**World Religions Seminar #3 on Taoism**

1. Discuss How would Taoism answer Big Question #1: What is the meaning of life? Why are you and I here?
2. How is Taoism’s answer to Big Question #1 similar and different from Hinduism and Buddhism’s answer?
3. What is your personal opinion of how Taoism, Buddhism, Hinduism answer Big Question #1: What is the meaning of life?
4. Discuss How would Taoism answer Big Question #2: What is “God”? Is there a God? What does God want from you and us? How can you know and understand God?
5. How is Taoism’s answer to Big Question #2 similar and different from Hinduism and Buddhism’s answer?
6. What is your personal opinion of how Taoism, Buddhism, Hinduism answer Big Question #2: What is God?
7. Discuss How would Taoism answer Big Question #3: What is “death” and how should you and I understand and approach death?
8. How is Taoism’s answer to Big Question #3 similar and different from Hinduism and Buddhism’s answer?
9. What is your personal opinion of how Taoism, Buddhism, Hinduism answer Big Question #3: What is death?
10. Let’s discuss the Tao te Ching in more detail…Everyone open my website: [www.mrciambarellaclass.com](http://www.mrciambarellaclass.com)

Click on Religion 1st Sem

Click on Week 10 Link to Better Tao te Ching English Version

-Everyone choose 1 verse from the Tao te Ching you used in your Seminar Essay.

-Tell your group which verse you chose.

-Everyone find that verse and read it.

-Everyone discuss what they see in this verse and how it relates to the Big 3 Questions above.

-Go around and everyone share 1 verse to discuss

1. Some say like all ‘poetry’ the Tao te Ching needs to be heard and read aloud like poetry to be truly experienced and understood. I agree that listening to the Tao te Ching read aloud as one long poem feels different. Give it a try.

-Click on my website: Week 11 Tao te Ching Read Aloud as Poem

-Start listening at time marker 16:30 and listen until 22:26

-Use ear buds if you have them.

-You can turn on the CC Subtitles if you want or leave them off

-After you listen from 16:30-22:26 discuss your reactions with your group.-Was it any different to experience the Tao te Ching this way? Do any passages stick out and resonate with you?

1. Click on my website: Week 10 Translating the Tao te Ching

Work with your group to do your own group’s translation of Verse 43

Work with your group to write down a verse by verse translation of Verse 43

When you are done raise your hand and read your translation to Mr. C

1. Finally work with your group to translate the final verse of the Tao te Ching- Verse 81

Work with your group to write down a verse by verse translation of Verse 81

When you are done raise your hand and read your translation to Mr. C

1. Discuss your thoughts, opinions, questions, etc. about THE PRACTICE of TAOISM through Tai Chi, Qi Gong, Martial Arts, and Chinese Medicine.
2. Taoism has had a great influence on “Chinese Culture” in general. Much of “Chinese” art- such as painting, music, poetry, dance, calligraphy, etc. has been heavily influenced by the philosophy of Taosim.

-Give some examples you already know about of how specific “Chinese culture and art” has been influenced by Taoism?

1. Let’s look at a few specific examples. Some of the greatest “Chinese poetry” especially from the Tang Dynasty is inspired by Taoism. Let’s look at one of the most famous poems ‘Drinking Wine”

-Open my website: Week 11 Taoist Poem Translation

-Work with your group to write your own group translation of this famous poem.

-After you group writes your translation, raise your hand to share with Mr. C

1. Let’s consider “Chinese painting”.

-First look at the two examples hanging at the front of the classroom

-Now do a google image search for “Classic Chinese Nature Paintings”

-Take a few minutes and look through many of the paintings

-Choose 1 that you like

-Share it with your group and discuss the ‘Taoist ideas and influence’ you see in the painting

1. Let’s consider ‘Chinese calligraphy’

-Listen to Mr. C’s introduction

-Watch this video:

[Appreciating Chinese Calligraphy - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MEN0CzGv5-Y)

-Discuss your thoughts…

1. Let’s consider Chinese martial arts through the movie Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon

-Watch these scenes from the movie and then discuss:

1. Now’s lets finally discuss the Formal Religion of Taoism and Taoism found in Temples in Taiwan.

-First, open my website to Week 11 Link to Religious Taoism Website

-Read the first page but stop reading at Taoist Sects

-On this page click on TAOIST DEITIES

-Read over this page of the main Taoist Deities you see at a temple in Taiwan

-DISCUSS WITH YOUR TEAM…..

a) What are your thoughts about all this?

b) Do you think all of this is actually going against the original philosophy of Taoism in the Tao te Ching? Do you think Lao Zi would be happy that he has been turned into a “deity”? What are the positive and negative aspects to this?

1. What are your thoughts about what Mr. C has taught so far in class about Formal Religion of Taoism and Temples in Taiwan?
2. Open Mr. C’s website to Week 13 Taiwan Taoism PPT Part 3

-Go to the very last slide- which is The 5 Ways of Approaching Praying at a Taoist Temple.

-Discuss with your group- which of these 5 Ways appeals the most to you? If you were to go to Guandu Taoist Temple with the class next week- which of these 5 Ways would you yourself use to approach praying at Guandu Taoist Temple?

1. Let’s talk more about praying at a Taoist temple. What knowledge and experiences do you yourself have about praying at temples in Taiwan? What do people do there? Have you ever done it? Explain.
2. Open my website to “Week 13 Praying Etiquette at Guandu Temple”

-Read the assigned pages and discuss your thoughts, reactions, and questions.

1. Let’s come back to the main overriding question of this unit on Taoism: Do you see the 3 Branches of Taoism as similar or different? Do you think…
2. Philosophical Taoism- the ideas of Lao Tzu and Zhuangzi….. and
3. Practical Taoism- the practices of Tai Chi, Qi Gong, Chinese art, etc……and
4. Religious Taoism- Taoist Temples in Taiwan…..

…..are similar or different? Explain.

1. Mr. C would argue maybe the greatest act of Taoism is letting go and truly falling in love. Agree, disagree, or modify…
2. Mr. C would argue that some of our greatest “Taoists” today are artists, poets, singers, dancers, etc…..In other words people who follow their hearts and intuition to creatively express themselves and their freedom.

-What are your thoughts?

-Week 11 Taoism in Songs

-What other songs can you share?