

John M. Thompson

Christopher Newport University

john.thompson@cnu.edu

jm_thompson@verizon.net

Education

Graduate Theological Union, Ph.D. Cultural and Historical Study of Religions, 2002
Boston University School of Theology, M.T.S. (Magna Cum Laude). Philosophy, Theology, Ethics, 1992
College Year in Athens, Greece. Philosophical Studies, 1987-88
College of William and Mary, B.A. (High Honors). Philosophy, 1986

Fellowships and Awards

Board of Associates Grant, Hood College. Summer 2004
Numata Fellowship, Ryukoku University (Kyoto, Japan). Summer 1999
Dissertation Fellowship, The Rocky Foundation. 1998-1999
Travel Grant, GTU. Winter 1997, Fall 1998
Henry Mayo Newhall Teaching Fellowship, GTU. Fall 1996, Fall 1999
Henry Mayo Newhall Research Fellowship, GTU. Fall 1997 and Spring 1998
American Academy of Religion, Western Region, Student paper award. 1996
Boston University School of Theology Alumni Scholarship. 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96
Boston University School of Theology Merit Scholarship. 1990-91, 1991-92

Dissertation

“Understanding *Prajna*: Sengzhao’s ‘Wild Words’ and the Search for Wisdom”

Comprehensive Examination Areas (passed with distinction)

Buddhist Philosophical Traditions (Sarvastivada, Madhyamika, Yogacara, Tathagata-garbha)
Chinese Philosophical Traditions (Confucianism, Daoism, Neo-Daoism, Neo-Confucianism)
History of Religions (Eliade) and Hermeneutics (Gadamer) as methods in Religious Studies
Ontology as Soteriology: A Comparison of Avicenna and *The Awakening of Faith*

Areas of Teaching Interest

Primary: Asian Religions, Buddhism, Chinese Religious Thought, Hinduism, Islam
World Religions, Mysticism and Spirituality, Comparative Philosophy
Secondary: Globalization, Chinese and Japanese Culture, Religion in America, Interreligious Dialogue, Religion and Science

Teaching Experience

Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Christopher Newport University (Fall 2004 --). Courses taught:

“Introduction to World Religions I,” “Introduction to World Religions II”

Assistant Professor, Department of Religion and Philosophy, Hood College (May 2002-August 2004). Courses taught:

“Chinese Thought;” “Myth, Symbol and Ritual;” “Senior Seminar – War” (Spring 2004);
“Old Testament;” “Indian Thought;” “Culture of China;” “Buddhist Texts;”
“Judaism and Islam;” “Culture of Japan”

Instructor, Department of Religion and Philosophy, Hood College (Fall 2000-Spring 2002)
Courses taught:
“Chinese Thought;” “Myth, Symbol and Ritual;” “Old Testament;” “Judaism and Islam;”
“Indian Thought;” “Culture of China;” “Culture of Japan”
Adjunct Professor, English/Humanities Department, College of Marin (Fall 1999)
“Humanities 118: Introduction to World Religions”
Instructor, Graduate Theological Union (Fall 1999)
“Taoist Spiritualities” (with Prof. Judith Berling)
Instructor, Graduate Theological Union (Fall 1996)
“East Asian Religious Heritage” (with Profs. Ron Nakasone and Edmond Yee)
Teaching Assistant, Graduate Theological Union (Fall 1994)
“Methods in Comparative Religions” (J.H. Martin, O.P.)
Reader, Religious Studies Program, University of California at Berkeley:
“Mysticism” (Prof. Christopher Morray-Jones), Spring 1997, Spring 1999, Spring 2000
“World Religions in America” (Prof. Jon Stone), Spring 1998 and Spring 1999
“American Religious Pluralism” (Prof. Jon Stone), Fall 1997 and Fall 1998
“Introduction to Non-Western Religions” (Vijaya Nagarjan), Fall 1996
“Introduction to Western Religions” (Prof. Philip Novak), Spring 1996
Reader, English/Humanities Department, College of Marin (Fall 1995-Spring 1999)
“Humanities 114: The Long Search” (Lea Shellada)

Publications

Book

Buddhism, a volume in the *Student's Guide to World Religions* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press). In press – slated for publication in Summer/Fall 2005.

Articles

“Imagine Teaching the *Tao Te Ching!*” (with Judith Berling and Geoffrey Foy), in *Teaching the Tao Te Ching*, ed. Gary DeAngelis and Warren Frisina (Oxford University Press), (forthcoming).

“Dharma for Bums and Angels: Musing on Jack Kerouac, Buddhism, and *The Scripture of the Golden Eternity*,” in *Memory and Imagination: Essays and Other Musings on Buddhist Thought and Culture*, ed. Eisho Nasu (forthcoming).

“Navigating a ‘Floating World’: Teaching Basho as a Way towards Global Citizenship,” *The International Journal of the Humanities* (forthcoming)

“Philosopher as Exemplar: Daoan’s Dao,” *Religion East & West* 3 (June 2003): 59-77.

“Meditations on the ‘Ruthlessness’ of Heaven and Earth,” *The Empty Vessel: A Journal of Contemporary Taoism* 9 (Winter 2003): 19-21.

“Reflections on Structure(s) in Chinese Spirit Tales,” *International Review of Chinese Religion & Philosophy* 3 (March 1998): 3-44.

“Buddhism as the Extension of Filial Respect,” *Vajrabodhi Sea: A Monthly Journal of Orthodox Buddhism* 27 (December 1996, January and February 1997 issues)

“Cochise: Shepherd of his People,” *The Chesopeian: A Journal of North American Archaeology* 25 (Spring 1987): 12-17.

Book reviews

Review of *Daoism: A Short Introduction* by James Miller, *Teaching Theology and Religion*

(forthcoming).

Review of *At the Heart of Teaching: A Guide to Reflective Practice*, by Grace Hall McEntee, Jon Appleby, JoAnne Dowd, Jan Grant, Simon Hole, and Peggy Silva, *Teaching Theology and Religion* 7 (April 2004):

Review of *Wandering at Ease in the Zhuangzi*, ed. Roger T. Ames, *Koinonia: The Princeton Theological Seminary Graduate Forum* (Fall 2000): 282-285.

Review of *The Red Thread: Buddhist Approaches to Sexuality*, by Bernard Faure, *Pacific World: Journal of the Institute of Buddhist Studies*, Third Series (Fall 1999): 115-116.

Review of *Pruning the Bodhi Tree: the Storm over Critical Buddhism*, ed. Paul Swanson and Jaime Hubbard, *Asian Religion & Culture (ARC)* 27 (1999): 217-219.

Review of *The Faces of Buddhism in America*, ed. Charles S. Prebish and Kenneth K. Tanaka, *Gravitas: A Journal of Religion and Theology* 1 (Spring 1999) [journal on-line]; available from <http://www.gtu.edu/library/Gravitas/Spring1999>.

Professional Associations

American Academy of Religion

Association for Asian Studies

International Society for Chinese Philosophy

The Thoreau Society