplan

Coordinator Email: uri.kaplan1@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesdays 16:00-17:00

Teaching Staff:
  Dr. Uri Kaplan
Course/Module description:
The Korean religious world is unique and intriguing. It contains not only local manifestations of the great traditions of the area—Buddhism and Confucianism—but also a wide-scale, dynamic shamanic movement, diverse cults and New Religious Movements, and the largest, most active Protestant Christian community in East Asia. In this course we will follow the histories and philosophies of the different Korean religions, and examine their encounters, both with each other, as well as with modern-day Korean economy, politics, education, and leisure culture. Throughout the semester we will discuss a whole variety of topics, such as tourism in secluded Buddhist monasteries, Confucian influences on North Korean politics, the sexual orientations of shamans, and the Korean Christianity’s love of Israel.

Course/Module aims:

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
Students will learn to identify the various Korean religious traditions, and to recognize universal processes of change and invention of traditions. They will practice analyzing historical and anthropological arguments, locating research information, and presenting it orally and in writing.

Attendance requirements (%):
mandatory attendance (80%)

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:
Lesson 1. Introduction: The Korean religious map.

Lesson 2. Confucianism in Korean History:
Readings:

Lesson 3. Confucianism, economy, and politics in Korea:
Readings:
Chong-Min Park and Doh Chull Shin, “Do Asian Values Deter Popular Support for
Lesson 4. Confucianism and contemporary Korean culture:
Readings:

Lesson 5. Buddhism in Korean history:
Readings:

Lesson 6. Buddhism and modernization in Korea:
Readings:

Lesson 7. What is Korean Shamanism?
Readings:

Lesson 8. Shamanism and gender:
Readings:
Movie:
Man on the Edge (2012).

Lesson 9. What is the secret of success of Korean Christianity?
Readings:

Lesson 10. Religion in North Korea?
Readings:

Lesson 11. Korean New Religious Movements and Cults:
Readings:
Movie:
Married to the Moonies, 2012.

Lesson 12. Summary and student presentations.

Lesson 13. Summary and student presentations.

Required Reading:
The readings are detailed above according to the lecture topics and will all be available to download from the course website. During the semester we will read between 20-40 pages a week in the English language. Students will write short reports of a few sentences with insights and questions on the readings before each class.

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 20 %
Participation in Tutorials 20 %
Project work 30 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 30 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
There will be no exams in this course, and the grade will depend entirely on a final project + presentation and on the reading reports and class discussions on them.