

Philosophy 102 Introduction to Asian Philosophy
03
TTH: 9:45 - 11:00 (62143)

INSTRUCTOR: Ron Loo
OFFICE: Palanakila 144
OFFICE HOURS: Mon: 1:00 - 3:00
Tues: 9:10 - 9:40, 2:45 - 4:15
Wed: 1:00 - 3:00
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EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2009

Windward Community College Mission Statement
Windward Community College is committed to excellence in the liberal arts and career development; we support and challenge individuals to develop skills, fulfill their potential, enrich their lives, and become contributing, culturally aware members of our community.

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION:

Universal themes and problems from Asian perspective. Focus will be on Indian, Chinese, and Japanese Traditions.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Compare, contrast, and evaluate Indian, Chinese, Japanese, and European thought in terms of their respective views of (a) human nature, (b) the nature of goodness, (c) the good life.
2. Identify and discuss contributions of schools of Asian philosophy and the influence of each on the other through a historical perspective.
3. Discuss terms and concepts like "satori", "anatta", "jen" and evaluate their relevance (significance) for the West.
4. Analyze Indian, Chinese, and Japanese thought in terms of (a) methodology, (b) metaphysics, and (c) ethics in order to better understand Asian concerns.

COURSE CONTENT:

Concepts or Topics

- **INDIAN PHILOSOPHY,**
History of Indian Philosophy
Introduction to Hinduism
Basic Features
Upanishads
The Bhagavad Gita
The Four Noble Truths
The Eight Fold Path
Implications of Buddha's
Ethical Teachings
Dhammapada

- **CHINESE PHILOSOPHY**
Basic features
Historical Perspective
Confucianism
Analects
Taoism
Tao Te Ching

- **JAPANESE PHILOSOPHY**
Basic features
Historical Background
Creation of the Japanese Mind
The Chrysanthemum
And The Sword
Zen

Skills

1. Analyze Indian, Chinese, and Japanese thought in terms of (a) methodology (b) metaphysics, and (c) ethics.
2. Discuss the influence of Buddhism Indian and Chinese thought on the Japanese mind.
3. Contrast Hindu view of death, self, karma with that of Buddha.
4. Contrast Confucius' view of the nature of man, the good leader, the nature of goodness with that of Lao Tzu.
5. Explain how the Japanese modified Confucianism and Buddhism to reflect their own identity.
6. Discuss the relationship of the following concepts: samsara, atman, brahman, moksha.
7. Discuss the relationship of the following concepts: on, gimu, giri, shuyo.
8. Identify the assumptions that Hindus, Buddhists, Confucianists make, regarding (a) human nature, (b) death, (c) the nature of goodness, (d) the good life, that you found troubling.
9. Evaluate the utility (usefulness) of the following ideas for Western man: satori, anatta, jen, moksha.

COURSE CONTENT:

Concepts or Topics

- **JAPANESE PHILOSOPHY**
Basic features
Historical Background
Creation of the Japanese Mind
The Chrysanthemum
And The Sword
Zen

Skills

10. Explain the major tenets of Hinduism, Confucianism the Japanese Mind, Buddhism (of Gautama), Taoism (of Lao Tzu).
11. Discuss the relationship of the following concepts: jen, li, hsiao, yi.
12. Evaluate Hindu, Confucian, and Buddhist ethics.
13. Discuss some contributions the Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist, and Japanese minds can make to the Occident.
14. Discuss how the Code of Bushido represents some Japanese attitudes toward death.
15. Discuss the relationship of guna-self, sattva guna, rajas guna, tamas guna.
16. Outline the contributions of the following: Vedas, Upanishads, Bhagavad-Gita, in the development of Hindu thought.

COURSE TASKS:

1. Unit Exams: Complete three (3) in-class unit exams which will cover all reading assignments, lectures, handouts, videos presented in class up to the time of the exam. Exams will consist of short answer questions, fill in the blank questions, and essay questions (history of philosophy questions, analysis questions, evaluation questions, comparison/contrast questions.) Questions for the exam will be drawn from study guides that will be distributed two weeks prior to the exams. Make-up exams will only be given in cases of illness (with a doctor's note) or valid emergency. There is no comprehensive final exam for this course.
2. Group Presentation: Give a group presentation on a topic related to an Asian tradition/culture. The group can trace, explain, or describe an Asian sport/tradition such as sumo or Chinese New Year. The presentation must a) be 15-20 minutes in length, b) be accompanied by a typewritten outline and bibliography of the sources used, c) include a list of the names of group members and their respective contributions to the presentation, d) be approved by the instructor, e) be made by groups consisting of 4 or 5 members. Presentations will be given as scheduled. Late presentations will be penalized five (5) points per week.
3. Class Demonstration: Perform one (1) of the following activities from memory: a) write the character for the following Confucian concepts: jen, li, yi, hsiao; b) demonstrate 5 Tuina exercises; c) demonstrate 5 Tai Chi movements. Demonstrations need to be given by the 13th week of the course. Late demonstrations will be penalized ten (10) points.
4. Class Participation: Participate regularly in a variety of in-class activities. They include group discussions, in-class writing assignments (class participation exercises, quizzes, focused free writes, video worksheets), and in Asian arts (yoga, tai chi, calligraphy, zazen, shiatsu, aikido). Attendance will be taken at each class and will be used in assigning class activity points. Since these are class activities they cannot be made up if missed.

