CURE4161 Religion and Economic Life  Term 1 2018 – 19

Instructor  Dr. Au Yik Pui, Tanya 歐亦沛博士

Lecture  Monday 2:30 pm – 4:15 pm (LSB_C3)

Tutorial  Monday 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm (LSB_C3)

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Course Description

This course explores the multifaceted relationships between religion and economic life, including: (a) the support, critique, and shaping of economic life by religious traditions; (b) the economic interpretation of religious phenomena; (c) the religious dimension of economic activities.

Expected Learning Outcomes

After the completion of this course, the student is expected:

1. To become aware of and interested in the multifaceted relationships between religion and economic life;
2. To have enhanced understanding of the major theoretical issues concerning religion and economic life.
3. To be acquainted with significant studies in both economic dimensions of religious phenomena and religious dimensions of economic phenomena;

Course Schedule (tentative)

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Key Concepts</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 Sep 3</td>
<td>Course Overview</td>
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| 2 Sep 10 | **Lecture 1: Why Economics and Religion?**
Further readings:
Emmett, Ross B. “Frank Knight: Economics versus Religion.” In Economics and Religion: Are They Distinct?, 103–120. Edited by | Relationship between economics and religion, the metaphor of “boundary” and “border” |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Further readings</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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-Emergence of consumerism as a way of life |
-Judaism and capitalism, Jewish contribution to mass consumption |
| **5 Oct 1** | **Public Holiday** | | |
-Protantism and the rise of capitalism  
-Christian responses to consumerism |
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Group Project Presentation 1</td>
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<td>Nov 19</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Group Project Presentation 2</td>
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<td>Nov 26</td>
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**Assessment scheme**

**Class participation (10%)**

The success of this course hinges on the joint effort of instructor and students. Students are expected to attend lectures and tutorials unless they have medical or emergency reasons. Students cannot pass the course if they miss more than 30% of class.

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<th>Deadline</th>
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**Tutorial (20%; 10% attendance+10% project outline)**

2-3 students in each group (depends on the final class size). Grouping to be confirmed on Sep 17, the first tutorial.

In tutorials, students have to discuss and prepare for their group projects to be presented on November 19 or 26. Please refer to the group project presentation below for more details. Instructor will give guiding questions in tutorials and groups will be asked to present their findings/progress at various points. Each group has to produce a 2-3 page project outline on November 5.

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<th>Dates of tutorials to be confirmed</th>
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**Group project presentation (30%)**

Each group has 20-30 minutes (depends on the class size) to present their project and take questions from the floor.

The objective of the group project may deal with one of the following areas (but not restricted to):

1. Interpreting AND critiquing whether and how religious texts on economics may impact its adherents’ economic activities and society
2. Selecting some religious phenomena and commenting them from economic perspective
3. Identifying and explaining the religious dimension of certain economic/business activities/organizations
4. Explaining and evaluating the validity of a
| particular religious practice/tradition in countering consumerism. |
| The presenting groups have to send a PPT to the instructor before 2:00 pm on the day prior to their presentations |

**Term paper (40%)**

Students may take the term paper as a more in-depth research based on their group projects. In this case, group papers are allowed. Individual papers on topics other than projects presented are also welcome. In either case, the paper may deal with the following areas (but not restricted to):

1. Interpreting AND critiquing whether and how religious texts on economics may impact its adherents’ economic activities and society
2. Selecting some religious phenomena and commenting them from economic perspective
3. Identifying and explaining the religious dimension of certain economic/business activities/organizations
4. Explaining and evaluating the validity of a particular religious practice/tradition in countering consumerism.

Length (excluding footnotes and bibliography):

English, 4000-4500 words

Chinese, 4500-5000 words

Students have to submit their papers AND the signed VeriGuide statements to the Blackboard. Please observe the deadline. Late submission will be penalized; 3 points will be deducted for each day of late submission or part thereof. *Late submission over 5 days may risk receiving zero mark.* Papers will not be graded until the signed VeriGuide statements have been received by the instructor. Late submission of VeriGuide statements may cause points deducted.

| Dec 9 (Sun) 2018 by 11:00pm |
Grade Descriptor

A Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.

A- Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.

B Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.

C Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.

D Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes

F Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements.

Academic honesty and plagiarism
The Chinese University of Hong Kong places very high importance on honesty in academic work submitted by students, and adopts a policy of zero tolerance on cheating and plagiarism. Any related offence will lead to disciplinary action including termination of studies at the University. All student assignments in undergraduate and postgraduate programs should be submitted via VeriGuide with effect from September 2008: https://veriguide2.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/cuhk/

Read further: http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/
References


Beaudoin, Tom. *Integrating Who We are with What We Buy*.” Lanham: Sheed & Ward, 2003.


Clark, Matthew, ed. Handbook of Research on Development and Religion. (electronic access: 2013.)


巴塞洛繆：《基督徒看消費主義》。陳永財譯。香港：基道，2005。

匡安榮：《經濟之道：道法自然與經濟自由》。上海：上海人民，2007。

周新國編：《儒學與儒商新論》。北京市：社會科學文獻出版社，2008。

張國棟編：《經濟商業生活與基督教倫理》。香港：學生福音團契出版社，2006。

劉天明：《伊斯蘭經濟思想》。銀川市：寧夏人民，2001。

駱穎佳：《後現代拜物敎：消費文化的批判及信仰反省》。香港：學生福音團契出版社，2002。

余英時：《中國近世宗教倫理與商人精神》。臺北市：聯經，2004。
葉菁華等編：《信仰市場・消費教會：消費主義與當今教會》。香港：基督教文藝出版社有限公司，2013。

薛勇民等著：《走向晉商文化的深處》。北京：人民出版社，2013。