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**Arts & Sciences  
Request for  
General Education  
Designation**

*For Administrative Use Only*

<u>11-22-05</u> Date Reviewed	<u>11-22-05</u> Date Approved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To Banner	<u>MD</u> (initials)
<input type="checkbox"/> To DoF Webpage	_____ (initials)

Course Subject, Number, Title: REL 113 Asian Religions

Faculty Member Mario D'Amato GER: C

**1. How will your syllabus explain how your course meets the goals of the general education requirement?**

**Goal 1:** The syllabus will state that the students will be introduced to a variety of religions of South Asia (viz., Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism) and East Asia (viz., Confucianism and Taoism). The aim of the course will be to develop familiarity with the fundamental doctrines and practices of these religious traditions. Hence the students will be studying basic beliefs of a number of very significant and influential non-western (specifically Asian) religious traditions.

**Goal 2:** The syllabus will state that the students will become familiar with a number of Asian religious traditions from a historical-critical perspective, which is to say that they will develop an understanding of the symbol systems (specifically religious symbol systems) of certain non-western cultures in relation to the broader cultural traditions from which they emerged.

**2. Describe the assessment mechanisms that will be used in this course to evaluate fulfillment of the general education goals.**

**Goal 1:** The students will write at least one essay providing an exegesis of some fundamental doctrine within some specific Asian religious tradition. These essays will require the students to clearly identify and describe a basic Asian religious concept in relation to other significant Asian religious concepts. Through assessing the content of the students' papers, I will be able to assess whether, and to what extent, students are indeed engaging in a sustained way with the basic beliefs of a non-western culture.

**Goal 2:** The students will write at least one essay which places Asian religious doctrines in their appropriate cultural context, offering some thoughts on how the given doctrines allow members of the society to adapt to their social environment through providing some response to the question of the meaning of life or of existence in general. Through assessing the content of the students' papers, I will be able to assess whether, and to what extent, students are indeed engaging in a sustained way with the question of how a non-western symbol system is adaptive for a particular group.