MODE OF INSTRUCTION:

Classes will combine lectures with discussion. Sessions will consist of exegesis (lectures), brief writing (in-class) assignments, discussion (of lectures, reading assignments, videos, guest speakers), audio visual materials/guest speakers where appropriate.

METHOD OF GRADING:

1. Criteria for evaluating course work:
 - a. Grasp of the problem/concept/topic.
 - b. Logic and persuasiveness of the presentation.
 - c. Perceptiveness in seeing and weighing various alternative interpretations.
 - d. Demonstration of critical analysis.
 - e. Clarity with which the topic/concept was discussed.
 - f. Employment of philosophical methodology.

2. Weight of tasks:

Unit Exams	100	= (2 x 50)
Group Presentation	50	= (1 x 50)
Class Demonstration	40	= (1 x 40)
Class Participation	<u>60</u>	= (15 X 4)
	250	

3. Letter grades will be assigned based on the number of points earned for the course.

A: 217 - 250

B: 183 - 216

C: 149 - 182

D: 115 - 148

F: 81 - 114

W: Formal withdrawal from the course (this procedure must be initiated by the student.)

LEARNING RESOURCES AND MATERIALS:

1. Recommended texts:

Brannigan, M.	<u>The Pulse of Wisdom (2nd ed.)</u>
Fowler, J.	<u>Hinduism: Beliefs and Practices</u>
Moore, C.	<u>The Chinese Mind</u>
	<u>The Indian Mind</u>
	<u>The Japanese Mind</u>
Reps, P. (ed.)	<u>Zen Flesh, Zen Bones</u>
Suzuki, D.	<u>Zen and Japanese Culture</u>

2. Required texts:

Benedict, R.	<u>The Chrysanthemum and The Sword</u>
Burroughs, K.	<u>The Bhagavad Gita</u>
Lau, D.C. (tr.)	<u>Tao Te Ching</u>
Mascaro, J. (tr.)	<u>Dhammapada</u>
Waley, A. (tr.)	<u>The Analects of Confucius</u>

OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Reading Assignments:

“Moderate” in that the reading assignments require thoughtful reflection. It is strongly recommended that selected reading assignment questions be answered in writing and kept in a notebook to serve as review for exams and preparation for class discussions.

2. Class Attendance:

The subject matter of this course is intellectually challenging and students who miss classes regularly rarely do well.

3. Class Preparation:

Students are expected to prepare adequately for each class session. This means that reading and/or writing assignments should be completed so that they can be discussed by the next class.

4. Extra Credit:

A total of five (5) extra credit points can be earned for reading and reflecting on an article/essay recommended by the instructor. See the instructor for further details.

OTHER INFORMATION:

5. Readability of Written Assignments:
Students are responsible for the readability of handwritten assignments.
Type your assignments if your handwriting is hard to read.
6. Learning Assistance:
Seek assistance with your learning problems as soon as they are encountered.
7. Cell Phones:
Set your cell phones and/or pagers to "silent" so the class can focus on the lesson for the day.
8. How To Succeed In This Course:
 - a. Keep up with reading and writing assignments.
 - b. Attend class regularly and take "good notes".
 - c. Participate in class discussions.
9. Last Day Course Work Can Be Submitted for Credit:
Dec. 10 (TH) 12:00 noon.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, [HYPERLINK "mailto:lemke@hawaii.edu"](mailto:lemke@hawaii.edu) lemke@hawaii.edu, or you may stop by Hale 'Akoakoa 213 for more information.
Revised May 10, 2007

Philosophy 102
Overview

- UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION TO ASIAN PHILOSOPHY
Dominant Features of Asian Philosophy
Concerns of Asian Philosophy
- UNIT 2: INDIAN PHILOSOPHY
History of Indian Philosophy
Introduction to Hinduism
 Basic Features
 Upanishads
 The Bhagavad Gita
Buddhism
 Anti-Speculative Attitude
 The Four Noble Truths
 The Eight Fold Path
 Implications of Buddha's Ethical Teachings
 Dhammapada
Exam #1: Sept. 24 (TH)
- UNIT 3: CHINESE PHILOSOPHY
Basic Features
Historical Perspective
Confucianism
 Analects
Taoism
 Tao Te Ching
Exam #2: Nov. 03 (T)
- UNIT 4: JAPANESE PHILOSOPHY
Basic Features
Historical background
Creation of the Japanese Mind
 The Chrysanthemum and The Sword
Zen
Exam #3: Dec. 17 (TH) 9:30 - 11:20

*LAST DAY Course Work Can Be Submitted for Credit: Dec. 10 (TH) 12:00 noon