KOR 332-01 Humanities Topics in Korean Studies: Buddhist Christian Dialogue

Spring 2014

SUNY at Stony Brook

When: Tu Th 2:30 PM - 3:50 PM

Where: HUM 3017

Instructor: Prof. Sung Bae Park

Office: HUM 1127

Office Hours: Wednesdays from 10:00AM to Noon at HUM 1127. Or, by appointment. Tel: 632-7314

Course Description:
This course will look at Buddhism and Christianity from the East-West Cross-cultural perspective. Emphasis will be placed on the ways in which inter-religious dialogue can reveal areas of commonality, and help enrich the self-understandings of both Buddhists and Christians.

Required Texts:


*** No prior knowledge about Buddhism or Christianity is required. We will read some chapters from the most influential Buddhist scriptures in Asia such as the Heart Sutra, Diamond Sutra, Lotus Sutra as well as the Collected Works of famous Zen masters alongside selections from the Christian bible. Strong emphasis on group interaction and classroom discussion.

Course Requirements:
Attend class regularly. Be on time to class. Participate in class work. Complete the assigned readings before class. Two exams and term paper are required and the exam dates will be announced in class. No late exams are permitted.

Course Learning Objectives:
Upon successful completion of this course, you are expected to:
- Understand the global importance of Korean culture and its contribution to American society.
- Develop a basic body of knowledge concerning Korea.
• Enhance the capability to think critically about topics related to Korean literature, history, religions, and society.
• Obtain comprehension of research methods about Social Sciences and/or Humanities.
• Be able to write clearly and grammatically in English.

**Topics of Discussion and Reading Assignments:**

***It is strongly recommended to all students to finish reading the entire book once you started. It would be truly beneficial.***

1. Introduction .


3. The Mom/Momjit Paradigm. Read Park, Introduction, Chapter One and Two, pp. 1-75.


8. Transformation experience, Park, pp. 35-56.


10. What is the most important message of the Heart Sutra? Read Thich Nhat Hahn, pp.1-2.

11. How could the all sufferings be gone? Read the 1st paragraph of the sutra.
12. What is meant by the passage, “Form is emptiness, emptiness is form.” Read THICH pp.3-5.
13. Practice of the Heart Sutra. Discuss the role of Chanting. Read THICH vii-x.
14. “I am the way, I am the truth, I am the life.” Read the Gospel of John 14-6.
15. “I am in my Father, and that you are in me, just as I am in you.” Read the Gospel of John 14-20.
18. “Dharma discussed is not Dharma; therefore it is called Dharma.” Read the Diamond Sutra, Chapter Thirty Two. Pine pp. 419-427.

19. General Discussion and Conclusion. Read Park, pp. 131-134.

**Guidelines for writing the term paper:**

Topic: Why do we need dialogue between Buddhists and Christians?
*** Plagiarizing others' work or having someone else write your papers or submitting a paper you have written for another course are all serious matters. The consequence, if you are caught in violation of the academic integrity code, is almost always an F for the assignment and possibly for the course. The matter is decided by Office of Academic Judiciary, College of Arts and Sciences.

*** Your discussion must reflect the class lectures and include your evaluation of the Buddhist theory of PRACTICE in terms of its applicability in contemporary Western culture. Students are expected to demonstrate one's ability to incorporate some of her or his ideas (perhaps by raising intelligent questions) into the paper. Whether or not the student truly engages the topic or merely reiterates the lectures and texts will be evaluated.

*** Texts to be used for writing your paper are the texts required for the course this semester. Also you may use the texts recommended for the course.

*** Length and Format:

Your paper is to be 10 pages long (including notes and works cited), typed and double spaced. There should be a one inch margin along the top, bottom and both sides of each page of text.