PHIL 3200-01
Asian Philosophy
Kennesaw State University
Semester: Fall 2013
Social Sciences Building, Rm. 3021
Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30am — 10:45am

Instructor: Dr. Amy K. Donahue
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Phone: 770.423.6624
Office: Social Sciences Building, Rm. 4092
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:15am — 12:15pm, 2:15pm — 3:15pm, or by appointment. I’m very willing to meet, in person or electronically, when my schedule allows.

Prerequisites: ENGL 1102 with a minimum grade of C

Catalogue 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.

Instructor’s Note: In this class, we will gain introductory familiarity with Taoist, Vedic, Confucian, and Buddhist philosophies through close readings of select parts of four canonical primary texts — the Tao Te Ching, the Bhagavad Gītā, the Analects, and the Samyutta Nikāya. We will pay particularly close attention to teachings that address the nature of the self, ultimate reality, personal relationships, personal and social development, and duty. Students will be encouraged in discussions and assignments to compare and contrast the teachings of these philosophical texts with each other, rather than primarily with reference to Western philosophical traditions, and to examine their relevance to contemporary concerns.

Required Texts:
Select online materials and handouts.
**Instructional Methods:** The course will emphasize the use of “active” rather than “passive” learning methods. As much as is logistically and pedagogically possible, group discussions will take priority over lectures. The course aims to introduce students to the notion of philosophy, critical thought, and philosophical reading as interpersonal practices.

**Learning Outcomes:** For a grade of “B” or better, students must fulfill the following learning outcomes for this course:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of metaphysical and ethical teachings of select canonical non-western primary texts through weekly online quizzes of basic textual concepts, active classroom participation, two short answer exams, a midterm paper, a presentation, and a final paper.
- Write a five to seven page midterm paper that examines Taoist, Vedic, Confucian, and/or Buddhist teachings on an assigned topic, defends a relevant and clearly stated thesis, and demonstrates direct and subtle engagement with at least two primary texts.
- Prepare and deliver one seven to ten minute presentation that explains how select teachings of at least two primary texts that we have studied may inform some contemporary concept, practice, or concern.
- Write an eight to ten page final paper that accurately and subtly represents select teachings of at least two Taoist, Vedic, Confucian, or Buddhist texts that we have studied and explains how these teachings might affect responses to and/or understandings of some contemporary concept, practice, or concern.

**Course Assessments / Assignments:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Online Quizzes —</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two short answer exams —</td>
<td>16% (8% each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Paper —</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation —</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper —</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation —</td>
<td>15%</td>
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**Grading Scale:**

- **A** — 90-100
- **B** — 80-89
- **C** — 70-79
- **D** — 60-69
- **F** — <60

**I**—Indicates an incomplete grade for the course, and will be awarded only when a student has done satisfactory work up to the last two weeks of the semester, but for nonacademic reasons beyond their control is unable to meet the full requirements of the course. Incomplete grades are
only valid after submission of the Incomplete Grade form (signed by both the instructor and student) to the Department Chair’s office.

**Weekly Online Quizzes:** One short answer and/or multiple choice online quiz will be held at the end of each week, from Weeks 2 — 15, on D2L. The quizzes will be posted by no later than 11:59pm on Friday, and your responses will be due by 11pm the night before the following week’s first class (typically Sunday). The quizzes will be graded Pass/Fail, and each will be worth 1 per cent of your final grade. These quizzes are intended to motivate reading and to ensure basic, rudimentary knowledge. Missed online quizzes typically cannot be made up.

The weekly online quizzes will be evaluated according to the following rubric:

**Pass (1 point)** — As a whole, the responses demonstrate direct familiarity with the texts, and rudimentary understanding of fundamental textual concepts.

**Fail (0 points)** — Either the quiz is not completed by 11pm the night before the week’s first class, or the responses do not demonstrate direct familiarity with the texts or rudimentary understanding of fundamental textual concepts.

