SYNOPSIS

This course is designed to introduce students to the main formative influences responsible for shaping the culture and society of early Asian peoples. The development of civilisations in Asia is approached from three different perspectives. Firstly, the elaboration of ways of organising life through time, starting with the earliest dwellers in Asia to the emergence of fully fledged urban societies. Secondly, the significance of geographical/environmental factors which have influenced, and are in turn influenced by the emergence of increasingly complex social groups in Asia; and thirdly, from a religious standpoint in which the contribution of ideas about the non-material world have shaped and fundamentally influenced the ways in which Asian societies developed. Running across these three approaches, and bringing them together, are a series of themes, such as social hierarchy, ritual, power and changing gender status.

OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- describe the origins of religious ideas in Asia and their connection with the natural environment;
- recall the key concepts associated with the main religions in Asia;
- evaluate the extent of integration between religious ideas and the growth of civilisations;
- compare and contrast the origin and growth of civilisations in different geographical parts of Asia.
**TOPICS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Introduction</td>
<td>7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Nature and religious thought in Asia</td>
<td>14.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Eight main religions</td>
<td>30.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Sacred themes</td>
<td>42.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Conclusion</td>
<td>7.00</td>
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**TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED:**

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at http://bookshop.usq.edu.au click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

Book of Readings

**REFERENCE MATERIALS:**

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

**STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Directed Study</td>
<td>40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examinations</td>
<td>2.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
<td>120.00</td>
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**ASSESSMENT DETAILS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Due date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SHORTER PAPER (1000 WORDS)</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>06 Apr 2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>LONGER PAPER (2000 WORDS)</td>
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<td>40.00</td>
<td>25 May 2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-HOUR CLOSED BOOK EXAM</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>END S1 (see note 1)</td>
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(see note 1)
NOTES:
1. Students will be advised of exam dates when the timetable has been finalised.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1 Attendance requirements:
   There are no attendance requirements for this external course. However, it is the
   student's responsibility to study all material provided to them or required to be
   accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course
   and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.

2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
   To complete each of the assessment items satisfactorily, students must obtain at
   least 50% of the marks available for each assessment item.

3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
   If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval, then a
   penalty of 10% of the total marks available for the assignment will apply for each
   of the first FIVE working days late, after which a zero mark will be given.

4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
   To be assured of a passing grade, students must demonstrate, via the summative
   assessment items, that they have achieved the required minimum standards in
   relation to the objectives of the course by obtaining at least 50% of the total
   weighted marks for all summative assessment.

5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
   The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate
   of the marks (or grades) obtained for each of the summative assessment items in
   the course.

6 Examination information:
   The exam for this course is a CLOSED EXAMINATION, and candidates are
   allowed to bring only writing and drawing instruments into the examination.

7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
   Any deferred or supplementary examinations for this course will be held during
   the next examination period.

8 University Regulations:
   Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6. Assessment, and 5.10
   Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might
   contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL
   http://www.usq.edu.au/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm or in the current USQ
   Handbook.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

9 (a) The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch
   the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the
   despatch date, if requested by the Examiner. (b) Students must retain a copy of
   each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced within five days if
   required by the Examiner. (c) In accordance with University's Assignment Extension
Policy (Regulation 5.6.1), the examiner of a course may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances such as documented ill-health. (d) Students who have undertaken all of the required assessments in the course but who have failed to meet some of the specified objectives of the course within the normally prescribed time may be awarded the temporary grade: IM (Incomplete-Makeup). An IM grade will only be awarded when, in the opinion of the examiner, a student will be able to achieve the remaining objectives of the course after a period of non-directed personal study. (e) Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or sit for an examination at the scheduled time, may apply to defer an assessment in the course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be awarded: IDS (Incomplete - Deferred Examination; IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).