Course schedule: Tuesday-Thursday 3:35-4:50 p.m., Caldwell 432

Instructor: Charles B. Jones, M.T.S., Ph.D.
Caldwell Hall 107-D
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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description:
This seminar will take as its theme the western academic encounter with other religious traditions. We will read texts relating to the development of “world religions” as an academic category, translation theory, colonial studies, and hermeneutics as a way of studying the history, gauging the pitfalls along the way, and assaying the achievements of academic engagement with other cultures and traditions.

Instructional Methods
The primary business of each class day will be discussion based on the reading for the day. The instructor will provide background and insights and then invite student engagement.

Required Texts
Other Readings


Liu, Lydia. Translingual Practice: Literature, National Culture, and Translated Modernity-China, 1900-1937. (Stanford, 1995), chapter 1, p. 1-44.


Schneider, David M. A Critique of the Study of Kinship (Michigan, 1984), part I.


Course Goals

The primary goal of this seminar is to familiarize students with a variety of theories and critiques of the western academic encounter with other cultures and religions of the world. This is intended to be particularly useful to students whose research is in fields such as Islamic studies or the anthropological approach to religion. By the end of the semester students should be able to articulate a coherent and useful theoretical perspective that will guide their own future research.

Course Requirements

1. Attendance: Since the daily work of this seminar is in-class discussion, it is vital that students attend all sessions. 20%

2. In-class presentation: Each student will make a presentation to the class based on their seminar paper topic. 20%

3. Final paper: Each student shall prepare an original research paper of 25-30 pages in length that explores one of the topics or approaches of this course in greater depth. The paper will be due on Dec. 6, the last day of classes. 60%, broken down as follows:

   3a. Finding a suitable journal: A seminar paper is ideally a publishable article. As a way of socializing students into the world of academic publishing, each student shall identify
two journals for which their paper would be a suitable submission, and bring a copy or printout of their “guidelines for submissions” to the instructor. This may be turned in either along with the paper or in advance. 5% (The student will use one of these journal’s style guidelines in formatting the paper.)

3b. Annotated bibliography: The student shall bring in an annotated bibliography of no fewer than ten items (excluding required class texts and readings). The annotations will demonstrate that the student has obtained the materials and has an idea of their contents and contributions to the topic. Due October 30. 10%

3c. Final paper 45%

Expectations and policies

Academic honesty: Academic honesty is expected of all CUA students. Faculty are required to initiate the imposition of sanctions when they find violations of academic honesty, such as plagiarism, improper use of a student’s own work, cheating, and fabrication.

The following sanctions are presented in the University procedures related to Student Academic Dishonesty (from http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrityprocedures.cfm): “The presumed sanction for undergraduate students for academic dishonesty will be failure for the course. There may be circumstances, however, where, perhaps because of an undergraduate student’s past record, a more serious sanction, such as suspension or expulsion, would be appropriate. In the context of graduate studies, the expectations for academic honesty are greater, and therefore the presumed sanction for dishonesty is likely to be more severe, e.g., expulsion. ...In the more unusual case, mitigating circumstances may exist that would warrant a lesser sanction than the presumed sanction.”

Please review the complete texts of the University policy and procedures regarding Student Academic Dishonesty, including requirements for appeals, at http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrity.cfm and http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrity.cfm.

Other Policies or Expectations. Note your policies or expectations (e.g. Attendance and punctuality policy, Participation expectation, note re: cell phones, timeliness on papers, form of submission of papers electronic vs. hard copy, policy on making up (or not) quizzes, tests etc.)

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss specific needs. Please contact Disability Support Services (at 202 319-5211, room 207 Pryzbyla Center) to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. To read about the services and policies, please visit the website: http://disabilitysupport.cua.edu.
Course Schedule

Aug. 28:
  Introduction to course: no new reading

I: HISTORY

Aug. 30:
  Masuzawa, *Invention*, Introduction and Part I

Sept. 4:
  Masuzawa, *Invention*, chapters 4, and 5.

Sept. 6:

Sept. 11:

II. CONTESTED AUTHORITIES

Sept. 13:

Sept. 18:
  Said, *Orientalism*, chapter two, parts I and II.

Sept. 20: (Dean’s Vespers at 4:30; will release class early)
  Said, *Orientalism*, chapter two, parts III and IV.

Sept. 25:

Sept. 27:
  Huggan, “(Not) Reading ‘Orientalism’,” Clifford, “On *Orientalism*.”

Oct. 2:

Oct. 4:
Charles Hallisey, “Roads Taken and Not Taken in the Study of Theravada Buddhism,”
Gregory Schopen, “Archaeology and Protestant Presuppositions in the Study of Indian Buddhism.”

Oct. 9:
“Administrative Monday”: no class

Oct. 11:
Griffiths, Apology for Apologetics, chapters 1, 2, and 3.

Oct. 16:
Griffiths, Apology for Apologetics, chapters 4, 5, and 6.

III. TRANSLATION AND REPRESENTATION

Oct. 18:
In Theories of Translation: essays by Schleiermacher, Benjamin, Jakobson, Derrida, and one other of your own choosing.

Oct. 23:
Bernstein, Beyond Objectivism and Relativism, part 1.

Oct. 25:
Bernstein, Beyond Objectivism and Relativism, part 2.

Oct. 30: Annotated bibliography due
Bernstein, Beyond Objectivism and Relativism, part 3.

Nov. 1:
All Saints’ Day

Nov. 6:
Bernstein, Beyond Objectivism and Relativism, part 4.

Nov. 8:
Asad, Talal, “The Concept of Cultural Translation.”

Nov. 13:
Schneider, Critique of the Study of Kinship, part I.

Nov. 15:
Nov. 20:
Liu, *Translingual Practice*, chapter 1; Gadamer, *Truth and Method*, selections

Nov. 22:
*Thanksgiving: no class*

Nov. 27:

Nov. 29:
Student presentations

Dec. 4:
Student presentations

Dec. 6: *Final paper due*
Final Paper TRS 880A, fall semester 2012