

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY —FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Religious Studies

RELS 325 L01: Female Saints and Sacred Figures in Eastern Religions

Course Outline - Fall 2011, MWF 10:00-10:50am, ST063

(The University of Calgary policy about course outlines may be found on page 39 of the University Calendar.)

Instructor: Shinobu Apple, Ph.D.

Office: SS1330

Office Hour: M 1:00-2:00pm or by appointment

Contact: sapple@ucalgary.ca or shinobuapple@hotmail.com

Phone: (403) 220-5612 or (403) 220-5886 (Department office)

Required Texts:

The links to required reading materials, as well as a list of reference books, will be posted on Blackboard.

Course Website [Blackboard]:

Our course web site will list important announcements, electronic readings, and downloadable documents.

Course Description:

This course will investigate and examine female divine figures found in Eastern Religions. Especially, its focus will be on East Asian traditions, in particular, indigenous religions (Daoism and Kami-worship/Shintoism) and Buddhism in China and Japan. The legacy of divine female images is found as prototypical fragmented forms among various ancient records and literature in East Asian culture. Throughout history, these images have been transformed through numerous metaphoric innovation and renovation in the traditions in both China and Japan. Tracing and examining these images will provide students with insight into the historical transformation/degradation of female divine images.

The subject matter will be approached in an interdisciplinary manner by paying special attention to the interrelationships of disciplines, such as history, sociology, politics, literature, and art, including films.

Course Objectives:

Through taking this course, students will be able to:

- identify and discuss sacred female figures that are dealt with the course,
- discuss the figures and their historical transformations from an interdisciplinary perspective,
- develop analytical thinking through class discussion and written assignments.

Course Requirements and Weighting:

10 In-Class Written Responses (ICWRs) and 2 Individual Paper Research Reports (RRs) – 20%

- In-Class Written Responses are completed and submitted in class. A total of 13 ICWRs will be assigned and the best 10 out of 13 will be counted in the evaluation.
- Research Reports are to be completed during class time and submitted electronically as soon as possible and no later than 3 pm on the same day.
- Both ICWRs and RRs should consist of **at least three paragraphs of more than three sentences each**. A synopsis or a list will not be accepted.
- Each ICWR and PR is worth 20/12 (dividing 20 by 12) %.

Group Presentation Project – 35% (See Group Presentation Guidelines on blackboard.)

Individual Paper Project – 45% (See Paper Project Guidelines on blackboard.)

**There will be no Registrar scheduled Final Exam for this course.*

Missed Assignments:

If you cannot write an In-Class Written Response (ICWR) or other assignments on the scheduled date due to a sudden illness or emergency, you must contact the instructor or the Department office **before** the class starts. Transfer of weight from a missed ICWR or unwritten essay to another course requirement will not be allowed in this course. Without acceptable documentation (i.e. medical certificate, police report, bereavement notice, confirmation of religious observance, or court order) or without PRIOR arrangement with the instructor, missed assessments will receive an “F.” This policy is intended to encourage diligence and integrity among students as well as to uphold principles of fairness and equality with respect to other students in the class. Excuses other than those listed above will receive little attention.

Course Communication:

Students are required to check the Announcements on blackboard and/or their registered email on a regular basis as the topics and materials for each class may be changed or newly posted.

Grading:

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme (standardized within the Department of Religious Studies):

A+	100-96	A	95-90	A-	89-85
B+	84-80	B	79-75	B-	74-70
C+	69-65	C	64-60	C-	59-55
D+	54-53	D	52-50	F	Under 50

Academic Honesty:

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contributions of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarism on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Students are advised to consult pp 49-52 of the University Calendar which provides a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with plagiarism, cheating, and other academic misconduct. If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation:

If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Once registered, please discuss any upcoming tests/examinations with the instructor two weeks before the scheduled date. (DRC web address is: [http://www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/Others/DRC/.](http://www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/Others/DRC/))

Gnosis:

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: gnosis@ucalgary.ca or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 4th Floor of MacEwan Student Centre.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Tentative Course Schedule

This outline is subject to change. It may be modified if it appears to the instructor that the material is not being adequately covered in the allotted time. The amount of time devoted to particular topics is contingent on the instructor's sense of what deserves greater emphasis as the course progresses. Remember, to be aware of changes occurring in the schedule and to receive any crucial information regarding the course, regular attendance in class is necessary. The instructor is not responsible for accommodating those with absences. If you missed class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and to ask a fellow student to lend you their notes. The instructor is not responsible for providing handouts at a later date for those with an absence from class. Remember that it is not possible for the instructor to explain all the material contained in the readings—it is up to students to be familiar with the readings regardless of the extent to which the assigned texts are discussed in class.

Week	Topics
1 (Sep 12 - 16)	Course Orientation Introduction
2 (Sep 19 - 23)	Brief Overview of History and Religious Traditions in East Asia Divine Female Figures in Chinese Religious Traditions The legends of Nüwa (Dragon Lady)
3 (Sep 26 - 30)	Divine Female Figures in Chinese Religious Traditions The literary appropriations of Nüwa
4 (Oct 3 - 7)	Research Practice Sessions
5 (Oct 10 – 14) <i>* 10/10 Univ. Closed</i>	Group Presentation Consultations
6 (Oct 17 – 21)	Individual Paper Consultations
7 (Oct 24 – 28)	Divine Female Figures in Japanese Religious Traditions The legends of Kiyohime (Dragon Lady) and its literary and theatrical appropriations
8 (Oct 31-Nov 4)	Divine Female Figures in Chinese Religious Traditions Group Presentations
9 (Nov 7 – 11) <i>* 10-11 Reading week</i>	Divine Female Figures in Chinese Religious Traditions Group Presentations
10 (Nov 14 – 18)	Divine Female Figures in Chinese/Japanese Religious Traditions Group Presentations
11 (Nov 21 – 25)	Divine Female Figures in Japanese Religious Traditions Group Presentations
12 (Nov 28 – Dec 2)	Divine Female Figures in Japanese Religious Traditions Group Presentations
13 (Dec 5 – 9)	Students' Poster Presentations & In-Class Writing Reviews