

RLST 4750/5750
Wednesday 3:00-5:30
Humanities 270

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DAOISM



The Daoist tradition encompasses a variety of phenomena, including a salvific, institutionalized religion, a mystically-oriented approach to life, a sometimes Machiavellian political philosophy, and a body of self-cultivation practices. This seminar will examine each of these aspects, but our focus will be on Daoism as China's indigenous higher religion. We will see how politics, mysticism, and self cultivation practices each contributed to the religion that was born in West China during the second century CE and how each remains a vital part of the Chinese experience.

It was once easy to cover all of Daoism in one seminar, but several decades of sustained scholarship has greatly increased our understanding, so we will have to pick and choose what to cover. We will focus on the founding period of Daoism, the second to fourth centuries, when the major scriptural traditions took form, and secondarily on the Song (960-1289) and later, when the modern movements related to inner alchemy and thunder rites took form. We will also take a close look at Daoist ritual, examining in some depth the Offering rite that has been central to Daoism and to the entire Chinese religious world since the Song dynasty.

The class is a seminar in format, mixing advanced undergraduates with graduate students. The readings for each week are quite extensive, and much of it is primary source materials that require close reading, interpretation, and reflection. Most of our class time will be spent discussing these readings, considering their place in Chinese cultural history and world religions. It is essential that you come to class every day prepared to discuss the assigned readings. There will be occasional homework assignments, mostly thinking exercises or other tasks intended to prepare you for the next class. Sometimes a student will be designated to lead the discussion on one of the readings for the following session.

In addition to the common readings, there are a number of supplementary articles assigned each week. Grad students should read and be prepared to discuss all of these. Each supplementary article will be assigned to a class member (one for each undergrad, two for each grad student), who will summarize and lead discussion on this article in class, then write a five page paper based on the article. This paper will include an analytical summary of the article, then expand upon some aspect of the article with original research.

There will be smaller assignments periodically. For example, in the week on material culture, each class member will be asked to select an object from our textbook and do a bit of further research into it. These occasional assignments will constitute ten percent of the grade.

The primary product of this seminar will be a research paper (10-15 pages for undergrads, 15-20 for grads) on an aspect of Daoism, to be chosen in consultation with the instructor. You should turn in an abstract and brief bibliography for this paper on March 15. The final paper will be due, in lieu of a final examination, at the time of the final exam.

Grades will be calculated on the following basis:

Article report(s) and paper(s)	30%
Final paper	40%
Weekly assignments	10%
Attendance and Participation	20%

TEXTBOOKS:

James Robson, *The Norton Anthology of World Religions: Daoism* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2015).

John Lagerwey, *Taoist Ritual in Chinese Society and History* (New York: Macmillan, 1987).

Stephen Little, *Taoism and the Arts of China* (Chicago: Art Institute of Chicago, 2000).

REFERENCE WORKS:

Livia Kohn, ed. *Daoism Handbook* (Leiden: Brill, 2000).

Fabrizio Pregadio, ed., *Encyclopedia of Taoism* (London: Routledge, 2004).

Anna Seidel, "Chronicle of Taoist Studies in the West 1950-1990," *Cahiers d'Extrême-Asie* 5 (1989-90): 223-348.

WEBSITES:

Fabrizio Pregadio, "The Golden Elixir." <http://www.goldenelixir.com/>

James Miller, "Daoist Studies Website." <http://rels.queensu.ca/dao/>

CLASS SCHEDULE

1/18 Introduction - What is Daoism?

Readings:

Robert Campney, "On the Very Idea of Religions In the Modern West and in Early Medieval China." *History of Religions* 42.4 (May, 2003): 287-319.

Michel Strickmann, "The Alchemy of T'ao Hung-ching" (excerpt)

Sivin, Nathan. "Old and New Daoisms." *Religious Studies Review* 36.1 (March 2010): 31-50.

1/25 Laozi the book

Readings:

Robson 85-97

Michael LaFargue. "Recovering the Tao-te-ching's Original Meaning." In Livia Kohn and Michael LaFargue, eds., *Lao-tzu and the Tao-te-ching* (Albany: SUNY Press, 1998): 255-276.

Reports:

Alan K. Chan, "A Tale of Two Commentaries: Ho-shang-kung and Wang Pi on the Lao-tzu." In Kohn and LaFargue, *Lao-tzu and the Tao-te-ching*, 89-117.

2/8 Celestial Masters

Readings:

Robson 193-207, 240-43

Franciscus Verellen, The Twenty-four Dioceses and Zhang Daoling: The Spatio-Liturgical Organization of Early Heavenly Master Daoism."