**Short Answer Exams:** Approximately two weeks before your midterm and final papers are due, students will complete online short answer exams. In these online open-book exams, students will be asked to explain, in their own words, key concepts and conceptual relationships from at least two primary texts, and to support their responses with appropriate textual evidence. Student responses should demonstrate accurate, detailed, and in-depth understanding of textual material. These exams are meant to prepare students to write midterm and final papers that are properly grounded in primary textual content. Students will be welcome to include revised responses in their papers. A grading rubric for these exams will be available on D2L.

**Papers:** Your midterm and final papers should be formatted with double-spacing, 12 point Times New Roman font, and 1” margins, and follow MLA citation guidelines (see [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/)). Please review KSU’s policies on academic integrity and plagiarism before submission. Time permitting, I will be happy to review paper drafts before assignments are due and to work with students to improve their academic writing. Graded papers are normally returned no more than two weeks after their due date. A grading rubric for your papers in this class will be available on D2L. Please review descriptions of these assignments in the “Learning Outcomes” section above.

**Oral Presentations:** The majority of the last three class sessions will be reserved for student oral presentations. Each presentation should consist of roughly 7-10 minutes of prepared remarks. Students are encouraged to present on topics that they address in their final 8-10 page papers. The presentations are intended to help students to begin to articulate and refine theses that they will explain and defend in their final papers.

**Class participation:** Good (i.e., “B”-level) participation in class requires consistent and on-time attendance, consistent in-class attentiveness, and consistently appropriate engagement within class — e.g., asking appropriate questions, responding appropriately to instructor and student questions, working constructively in group exercises, and treating fellow class participants with
respect and courtesy.

**Attendance Policy:**
Attendance is mandatory. Students are required to provide a reasonable, documentable explanation for class absences. After three unexcused absences, students lose a full letter from their class participation grade with *each additional unexcused absence*.

**Electronic Devices Policy:**
The volume on all electronic devices should be turned off in class. Students are welcome to use laptops, smart phones, etc. in class to take notes and to look up material relevant to class discussions. However, unrelated texting, chatting, web-surfing, etc. during class will negatively affect students’ class participation grades.

**Academic Honesty:**
The high quality of education at Kennesaw State University is reflected in the credits and degrees its students earn. The protection of high standards of academic integrity is crucial since the validity and equity of the University's grades and degrees depend upon it.

No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted for credit (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.). Unless specifically authorized, the presence and/or use of electronic devices during an examination, quiz, or other class assignment is considered cheating. Engaging in any behavior which a professor prohibits as academic misconduct in the syllabus or in class discussion is cheating. When direct quotations are used, they should be indicated, and when the ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project, they should be duly acknowledged. No student may submit the same, or substantially the same, paper or other assignment for credit in more than one class without the prior permission of the current professor(s).

Students suspected of violating the KSU statement of Academic Honesty will meet with the instructor to discuss the violation AND will be reported to the Department of Student Conduct according to the process outlined at the following link: [https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/scai-misconduct-procedures](https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/scai-misconduct-procedures)

**ADA Compliance:**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Public Law 101-336, gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities. This statute guarantees equal opportunity for this protected group in the areas of public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services and telecommunications.

Should you require assistance or have further questions about the ADA, please contact: Ms. Nastassia Sanabria, ADA Compliance Officer for Students 770-423-6443.
Tentative Course Schedule
(reading assignments and activities are subject to revision)

Week 1:
8/19 — Class introductions, welcome, and discussion of syllabus and popular representations/appropriations of Taoist, Vedic, Confucian and Buddhist concepts, such as “yin,” “yang,” “karma,” “samsara,” “respect for elders,” “ritual,” “sacrifice,” “nirvana,” and so on. What is “philosophy,” and what are “Asian philosophies?”

8/21 — Reading due: Carine Defoort and Rein Raud (uploaded to D2L). Introduction to the Tao Te Ching. Class discussion.

Week 2:
8/26 — Reading due. Tao Te Ching, preface and introduction excerpts (pp. ix — 22, 40 — 43). Hans Moeller (uploaded to D2L). Class discussion.
8/28 — Reading — Tao Te Ching, chapters 1-6 (pp. 51-71). Class discussion. First online quiz uploaded on Friday.

