Instructor: Rongdao Lai
Office: ACB 235
Office hours: Tue 12:00-2:00pm, or by appointment
Phone: 323-740-3623
Email: rongdao.lai@usc.edu

Course Description
This course introduces students to the religious systems of China, Japan, and Korea: ancestral rites, Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism, Shintō, popular cults, and new religious movements. Focusing on religion in society, the relationship between religion and the state, and the circulation of power. This course explores East Asian religiosity through a vast range of practices and cultural expressions. It aims at providing students with an understanding of the impact of religious ideas, practices, and institutions in the formulation of individual, communal, and national identity.

Course Assignments and Requirements

Attendance and Participation  15%
Students are expected to read the assigned readings in advance and come to class prepared to contribute to the discussions.

Writing Assignments (2x15%)   30%
There will be two learning modules - on Oct 2 and Nov 6. For each module, students will prepare a written assignment (5 pages max, double-spaced) based on the required readings. Each student must come to the learning module with a completed essay. During class, students will have an opportunity to engage in active face-to-face discussion with others. At the end, they will be allowed to write up to one page of notes or reflections, which will be graded as part of their paper, based on class discussion. Essay questions will be provided one week before each learning module.

Discussion Leading  10%
The will be a session dedicated to student discussion in each class. Students who are discussion leaders will:
   (1) prepare and deliver a 5-minute critical summary of the assigned readings;
   (2) prepare 2-3 discussion questions, which should be posted on the discussion board in Blackboard no later than the Wednesday before class;
   (3) lead and facilitate class discussion for 15-20 minutes.

Final Paper Proposal & In-Class Presentation  10%
Students will write final research papers on the topics of their choice. During class on Nov 20, students will prepare and submit paper proposals with annotated bibliographies. In addition, each
A student will deliver an in-class presentation based on his/her research topic. Each presentation should be 10-15 minutes.

**Final Research Paper** 35%
Final research papers (12-15 pages, double-spaced) are due on **Dec 10**.

**Total** 100%

**Statement for Students with Disabilities**
Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Website and contact information for DSP: http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html, (213) 740-0776 (Phone), (213) 740-6948 (TDD only), (213) 740-8216 (FAX) ability@usc.edu.

**Statement on Academic Integrity**
USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one’s own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another’s work as one’s own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. SCampus, the Student Guidebook, (www.usc.edu/scampus or http://scampus.usc.edu) contains the University Student Conduct Code (see University Governance, Section 11.00), while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A.

**Emergency Preparedness/Course Continuity in a Crisis**
In case of a declared emergency if travel to campus is not feasible, USC executive leadership will announce an electronic way for instructors to teach students in their residence halls or homes using a combination of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technologies.

**Course Schedule**

**Aug 28**  Introduction and Organization

**Sep 4**  Defining the Field
Sep 11 Early Chinese Religious Thought

Sep 18 Ancestor Rites and Filial Piety

Sep 25 Daoist Alchemy

Oct 2 Learning Module 1

Oct 9 Chan/Zen

Oct 16 Medieval Japanese Buddhism

Oct 23 Sacred Spaces and Pilgrimage
Oct 30  Shintō

Nov 6  Learning Module 2

Nov 13  Shamanism in Korea
Tangherlini, Timothy. "Remapping Koreatown: Folklore, Narrative and the Los Angeles Riots." Western Folklore 58.2.

Nov 20  Cult of Fox Spirit

Nov 27  No class meeting. Thanksgiving Break!

Dec 4  Modernity and Globalization

Final Research Paper due by 5pm on Dec 10