Reports:

Lai, Chi-tim (Li Zhitian) 黎志添. "The Opposition of Celestial-Master Taoism to Popular Cults during the Six Dynasties." *Asia Major*, 3rd series, 11.1 (1998):1-26

Gil Raz, "The Way of the Yellow and the Red: Re-examining the Sexual Initiation Rite of Celestial Master Daoism" *Nannü* 10 (2008).1:86-120..

2/15 Celestial Masters II

Readings:

Robson 247-256, 321-330, 343-48

Franciscus Verellen, The Twenty-four Dioceses and Zhang Daoling: The Spatio-Liturgical Organization of Early Heavenly Master Daoism."

Reports:

Nickerson, Peter. "Shamans, Demons, Diviners, and Daoists: Conflict and Assimilation in Medieval Chinese Ritual Practice (c. A.D. 100-1000)." *Taoist Resources* 5 (1994):41-66.

2/22 Southern occultism and alchemy

Readings:

Robson 215-18, 223-29

Reports:

Robinet, Isabelle. 1979. "Metamorphosis and Deliverance from the Corpse in Taoism." *History of Religions* 19: 37-70.

Yamada, Toshiaki. "Longevity Techniques and the Compilation of the *Lingbao wufuxu*. In Kohn and Sakade, 99-124.

- 3/1 Shangqing revelations
Readings:
 Robson 261-304, 396-403
Reports:
 Strickmann, Michel. "The Mao Shan Revelations: Taoism and the Aristocracy." *T'oung Pao* 63.1 (1977), pp. 1-64.
 Julius N. Tsai, "Reading the *Inner Biography of the Perfected Person of Purple Solarity* (Ziyang zhenren neizhuan): Religion and Society in an Early Daoist Hagiography." *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, series 3, 18.2:193-220.
- 3/8 Lingbao ritual
Readings:
 Robson 305-320, 349-56
Reports:
 Lü, Pengzhi. "Ordination and Classification in Early Medieval Daoism." In Florian C. Reiter, ed., *Affiliation and Transmission in Daoism* (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2012), 81-107.
 Tsai, Julius N. "The Altar in the Mountain and the Mountain in the Altar: The Ritual Layout of the Five Perfect Scripts and the Creation of Sacred Space in Early Daoism." Typescript.
- 3/15 Inner Alchemy and the Song Renaissance – PAPER PROPOSAL DUE
Readings:
 Robson 487-492, 519-552
Reports:
 Vincent Goossaert and Paul R. Katz, "Introduction," and Vincent Goossaert, "Invention of an Order: Collective Identity in Thirteenth-century Quanzhen Taoism," *Journal of Chinese Religions* 91-94, 111-138.
 Robinet, Isabelle. "Original Contributions of Neidan to Taoism and Chinese Thought." In Kohn and Sakade, eds., *Taoist Meditation and Longevity Techniques*, 297-330.
- 3/22 The Material Culture of Daoism
Readings:
 Robson 117-132, 177-183
 Little 13-31, 57-75
Reports:
 Susan Huang, "Summoning the Gods: Paintings of Three Officials of Heaven, Earth and Water and Their Association with Daoist Ritual Performance in the Southern Song Period (1127-1279)." *Artibus Asiae* 61.1 (2001): 5-52.
- 3/29 Fall Break
- 4/5 Daoist Ritual I
Readings:
 Robson 330-332, 375-380
 Lagerwey 18-105
Reports:
 Vincent Goossaert and Paul R. Katz, "Introduction," and Vincent Goossaert, "Invention of an Order: Collective Identity in Thirteenth-century Quanzhen Taoism," *Journal of Chinese Religions* 91-94, 111-138.
 Robinet, Isabelle. "Original Contributions of Neidan to Taoism and Chinese Thought." In Kohn and Sakade, eds., *Taoist Meditation and Longevity Techniques*, 297-330.

4/12 Daoist Ritual II

Readings:

Lagerwey 106-194

Reports:

Kristofer M. Schipper, "Vernacular and Classical Ritual in Taoism," *Journal of Asian Studies* 45 (1985): 21-57.

Poul Anderson, "The Transformation of the Body in Taoist Ritual," in Jane Marie Law, ed., *Religious Reflections on the Human Body* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1995): 186-210.

4/19 Visit of Prof. Lee Fongmao 李豐楙

4/26 Modern Taoism

Readings:

Robson 675-700, 707-713, 727-736

Reports:

Xu, Jian. "Body, Discourse, and the Cultural Politics of Contemporary Chinese Qigong," *Journal of Asian Studies* 58.4 (November 1999): 961-991.

Sutton, Donald S. "Ritual Drama and Moral Order: Interpreting the Gods' Festival Troupes of Southern Taiwan" *Journal of Asian Studies* 49.3 (Aug. 1990): 535-554.

5/3 Student Presentations

TBA Final exam date. Papers due.