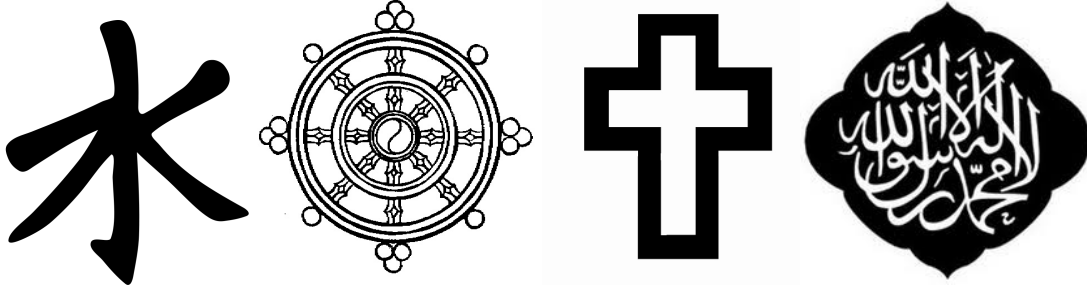


RLST207: MYTH AND METAPHOR

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Office Hrs.: Tues. 12-2
Wilson 2-160



Course Description:

This course investigates the central myths and metaphors surrounding four of the most influential figures in human history: Confucius, Buddha, Jesus, and Muhammad. Our approach will be both historical (examining the lives and contexts of these four figures) and a-historical (engaging the mythological, metaphorical, and philosophical significance of each). While we will study each figure independently, the course will also have a strong comparative component. Your final paper, for example, will ask that you compare/contrast the central myths and metaphors surrounding at least two of the figures.

Required Books:

The Rivers of Paradise: Moses, Buddha, Confucius, Jesus, and Muhammad as Religious Founders, ed. By Freedman and McClymond, 2001.

Confucius: The Analects, transl. by DC Lau, Penguin Books, 1979

Life of the Buddha (Ashva-Ghosh), transl. by P. Olivelle, 2008.

Approaching the Qur'an: The Early Revelations, (M. Sells), 2007.

[All other readings will be made available via D2L under content tab.]

Grade Breakdown:

60% Four Bluebook Quizzes based on readings and lecture/discussion

20% Homework Assignments/Engaged participation

20% Final Paper (to be turned in & presented during finals week)

Outline of Course Topics/Assigned Readings:

Week	Tuesday	Thursday
1	Aug. 28 th : Introductions	Aug. 30 th : Overview of Course <i>Read: "Introduction," in Rivers of Paradise</i>
2	Sept. 4 th : Confucius's Life and Context <i>Read: Rivers, p. 233-255-Homework due</i>	Sept. 6 th : Confucius of the Analects <i>Read: Rivers, pg 255-273</i>
3	Sept. 11 th : Myths of Confucius' life [Watch Confucius Biography]	Sept. 13 th : The Analects <i>Read: Analects – Homework Due</i>
4	Sept. 18 th : Defining Confucianism <i>Read: Rivers, pg. 291-308</i>	Sept. 20 th : Quiz on Confucius
5	Sept. 25 th : Myths of the Buddha <i>Read: Life of the Buddha, intro. & Canto 1 (pg. xvii – 35)—HW Due</i>	Sept. 27 th : Myths of the Buddha <i>Read: Life of the Buddha – Reports on individual Cantos</i>
6	Oct. 2 nd : The Four Buddhas: <i>Read: Rivers, pg. 121-135</i>	Oct. 4 th : Shakyamuni as Prophet <i>Read: Rivers, pg. 135-152</i>
7	Oct. 9 th : Suffering and Nirvana <i>Read: Rivers, pg. 153-169</i>	Oct. 11 th : Quiz on Buddha
8	Oct. 16 th : Jesus: Historical Context <i>Read: Rivers, pg. 356-375</i>	Oct. 18 th : Jesus: Sources and Methods <i>Read: Rivers, pg. 329-350</i>
9	Oct. 23 rd : Jesus Biography: <i>Read: Rivers, pg. 351-356, Matthew 1:18-2:23, AND Luke 1 & 2 – HW Due</i>	Oct. 25 th : John the Baptist and The Kingdom of God <i>Read: Rivers, pg. 375-397</i>
10	Oct. 29 th : Clark Roof Lecture, 4 PM Oct. 30 th : Teacher, Preacher & Healer: <i>Read: Rivers, pg. 397-425</i>	Nov. 1 st : Career and Controversies: <i>Read: Rivers, pg. 425-456—HW Due</i>
11	Nov. 6 th : No Class . . . VOTE!	Nov. 8 th : Quiz on Jesus
12	Nov. 13 th : Muhammad: Historical Context <i>Read: Rivers, pg. 457-485</i>	Nov. 15 th : Muhammad: Life and Myths <i>Read: Rivers, pg. 485-514</i>
13	Nov. 20 th : <i>Read: Approaching the Q'ran pg. 1-35</i> [Sign up & discuss 11/27 reports]	Nov. 22 nd : Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class
14	Nov. 27 th : <i>Read: Approaching the Q'ran—Reports on individual chapters</i>	Nov. 29 th : Quiz on Muhammad
15	Dec. 4 th : COMPARATIVE REVIEW	Dec. 6 th : COMPARATIVE REVIEW (Last Day of Class)
	Dec. 11 th : Finals Week –	Dec. 13 th : Finals Week –