

## COURSE OUTLINE

**Course Code / Title** : HS4026 Gods, Ghosts, and Ancestors: Explorations in Chinese Religions

**Pre-requisites** : HS1001 Person and society  
HS2001 Classical Social Theory  
HS2002 Doing Social Research  
HS3001 Contemporary Social Theory  
HS3002 Understanding Social Statistics

**No. of AUs.** : 4

**Contact Hours** : 52

### Course Aims

Hungry ghosts, benevolent ancestors, and powerful gods jostle for human attention together with the “wind” and “water” of fengshui. Buddhist deities, Daoist immortals, Confucian sages, Jesus, Allah, and a multitude of spirits—interacting with powerful forces unleashed by processes of modernization, secularization and globalization—continue to exert profound influence on the social, economic and political experiences in mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and elsewhere. Many Chinese peoples continue to experience the physical and social landscapes in which they live as enchanted and animated by non-human beings that form an integral part of their daily experiences. The religious revival witnessed in China in recent years is a poignant indication of the significant role religion continues to play in the lives of many Chinese, despite numerous attempts by the Communist party-state to stamp it out. As China globalizes and persists in its modernization effort, the various religions exist in a tense and ambiguous relationship with an officially atheistic ruling party that seeks to maintain hegemonic control over society. Through the examination of various important methodological and substantive issues relating to religions in mainland China and other Chinese societies, this course aims to enable students to analyze the complex ways in which Chinese religions shape, and are shaped by, contemporary social, political, and cultural developments.

### Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Articulate key scholarly debates in the study of Chinese religions.
2. Use appropriate social scientific approaches to study Chinese religions.
3. Use religion as a lens to understand social and political changes in contemporary Chinese societies.
4. Work in flexible, team-based environments.

## **Course Content**

The Study of Religion in China  
Religion and the Modern Chinese State  
Gods, Ghosts, Ancestors  
Popular and Local Religions  
The Cult of Confucius  
Buddhism  
Daoism  
Islam  
Christianity

## **Course Assessment**

CA1	Class participation	: 10%
CA2	Class presentation	: 20%
CA3	Essay	: 40%
CA4	Class Test	: 30%
<b>Total</b>		----- <b>100%</b>