Course Title: HISTORY OF RELIGIONS IN CHINA
Course Code: HST3352
No. of Credits/Term: 3
Mode of Tuition: Sectional
Class Contact Hours: 3 hours per week
Category of Major Prog.: Elective
Prerequisite(s): None
Co-requisite(s): None
Exclusion(s): None
Exemption Requirement(s): None

Brief Course Description
Buddhism, Taoism and folk religions in China are examined in terms of their historical development and significance in Chinese politics and society. Topics are organized chronologically and thematically.

Aims
The course examines the history of Taoism, Buddhism, and folk religions at both the levels of the beliefs and practices, showing the significance of religion in state governance, social mobilization, formation of communal identities, and Chinese people’s ways of managing death.

Learning Outcomes
Students will be able:
1. to gain a general knowledge of Chinese religious history and understand different methodologies to study Chinese religions.
2. to explain the complex cultural interchange in Chinese history in the religious domain from a long-term perspective.
3. to reflect on their own attitudes towards Chinese religions in light of the broader historical context, and thus develop a respect for differences in religious beliefs.
4. to conduct research using primary and secondary sources critically.
5. to develop written and oral communication skills

Indicative Content
I. Taoism in Chinese society
II. Buddhism in Chinese society
III. Religion and the state in imperial China
IV. Religion and peasant rebellions in imperial China
V. Temples, festivals, and communal identities
VI. Movements against “superstition” in 20th century China
VII. Religion and women
VIII. Managing death: funerals and the belief in afterlife
IX. Chinese religions in Hong Kong
**Teaching Method**
This course is taught partly as lectures, partly as seminars with assigned readings and discussions.

**Measurement of Learning Outcomes**
(1) research paper: to evaluate students’ written communication skills and their ability to conduct research using primary and secondary sources critically.
(2) fieldwork reports: to evaluate students’ ability to collect primary sources from fieldworks, and to expose them to different religious practices in order to help them learn to respect religious differences.
(3) intensive class discussion: to assess students’ ability to critically analyze scholarly literature on Chinese religions, and their awareness to reflect on their own attitudes towards Chinese religions in light of the broader historical context.
(4) examination: to evaluate students’ written communication skills and their comprehension of different approaches to major issues in the field.

**Assessment**
Continuous Assessment 65%
Examination 35%

**Required Readings**
Selected Readings from the following: