

May 2008

ASIAN BREADTH REQUIREMENT

All students must complete a breadth prerequisite consisting of six units (two semesters) of under-graduate work in Asian religions beyond the first year level. The letter of admission will indicate if this requirement has not been met prior to entry into the graduate programme.

Students needing to fulfill the requirement must do so early in their degree programme.

Two options are available:

- (1) A course or courses may be taken as prescribed undergraduate coursework. All courses (except language courses) listed in the McMaster undergraduate calendar under the heading "Asian Religions" are acceptable.
- (2) The student may write a set of written examinations in Asian religions. The regulations for these examinations and a set of readings are available in the departmental office, UH-105.
(Department of Religious Studies, Graduate Handbook)

BREADTH REQUIREMENT: EXAMINATION GUIDELINES

- (1) For purposes of completion of the breadth requirement the Asian field is regarded as divided into four traditions: Chinese Religions, Indian Religions, Japanese Religions and Buddhism.
- (2) It will be possible to write an examination in each of these traditions.
- (3) Responsibility for creating, administering and grading these examinations is divided as follows:

Chinese Religions:	James Benn
Indian Religions:	Shayne Clarke
Japanese Religions:	Mark Rowe
Buddhism:	James Benn

- (4) Students will prepare for each examination on the basis of the standard set of readings that follows.
- (5) One examination corresponds to one 3-unit course. Therefore, students who need 3 units of Asian religion for completion of their breadth requirement will write one exam on one tradition; students needing 6 units will write two exams on two traditions.
- (6) Students can choose to write in whichever of the four traditions they wish.
- (7) A student wishing to write in a given tradition will approach the faculty member in question and inform her/him. Student and faculty member will agree on a time-line and the faculty member will communicate whatever she/he wishes to the student about the reading list and the exam.
- (8) There will be no expectation of regular meetings of faculty and student, but faculty members who wish to may set up two or three meetings to guide the student.
- (9) The examination will be graded by the instructor responsible for the tradition in question, and the student will be given either a grade of PASS or a grade of FAIL.
- (10) Each examination will be three hours in length.

READING LISTS

CHINESE RELIGIONS

Livia Kohn, *Daoism and Chinese Culture*
Jordan Paper, *The Spirits are Drunk: Comparative Approaches to Chinese Religion*
Donald Lopez, ed., *Religions of China in Practice*
Lawrence Thompson, *Chinese Religion, an Introduction*

INDIAN RELIGIONS

Paul Dundas, *The Jains*
Gavin Flood, *An Introduction to Hinduism*
A. Basham, *The Wonder that was India*
Étienne Lamotte, *History of Indian Buddhism: From the Origins to the Śāka Era*

JAPANESE RELIGIONS

Secondary source texts:

Mullins, Shimazono, and Swanson, eds., *Religion and Society in Modern Japan*
Swanson and Chilson, eds., *Nanzan Guide to Japanese Religions*

Primary source texts:

Sources of Japanese Tradition Volume One (Second Edition)
Sources of Japanese Tradition Volume Two (Second Edition)

BUDDHISM

Rupert Gettin, *The Foundations of Buddhism*
John Strong, *Experience of Buddhism*
Akira Hirakawa, *A History of Indian Buddhism*
Arthur Wright, *Buddhism in Chinese History*

Department of Religious Studies

Asian Breadth Examination

Intent to Write

Today's Date: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Number: _____

Please obtain the signature of the faculty member responsible for the tradition in which you intend to write ...

Chinese Religions:	James Benn
Indian Religions:	Shayne Clarke
Japanese Religions:	Mark Rowe
Buddhism:	James Benn

Faculty Signature: _____

Tradition in which exam will be written: _____