

## CHANGE AND TRADITION FINAL EXAM, Fall 2004

**CHOOSE TWO (2) QUESTIONS – Do NOT choose both 4A and 4B.**

Read the questions carefully and think about them before you decide which ones to answer. You have up to two hours to complete the exam. Organize your answers. Write as fully and precisely as you can. **In each of your answers cite examples from specific texts in both units studied this semester.**

To the best of your abilities, your two essays together should demonstrate:

- knowledge of terms and concepts that are significant to each culture we have studied;
  - familiarity with the historical development of each culture, as well as the major concepts, values, and images embodied in selected primary texts from each culture;
  - your ability to draw comparisons between and among cultures, with particular reference to the main topics of the syllabus.
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1. Several of the texts studied this semester deal with the issue of peace (including peace understood as social order). Describe this concern in the two cultures we have studied this semester, drawing from specific texts we studied in each culture unit. How, in the view of each work you consider, can peace be brought about and preserved? From where, in the view of each work, do the most serious threats to peace arise?
2. In this course we have learned what it means to be a good Muslim and what it means to be a good Confucianist. What are some important characteristics of a good Muslim and a good Confucianist? What important characteristics would a good Muslim share in common with a good Confucianist? Are there any important differences between them? In the final analysis, do they share more common ground or are they significantly different?
3. Imagine a meeting of great mystics—Rumi (a Sufi) with Lao Tzu and/or Chuang Tzu (both Taoists)—in which they are discussing issues of life, death, love, knowledge, after-life, and God. Write an essay explaining how these mystics might respond to each other's views on these issues. Include in your essay points of agreement and disagreement.
4. A. Patriarchy acts as an oppressive force that limits freedoms and the general welfare of women. How does patriarchy figure in the texts we have read this semester, and how did women respond to this? You might want to consider family relations, sex and gender roles, and representations of male and female. Use at least two texts from each culture.

**OR**

- B. Attempting to preserve traditional values in a modern setting is often complex and difficult. How do some characters in the stories we have read construct an identity that is both traditional and modern? Use at least one literary work from each culture. Choose from the following list: The Bridegroom, Family, In the Pond; Cairo House, Palace Walk, Distant View of a Minaret.

(over)

5. In responding to modern Western expansion, the Chinese radical Chen Tu-hsiu called for a complete annihilation of the Confucian tradition and a wholesale adoption of Western culture, whereas Islamic fundamentalist Hasan Al-Banna advocated a complete rejection of foreign influence and a full restoration of the Islamic tradition. What prompted the movements associated with these figures to make their respective proposals? How did they justify their respective arguments? In answering this question, you might want to think if it is possible to completely eliminate Confucianism in modern China and fully restore medieval Islam in the modern Middle East.
  
6. Compare and contrast China and the Islamic Heartland of the Middle East and North Africa with regard to the effect physical and cultural geography has had upon their histories. Physical geography includes landforms, bodies of water, soils, climates and relative location or distance from other significant places. Cultural geography includes the geographic pattern of ethnic, religious, and linguistic groups; centers of power; the migration of people; and the spread of ideas.