

HIST 350R: Topics in Asian Thought & Religion

A History of Taoism

Spring 2002 MWF 2:00–3:50 p.m. 280 SWKT

| Reading Schedule | [Resources \(resources.html\)](#) | [Maps \(maps.html\)](#) | Old News |

NEWS

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6/19

| A pdf file of the blackboard exercise (chart) from our last meeting has been posted [here \(chart.pdf\)](#).

5/28

| Here are the images of various [Daoist divinities \(divinities.html\)](#) that we looked at in class recently. Also note the images related to the [Shangqing \(shangqing.html\)](#) tradition and [Lingbao ritual \(ritual.html\)](#).

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Office Hours: Wednesday 4:00–5:00 p.m. or by appointment

Objectives: The objective of this course is to increase our understanding of the history, texts and religious traditions of Taoism. This will involve introducing the philosophical texts, scripture, liturgy, and practice of China's only indigenous religion. Since no religion develops in a void, the context and setting for the growth of Taoism will be a major focus of the class. The scope of the course will be generally historical and chronological, accommodating excursions into the related realms of Chinese philosophy, literature, and art.

Language: Knowledge of Chinese is not a requirement for students taking this course. All lectures are in English, so it is much more important to have a firm command of English to be able to read well, to write clearly, and to carry on oral discussion. For the benefit of students who know or are studying Chinese, the Chinese logographs for names and important terms and concepts will be provided.

Course Requirements:

Attendance : Attendance is mandatory, especially for the highly compressed Spring Term. If you are ill, please notify me via email or phone of your absence. You are responsible for the material and any assignments

regardless of whether you were in a given class meeting or not. Any extended absence (two or more consecutive meetings) must be reported to me as soon as possible.

Participation/Discussion: Every student is expected to actively participate in the discussion of the assigned readings. Students who do not actively participate in class discussion will not fare well in the course.

Quizzes: There will be three quizzes over the course of the semester. Each will count 20% of the final grade. The first two exams will be taken in the Testing Center; the third will be taken in class during the Final Exam period.

Term Paper: One (1) ten-page research paper on a topic related to Taoism. You may select your own topic, however it must be approved by me in advance. A list of suggested topics and bibliographic resources will be provided. 40% of final grade.

Required Readings: The required readings, which will form the basis of class lectures and discussions, are:

Chuang Tzu. *Basic Writings*. Burton Watson, trans. New York: Columbia University Press, 1996.
Kohn, Livia. *The Taoist Experience*. Albany: SUNY Press, 1993.
Kohn, Livia. *Daoism and Chinese Culture*. Boston: Three Pines Press,

2001.

Lao Tzu. *Tao-Te Ching*. D.C. Lau, trans. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1985.
Photocopied packet of required supplemental reading materials.

Recommended Readings: The following book is highly recommended:

Ebrey, Patricia. *Cambridge Illustrated History of China*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Online Resources: A website for this course has been set up. It will contain a copy of the syllabus, detailed information on assignment and due dates, links to internet resources on Taoism and related topics, and other materials. The URL is:

<http://fhss.byu.edu/history/faculty/farmer/courses/350Rweb>

LEGAL & ADMINISTRIVIA

Late work: Late work will be accepted with a penalty of one letter grade per week up to one week beyond the original due date. Work submitted later than one week from the original due date will not be accepted and the student will receive a grade of 0 (zero) for the assignment. However, exceptional circumstances may be taken into account.

Honor Code: While all students sign the honor code, there are still

specific skills most students need to master over time in order to correctly cite sources, especially in this new age of the internet; as well as deal with the stress and strain of college life without resorting to cheating. Please know that as your professor I will notice instances of cheating or plagiarizing on papers. See <http://www.byu.edu/honorcode> (<http://www.byu.edu/honorcode>) for specific examples of intentional, inadvertent plagiarism, fabrication, and falsification.

Preventing Sexual Harassment: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity receiving federal funds. The act is intended to eliminate sex discrimination in education. Title IX covers discrimination in programs, admissions, activities, and student-to-student sexual harassment. BYU's policy against sexual harassment extends not only to employees of the university but to students as well. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender based discrimination, please talk to your instructor; contact the Equal Employment Office at 378-5895 or 367-5689 (24 hours); or contact the Honor Code Office at 378-2847.

Students with Disabilities: Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere that reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability, which may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office (378-2767). Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the SSD Office. If you need assistance or if you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures. You should contact the Equal Employment Office as 378-5895, D-282 ASB.

