



## PHIL 305: Asian Philosophy

### General Information:

**Term: 2022 Summer Session**

**Instructor: Staff**

**Language of Instruction: English**

**Classroom: TBA**

**Office Hours: TBA**

**Class Sessions Per Week: 5**

**Total Weeks: 5**

**Total Class Sessions: 25**

**Class Session Length (minutes): 145**

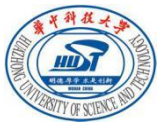
**Credit Hours: 4**

### Course Description:

This course introduces students to Asian philosophies from both historical and contemporary perspectives. Major philosophies covered in the course include Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Japanese Philosophies. Students will explore a wide range of topics, including ethics, death, reality, self, and knowledge. This course will place a special emphasis on different worldviews, conceptions of human nature and meanings of a good life from these philosophical perspectives. Hopefully, by completing the course, students are expected to understand Asian philosophies from a broader perspective while exploring some commonly encountered philosophical questions.

### Learning Objectives:

- Gain a comprehensive understanding of Asian Philosophies.
- Recognize the influence of different philosophies on the development of the cultures of South and East Asia.
- Develop critical thinking through course materials reading and paper writing.



## Course Format and Requirements:

This course includes lectures, discussions and in-class discussions. You are responsible for all material and information from class. Attendance is required.

### Attendance

Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis. Attendance will be taken throughout the semester. While attendance is not directly calculated into the student's course grade, it will be a factor in determining participation grades. After a student's 4th absence, each unexcused absence will result in an automatic drop in grade. With each unexcused absence your final letter grade will be dropped  $\frac{1}{2}$  a grade – NO EXCEPTIONS (e.g.: A to A-).

## Course Materials:

### Course Pack

The course pack is the only mandatory course materials. Students are not required to buy textbooks listed below. All required readings will be covered in the course pack.

### Booklist:

*The Pulse of Wisdom: The Philosophies of India, China, and Japan*, Michael C. Brannigan  
Siddhartha, Hermann Hesse

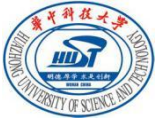
*Dao De Jing: A Philosophical Translation* 2003, Roger Ames and David Hall

*The Analects of Confucius* July 26, 2016, James Legge

*The Dhammapada: With Introductory Essays, Pali Text, English Translation and Notes (Oxford India Collection (Paperback)) Paperback* March, 1996, S. Radhakrishnan (Editor)

## Course Assignments:

### Quizzes



There will be 6 quizzes administered through the whole semester and the lowest scores will be dropped. Quizzes will always be completed in the first ten minutes of class. Quizzes will tend to include topics covered in the lecture as well as topics covered in reading materials. There will be no make-up quizzes.

### **3 Papers**

Students will be required to write three papers. The first one should focus on Indian philosophy, the second one on Chinese philosophy, and the third one on Japanese philosophy. Paper should be double spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font, with 1" margins all around. Place your name, assignment title, and date in the top right corner of the first page.

### **Presentation**

Students will form small groups (2-3 persons) to present course materials. The presentation will be given at the beginning of each class, and the presenters need to prepare a handout (outline for the presentation) for the whole class.

Each group will give a 10-minute presentation on any topic, as long as it is educational and relevant to one of the themes covered in the day's class. Presentations must not include offensive material and should not be similar to other presentations on that theme (on a first-come first served basis).

### **Exams:**

All the exams in this class will be based on the following format:

#### 1) Short answer questions:

You will be asked questions pertaining to subjects, issues and changes in art derived from readings on handouts.

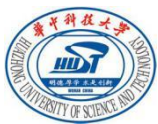
#### 2) Multiple choices

#### 3) Short essay question:

You will be asked to write an essay pertaining to a specific question.

### **Midterm exam**

This course will have a closed-book mid-term exam. The midterm exam will cover course materials taught until the day before the exam. The exam is not cumulative. It will be taken



in-class using the first 60-75 min of lecture time and rest lecture time will be used for new lectures.

#### Final exam

A three-hour, closed-book final exam will be taken at the end of the session. The final exam is cumulative, based on contents taught in the whole semester. The final exam is worth 25% of the final grade. Note that the final will not be taken during the normal class times. Exact time and location for final will be announced in the last week of sessions.

### Course Assessment:

Quizzes	10%
Presentation	10%
Papers	35%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Grading Scale (percentage):

A+: 98%-100%

A: 93%-97%

A-: 90%-92%

B+: 88%-89%

B: 83%-87%

B-: 80%-82%

C+: 78%-79%

C: 73%-77%

C-: 70%-72%

D+: 68%-69%

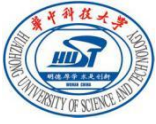
D: 63%-67%

D-: 60%-62%

F: Below 60%

**Course Schedule:**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Activities</b>
1	Introduction to the Course Syllabus Overview Origins of Indian Philosophy Vedic Philosophy: The Upanishads The Social Caste System Four Stages of Life Four Goals of Life The Role of Women in Hinduism	Quizzes Presentation
2	Early Buddhism: Four Noble Truths No Self Nirvana and Mental Cultivation Ethics and Politics Mahayana Buddhism Tibetan Buddhism	Quizzes Presentation Paper 1
3	Intro to Chinese Philosophy Substance ontology VS. Process ontology Yin and Yang Introduction to Confucianism	Quizzes Presentation Midterm Exam



	<p><i>The Analects</i></p> <p>Mencius</p> <p>Xunzi</p> <p>Mohism</p> <p>Legalism</p>	
4	<p>Introduction to Taoism</p> <p>Story of Laozi</p> <p>The Tao Te Ching</p> <p><i>The Zhuangzi</i></p> <p>Taoism Ethics</p> <p>Wu-Wei</p> <p>Chinese Buddhism</p> <p>Neo-Confucianism</p>	<p>Quizzes</p> <p>Presentation</p> <p>Paper 2</p>
5	<p>Intro to Japanese Philosophy</p> <p>Shinto :</p> <p>The Myth of the Creation of Japan</p> <p>Shinto Theology and cosmology</p> <p>Shinto Ethics and Practice</p> <p>Early Arrival of Buddhism</p> <p>Zen Buddhism</p>	<p>Quizzes</p> <p>Presentation</p> <p>Paper 3</p> <p>Final Exam</p>



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### **Academic Integrity:**

Students are encouraged to study together, and to discuss lecture topics with one another, but all other work should be completed independently.

Students are expected to adhere to the standards of academic honesty and integrity that are described in the Huazhong University of Science and Technology's *Academic Conduct Code*. Any work suspected of violating the standards of the *Academic Conduct Code* will be reported to the Dean's Office. Penalties for violating the *Academic Conduct Code* may include dismissal from the program. All students have an individual responsibility to know and understand the provisions of the *Academic Conduct Code*.

### **Special Needs or Assistance:**

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.