Phil 3200: Asian Philosophy
Instructor: Tom Pynn
Fall 2011

Office Hours: SO 2008. MW, 10-11 and 1-2; TR, 11-1, and by appointment.

E-mail address: tpynn@kennesaw.edu. Use only for communication purposes. If you use the email on Georgia View Vista, there is a chance that I may not respond for a couple of days. You are more likely to get a quicker response by using my KSU address. Exams submitted electronically without authorization will be deleted.

Course Description: The course is a survey of the major texts, figures, and schools in the philosophies of India, China, and Japan. Texts include the Vedas, Upanishads, Analects, and Zhuangzi. Major figures include Shankara, Patanjali, Confucius, Mencius, Dogen, and Nishida. (From the KSU Undergraduate Catalogue.)

During this semester, students will study important classical and contemporary traditions of Indian, Chinese, Korean and Japanese thought. Philosophy 3200 presents the student with an opportunity to engage in a guided philosophical examination of the different questions, texts and concepts developed by thinkers from Asian cultures. The student reads primary works of philosophy and engages in thoughtful discussion about the ideas raised by and in these works. Students take essay examinations, engage in class discussion, view documentaries, and attend the Mike Ryan and/or Peace Studies Lecture Series. All in-class and out-of-class activities focus on elevating the student’s critical ability to read philosophical texts, comprehend concepts and conceptual frameworks, and apply the ideas we study to their own self-understanding, other-understanding, and understanding of the world they live in.

Texts
The Upanishads, Eknath Easwaran
Jnana Yoga, Swami Vivekenanda
Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy, 2nd Ed. Ed. by P. J. Ivanhoe and Bryan W. Van Norden
The Way of Korean Zen, Kusan Sunim
Shinto: The Way Home, Thomas P. Kasulis

Reference Texts Highly Suggested
The Shambhala Dictionary of Buddhism and Zen
The Shambhala Encyclopedia of Yoga
Chinese Philosophy A to Z, by Bo Mou
A Concise Dictionary of Indian Philosophy, by James Grimes

Evaluation: The student will demonstrate performative competence in communicating (through writing and speaking) his/her understanding of the material. Essay composition
helps the student practice a range of writing and thinking skills, most important among these are development of ideas and appropriate idea transitions. The following are the three parts of a student’s performance with respective %s of grade. The grading scale is as follows: A: 90-100, B: 80-89, C: 70-79, D: 60-69; F: 59 and below.

- **Exams**: (80%) Students will take four exams. Each exam will emphasize readings and what is done in class: lecture, class discussion, and videos. The take-home exams are essay formats with several options from which to choose given out one week prior to the due date. Each exam emphasizes composition and critical thinking skills as well as content knowledge. If you are unsure of your composition skills please visit the writing center in the Humanities building. If you are unsure of your critical thinking skills please see me during office hours.

- **Attendance at Peace and/or Mike Ryan Lectures or relevant Asian Studies Brown Bag Lectures**: (10%) Students will attend five peace related lectures of their choice. Credit is acquired by meeting me at the lecture venue and recording your name on the roll.

- **Class participation**: (10%) Class participation is willingly and spiritedly engaging in reading aloud, asking questions and freely participating in discussion of the topics at hand.

**Extra credit**: all exams must have been turned in order to receive extra points. Extra credit is obtained by completing a 500 word (minimum) summary of any presentation you attend outside of class that is directly relevant to the course. Each summary/critique you complete is worth up to 5 points and the points will be attached to the most recent exam relative to when you turn in the extra credit work. You may attend and compose summaries for as many lectures and/or presentations as you wish. **NOTE**: You may turn in only 2 extra credit writings with the last exam.

**Expected Outcomes**: By the end of the semester the student will

- Demonstrate a college-level understanding of the major figures, themes, and movements from the history of philosophy through reading, exams and writing assignments;

- use the concepts of the various philosophers, philosophical traditions and philosophical periods we have studied in reading, reading, exams and writing assignments;

- compare and contrast different philosophical schools of thought and their cultural and historical roots in both Western and non-Western contexts as evidenced in classroom discussion, reading, exams and writing assignments;

- identify and employ philosophical language, analysis, and argumentation by participating in classroom dialogue and writing expository compositions;

- be ethically sensitive to the role of cultural, social and political diversity in human thought and action by exploring with and responding to others in open dialogue about human diversity;

- critically examine her/his own social, cultural, and historical situation and its effects on individual, group, and national beliefs about the self, others, and the
world through evaluating and discussing the social and historical origins and implications of those positions; and
• apply the ideas we study to his/her life as evidenced in classroom discussion, reading, exams and writing assignments.

**Academic Integrity Statement:** Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate Catalogs. Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the University’s policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, which includes either an informal resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct’s minimum one semester suspension requirement.

**Absence Policy:** The student will neither be punished for absence nor rewarded for presence; however, the student is responsible for material covered: all readings, lectures, and documentary presentations. I will allow late exams only if the student contacts me about the absence **at least** one week prior to the exam date and/or if the student finds himself/herself in dire straits: e.g., giving birth, comatose, hospitalization for an extended period of time, and, of course, being dead. *A student may email me their assignment(s) only if prior arrangements have been made with me.*

**Schedule of Events**

**August 18:** Introduction to Asian Philosophy

**August 23-September 13:** Introduction to Indian Philosophy

Aug. 25: *Upanishads,* 118-152
Sept. 1: *Upanishads,* 219-293
Sept. 6: *Jnana-Yoga,* 1-87
Sept. 8: *Jnana-Yoga,* 88-176
Sept. 13: *Jnana-Yoga,* 177-308

**Exam 1:** September 20, 2011

**September 15-October 6:** Introduction to Chinese Philosophy
Sept. 15-20: xi-xvii, and *The Analects*, 1-58
Sept. 29: *Mozi*, 59-114
Oct. 4-6: *Zhuangzi*, 207-254

**Exam 2**: October 13, 2011

**October 11-27: Introduction to Korean Zen Buddhism**

Oct. 11-13: Introduction to Buddhist Traditions
Oct. 20: *The Way of Korean Zen*, 57-72

**Exam 3**: November 3, 2011

**November 1-December 1: Introduction to Japanese Philosophy (Shinto)**

Nov. 1: Introduction to Japanese Traditions of Thought
Nov. 3: Introduction to *Shinto The Way Home*, ix-8
Nov. 8: *Shinto The Way Home*, 9-37
Nov. 10: *Shinto The Way Home*, 38-70
Nov. 15: *Shinto The Way Home*, 71-91
Nov. 17: *Shinto The Way Home*, 92-118
Nov. 22: *Shinto The Way Home*, 119-147
Nov. 29: *Shinto The Way Home*, 148-170

**Exam 4**: December 12, 2011

**NOTE**: Schedule of events and evaluation percentages subject to change by Fate, the insightful awareness of the instructor, and/or the collaboration between students and instructor.

**Summary of Grading Percentages and Grading Scale**

Four Essay Exams: 80%
Lecture Attendance: 10%
Participation: 10%

A: 90-100; B: 80-89; C: 70-79; D: 60-69; F: 59 and below

**Important Dates**
- Labor Day: September 5, 2011
- Last day to withdraw with a W: October 12, 2011
- Fall Break: November 23-27, 2011
• Last Class: December 1, 2011