

JAS160/JAS155 JAPANESE RELIGION

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One of the best ways to grasp the whole map of Japanese Religion is to use two key channels. One is to study rituals & festivals in practice, and the other is to trace the life and philosophy of religious leaders. Students will be expected to conduct their own research on selected topics and perform power-point presentations based on the findings.

PLAN OF CLASS TOPICS:

(9/12) Class 1: Japanese Religion & Its Role in the Global Community

(9/19) Class 2: Japanese Religion & Its Role in the Global Community

(9/26) Class 3: Odd Rituals & Festivals Group 1, 2, 3

(10/3) Class 4: Odd Rituals & Festivals Group 4, 5, 6

(10/24) Class 5: Odd Rituals & Festivals Group 7, 8, 9

(10/31) Class 6: Odd Rituals & Festivals Group 10, 11, 12

(11/7) Class 7: Religious Leaders Group 1, 2, 3

(11/14) Class 8: Religious Leaders Group 4, 5, 6

(12/5) Class 9: Religious Leaders Group 7, 8, 9

(12/19) Class 10: Religious Leaders Group 10, 11, 12

Suggestions for Religious Leaders

- | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------|----------|
| 1. Prince Shotoku | 2. Kukai | 3. Saicho | 4. Honen |
| 5. Shinran | 6. Dogen | 7. Nichiren | 8. Ippen |
| 9. Ishida Baigan | 10. Motoori Norinaga | | |

Points of Presentation (Full Score: 10)

- | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Analysis of Topic | 2. Logical Coherence | 3. References | 4. Slide Design |
| 5. Performance | 6. Clarity | 7. Coordination | 8. Timing |

EVALUATION:

Participation in class (20 %)

Group Projects (80 %): Group Presentations are assigned twice per semester, It should be 40 mins. presentation and 20 mins. Q&A, 7 slides per group.

Note: Concerning your first presentation, “Odd Rituals & Festivals, you must inform

me of your choice via e-mail. First come, first served.

BOOKS FOR REFERENCE:

Davis, Hadland. *Myths and Legends of Japan*

Earhart, H. Byron *Religion in the Japanese Experience*, Thomson Wadsworth

Endo, Shusaku. *Silence*

Hori Ichiro, eds. *Japanese Religion*

Ian Reader eds. *Japanese Religions: Past & Present*

Machida Soho *Renegade Monk: Honen and Japanese Pure Land Buddhism*

Morton, W. Scott. *Japan: Its History and Culture*

Suzuki, Daisetz. *Zen and Japanese Culture*

Whelan, Christal. *The Beginning of Heaven and Earth*

Profile

SOHO MACHIDA: Professor, Graduate School of Integrated Arts & Sciences, Director, Center for Ecological Peace Studies, Hiroshima University. He was born as a son of Haiku poet in 1950. He practiced as a Zen monk for 20 yrs. in a conservative monastery of Kyoto, but left for the US in 1984. He has MA from Harvard University and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. Taught at Princeton University (90-98), National University of Singapore (98-00), Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (00-05) before he moved to Hiroshima in 2006. Research Areas: Comparative Religion, History of Civilization, Bioethics, and Peace Studies. He authored more than 20 books in Japanese, English and Korean, including *Renegade Monk* (University of California Press), *Can Mankind Overcome Religion?* (NHK Books), *Why Religion Prevent Peace?* (Kodansha), etc. He also conduct monthly meditation seminars at Tokyo and Hiroshima. URL: <http://home.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/soho/>
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