Week 3:
9/2 — LABOR DAY — No Class.
9/4 — Reading due — Tao Te Ching, chapters 7-15 (pp. 72-93). Review online quiz. Class discussion.

Week 4:
9/9 — Reading due — Tao Te Ching, chapters 16-24 (pp. 94-116). Review online quiz. Class discussion.
9/11 — Reading due — Tao Te Ching, chapters 28-40 (pp. 124-152). Class discussion. Introduction to the Bhagavad Gita.

Week 5:
9/16 — Reading due — Donahue (uploaded to D2L), Doniger (uploaded to D2L), Bhagavad Gita, Appendix I — The Story of the Gita (pp. 292-293), and Chapters 1 & 2. Review online quiz. Class discussion. Compare and contrast with the Tao Te Ching.
9/18 — Reading due — Bhagavad Gita, Sri Aurobindo’s introduction, Chapter 3, and re-read chapters 1 & 2. Class discussion

Week 6:
9/23 — Reading due — Bhagavad Gita, chapters 4-6. Review online quiz. Class discussion.

Week 7:


10/2 — **FIRST SHORT ANSWER EXAM DUE.** Reading due — *Bhagavad Gita*, chapters 17 & 18. Class discussion. Comparative study of the teachings of the *Tao Te Ching* and *Bhagavad Gita*. Clarification of concepts. **MIDTERM PAPER ASSIGNED.** In what ways might these teachings variously guide responses to and diagnoses of concepts, practices, and concerns? In what ways do key conceptions and messages differ? In what ways are they similar?

Week 8:

10/7 — Review online quiz. No new reading. Class discussion. Comparative study of the teachings of the *Tao Te Ching* and *Bhagavad Gita*. Clarification of concepts. Introduction to Ames and Rosemont’s critique of “substance-based” metaphysics.

10/9 — Reading due — *The Analects*, preface and introduction (pp. ix — xi, 1 — 65). Review of basic concepts. To what extent, if any, might Kriṣṇa’s teachings about the ultimate nature of self and reality, and the inferior status of the sensible realm, rest on a linguistic quirk of Indo-European languages? Is transcendence of the sensible realm desirable or possible?

10/11 — **Last day to withdraw without academic penalty**

Week 9:

10/14 — Review online quiz. Reading due — *The Analects, li* selections (see D2L). Class discussion, and examination of concepts.


Week 10:

10/21 — Review online quiz. Reading due — *The Analects, ren* selections (see D2L). Class discussion, and examination of concepts.


Week 11:

10/28 — Review online quiz. Reading due — *The Analects, junzi* selections (see D2L). Class discussion, and examination of concepts.

10/30 — Re-read *The Analects, junzi* selections. Class discussion. Introduction to key Buddhist concepts.
Week 12:
11/4 — Review online quiz. Reading due — Rahula and Hamilton selections (uploaded to D2L). Overview and review of the Buddha’s historical context and key early Buddhist concepts and teachings. Class discussion.
11/6 — Read Dhamma, Samsāra, and Four Noble Truth selections (see D2L). Class discussion.

Week 13:
11/11 — Review online quiz. Reading due — the Five Aggregates and Dependent Origination selections (see D2L). Class discussion.
11/13 — Re-read the Five Aggregates and Dependent Origination selections. Class discussion.

Week 14:
11/18 — SECOND SHORT ANSWER EXAM ASSIGNED. FINAL PAPER ASSIGNED. Review online quiz. Reading due — The Noble Eightfold Path selections (see D2L). Class discussion.
11/20 — Re-read Noble Eightfold Path selections. Class discussion.

Week 15:
11/27 — Fall Break. No class.

Week 16:
12/2 — No online quiz. Oral presentations
12/4 — Oral presentations. Last day of class.

FINAL PAPER: DUE ELECTRONICALLY MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, BY 12PM THROUGH D2L.