Grading Policy: While I do not grade on a strict curve, I am nevertheless bound by History Department standards of grade distribution. I am not at liberty to bestow unlimited numbers of high grades no matter how blessed a generation you might be. Accordingly, you need to know in advance that high numerical averages do not necessarily indicate any specific grade at the end of the semester.

Tentative Reading Schedule

Last Update: 19 June, 2002 12:32

Abbreviations

DDC Kohn, Livia. *Daoism in Chinese Culture*. Cambridge: Three Pines Press, 2001.

****TTE** ****Kohn**, Livia., ed. *The Taoist Experience*. Albany: SUNY Press, 1993.

****CIHC** ****Ebrey**, Patricia. *Cambridge Illustrated History of China*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

[Readings from this text are recommended, but not required.]

+ Indicates an item in the supplemental reading packet.

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5/1

| **Welcome. Historical & Intellectual Foundations.**

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| CIHC, Ch. 1-2

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5/3

| **Laozi & the Daodejing. Topics from Daodejing.**

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| DCC, Ch. 1

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| TTE, 1, 2, 10, 38

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| +Durrant, "Packaging the Tao"

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| +Farmer, "The Tao & Its Translators"

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| Lau, Tao-te ching, all.

M

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5/6

| **Topics from Daodejing.**

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| Lau, Tao-te ching, all.

W

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5/8

| **Zhuangzi.**

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| DCC, Ch. 2

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| TTE, 4, 32, 37

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| Watson, Chuang-tzu, all.

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5/10

| **Zhuangzi.**

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| Watson, Chuang-tzu, all.

M

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5/13

| **Chuci. Life, Death, & Afterlife.**

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| TTE, 33, 32 pt. 5

W

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5/15

| **Han Developments. Buddhism.**

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| DCC, Ch. 3

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| TTE, 39, 47

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| +Robinson, The Buddhist Religion, "China"

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| +Chen, Buddhism in China, "Kumarajiva"

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| CIHC, Ch. 3-4

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5/16-18

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Quiz 1 in Testing Center

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5/17

| **NO CLASS**

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5/20

| **Celestial Masters.**

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| DCC, Ch. 4

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| +Seidel, "Taoist Messianism"

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| +Bokenkamp, "Commands and Admonitions"

W

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5/22

| **Alchemy. Immortality. Divine Beings.**

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| TTE, 41, 26, 11, 45-48

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5/24

| **Shangqing.**

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| DCC, Ch. 5

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| TTE, 7, 27, 34, 35

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| +Bokenkamp, "Declarations of the Perfected"

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| +Strickmann, "Mao-shan Revelations"

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5/27

| **HOLIDAY**

W

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5/29

| **Lingbao.**

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| DCC, Ch. 5

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| TTE, 6, 13, 14, 26

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5/31

| **Daoism & the State. Daoism in the Tang.**

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| DCC, Ch. 6

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| +Mather, "K'ou Ch'ien-chih...."

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| +Farmer, "Daoist Poetry of the Tang"

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| CIHC, Ch. 5

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6/3

| **Daoism in the Song & Yuan. The Daoist Canon.**

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| DCC, Ch. 9

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| TTE, 12, 23, 46, 9

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| +Ofuchi, "Formation of the Canon"

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| CIHC, Ch. 6–7

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6/4–6

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Quiz 2 in Testing Center

W

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6/5

| **The Daoist Body. Sacred Spaces.**

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| TTE, 21, 22, 23, 24

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| +Schipper, "The Taoist Body"

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| +Hahn, "Daoist Sacred Sites"

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6/7

| **Ritual. Meditation.**

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| DCC, Ch. 7

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| TTE, 3, 9, 11, 14, 39, 43, 45

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6/10

| **Spells. Talismans. Inner Alchemy.**

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| DCC, Ch. 8

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| TTE, 30, 36, 42

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| **Term Paper Due**

W

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6/12

| **Daoism and Art.**

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| +Little, "Daoist Art"

F

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6/14

| **Daoism, Women, & Sexuality.**

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| TTE, 8, 35, 20

[Content Warning: Passage 20 contains descriptions of sexual activity. If you do not wish to be exposed to such content, you may omit this reading.]

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| +Despeux, "Women in Daoism"

M

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6/17

| **Daoism Today.**

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| DCC, Ch. 10–11

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| +MacInnes, Religion in China Today

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| +Porter, Road to Heaven

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| CIHC, Ch. 8–11

TH

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6/20

| **3:00–4:50 p.m. FINAL EXAM**



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