

Course Descriptions **Comparative Religion & Culture Program**

GCRC 300 - Religions, Culture, and Modernity in Taiwan (3 units)

This course is an introduction to the religions and culture of the Republic of China and its peoples. In the area of culture, topics considered will include the idea of Chinese identity in domestic and international politics; the self and its relations to others; cultural tradition and innovation. In the area of religion, this course introduces students to religion in the Republic of China (principally Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism and popular religion). Special attention is given to the experience of practitioners as influencing and influenced by modernity and globalization. Examples include the use of Confucian ritual in civil religion, the internationalization of Buddhist monastic and lay organizations, efforts to revive Daoist institutions, and the regular appearance of new religious movements.

GCRC 320 - Introduction to Comparative Cultural Studies (3 units)

This course is an introduction to comparative and cross-cultural study in a globalizing world. Students are introduced to theoretical tools with which to begin learning about others' – and their own – ways of making sense of the world. Yet, comparison is not a neutral act. The person who compares necessarily reduces the reality of the things compared, but also adds to his/her reality with the product of that comparison. What are we looking for when we compare? How might we recognize "it"? Students develop answers to these questions through seminar discussions of readings drawn from such fields as cultural anthropology, philosophy of religion, and social criticism. Learning is documented through short response papers to readings and a final essay identifying and extending key insights from the semester.

GCRC 340 - Religions, Culture, and Modernity in India (3 units)

This course introduces students to religions and culture in India. In the area of culture, topics considered will include over the idea of Indian identity in domestic and international politics; the self and its relations to others; cultural tradition and innovation. In the area of religion, topics will include Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Dalit religions. Special attention is given to the experience of practitioners as influencing and influenced by modernity and globalization. Examples include India's distinctive experiment in multi-religious "secularism," and the globalization of *bhakti* movements.

GCRC 346 Methods in Field Research: Ethnography, Reflexivity, and Advanced Qualitative Field Methods (3 units)

Methods in Field Research expand the repertoire of techniques used in field research, including interview methods (structured, semi-structured, life history interviewing), focus groups, and coding, memoing, and description. At the same time, the course continues to build student's understanding of field research methods and how each researcher develops particular relationships and perspectives that profoundly shape fieldwork and the conclusions to be drawn from it. Students will also consider anthropological research equipment, from the tried and true notebook and pen, to computers, tablets, smartphones, audio recorders, still cameras, and video cameras. Finally, we'll consider how you can take all of your field data, analyze it in light of the scholarly literature, and present it as a finished ethnography. Students will plan and execute a two-week Independent Study Project and present their findings formally in writing and an oral presentation.

GCRC 370 - Religions, Culture, and Modernity in Turkey (3 units)

This course introduces students to religions and culture in Turkey. In the area of religion, principal focus will lie on Sunni Islam, Sufism, and Alevism. In the area of culture, topics considered will include the idea of Turkish identity in domestic and international politics; the self and its relations to others; cultural tradition and innovation. Special attention is given to the experience of practitioners as influencing and influenced by modernity and globalization. Examples include the role(s) of women in the modern Turkish Republic, Islamism and secularism, and Turkish candidacy for membership in the European Union.

Independent Study can only be taken with permission of Program Director and Advisor

Independent Study**GCRC 381 (1 unit)****GCRC 382 (2 units)****GCRC 383 (3 units)****GCRC 384 (4 units)**

Students have the opportunity to conduct an independent study with guidance from their faculty advisor which must be approved to make sure it meets academic, health and safety criteria. The advisor and the student develop a learning plan for the semester and regular meetings take place to discuss the student's project. Students are expected to hand in written work on a regular basis. Students may not repeat the same course number for credit either in the same or in a different semester. Expected total course hours (activities and individual study and documentation): 45 hours per credit.

GNYS 202 Strategies and Uses for Digital Communication. Fall 2014, online elective seminar for all LIU Global students (2 units)

This online seminar provides students with a critical and strategic approach to social media communication, exploring its role in today's world and translating their current academic work into digital communications. Students will examine the history and significance of digital media, learn to formulate a communication strategy, identify the strategic uses of different social media, and compare the unique writing requirements for diverse social media (blog, post, webpage, news, video, app). This course will also be very practical so that students have an opportunity to develop and apply their digital communication skills through projects that relate to their other coursework and that support their academic and career goals, such as producing a video and writing a news story. By the end of the course, students will combine their acquired skills and tools, including their Digation portfolio and professional profile in LinkedIn, to present their work in an attractive and effective way.