



ID211 Asian Religions in the Contemporary Age

Rev Ng Seng Chuan | 3CR

About the Course

Christian engagements with people of other faiths flow from our theological convictions. “No task in missiology is more controversial and crucial than encountering world religions” (Gerhad Anderson). Despite living in a multi-religious society, many Asian Christians have superficial knowledge of the beliefs of their neighbours. This course offers an introduction to Islam, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Hinduism as well as theological analysis of interfaith issues in Asian contexts. The course begins with the method of

academic study of religion, followed by the study of selected religious texts, case study, videos and group discussions from a Christian perspective. Throughout the course, practical implications on gospel and culture, evangelism and inter-religious conversations and the mission of the local church in a contemporary plural society will be explored. The course will be suitable for church and mission leaders interested in planning better engagements with non-Christian communities in Asia.

Dates (2019) Jul 8, 22 Aug 5, 19 Sep 2, 16, 30 (7:15pm – 10:00pm)	Location Biblical Graduate School of Theology 50 Kallang Pudding Road, #07-01, Singapore 349326
Credits 3CR	Fees* S\$450(Credit) S\$240 (Audit)
Class Format Blended Learning (Live/ Online Lectures & Tutorials)	* Students from Host Churches are entitled to 20% off credit courses only

About the Lecturer

Rev Ng Seng Chuan did his theological training at Trinity Theological College (BD, 1977), as well as at Regent College (MCS, 1983). He served several pastorates between 1977 and 1993. In 1993, he began a second career in speech education, while carrying on with a ministry of itinerant preaching, as well as conducting speech classes at BGST on a part-time or adjunct basis.

In 2006, he felt prompted to begin a serious study of the Buddhist religion.

He took classes at a Buddhist temple, the Mangala Vihara, and subsequently gained the diploma (2007), BA (2010) and MA (2011) degrees from the Buddhist & Pali University of Sri Lanka. His personal vision is so to engage practitioners of other religions in friendship and



academic study, and so open up channels of communication and dialogue with believers of other faiths.

Course Objectives

Through this course, participants will:

- i) Acquire knowledge of basic beliefs and practices of Asian religions through required readings and class discussion.
- ii) Be able to apply theological analysis on key interfaith issues through selected writings, study of scriptures and case studies. The student will demonstrate competency through the completion of a research paper.
- iii) Be able to develop individual and community responses on meaningful Christian relations with people of different faiths.

Academic Information

Course Texts:

- (i) Muck, Terry. Christianity Encountering World Religions. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009;
- (ii) Selected prescribed readings.

Assignments:

1. Pre – Readings
2. Required Readings
3. Case Presentation
4. Reading Report
5. Essay

For more information, contact us at **Biblical Graduate School of Theology**
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